

LAMPOR AND HANGING HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Wednesday 22 May 2019

The Old Laundry, Lamport Hall, Northamptonshire at 7.00 pm.

1. Attendance and apologies

Councillors: Bob Cox
Jonathan Farr
Colin Harris (Chairman)
Percy May
Mike Philpott
Brue Ward
Richard Flavell While

Parishioners: There were 10 parishioners in attendance

Apologies were received Cllr. Kevin Parker.

The Chairman welcomed everyone present to Lamport and Hanging Houghton's 85th Annual Parish Meeting.

He extended thanks to Lamport Hall for providing the Old Laundry as the venue for this year and also for allowing its use over the past year for Parish Council Meetings.

2. Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting 17 May 2018

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Financial Report and Accounts

Audited Financial Report and Accounts for the year to 31st March 2019 were made available. The Parish Council closed the financial year with a balance of £4,146.27 against an opening balance of £5,339.35. Included in the total is £761.88 which is the balance remaining after the purchase of the defibrillator and will be used to cover maintenance and other costs relating to the defibrillator.

4 Chairman's Report

Cllr Harris said that as each year becomes ever busier, the work of the Parish Clerk increased almost to overload, so sincere thanks go to Frances for her unerring diligence in the execution of her many duties. So, a very busy year with all the usual items to be discussed, resolved, deliberated upon or consigned to history.

Speeding traffic through both villages and the flouting of the weight restriction through Lamport are all ongoing issues. Much work has been done to find a solution to these problems. Ian Boyes from Northamptonshire Highways has found funding to improve the speed restriction signs add new road markings that should make a difference. The new signage is currently on order. Thanks go to all those on the Lamport Steering Group.

Grass cutting has been awarded to Countrywide Grounds Maintenance who are contracted to carry out eight cuts this year.

Various planning applications were dealt with and a special meeting was convened to evaluate and report on the proposed industrial development to the north of the Mercedes site in Brixworth. The plan was rejected by Northamptonshire Council. However, the planning

application has been modified and resubmitted to the Council. The Parish Council has since met to discuss this proposal. It is likely to have an impact on the two villages by increasing traffic if it gets the go ahead.

The highlights of the year have covered some fairly major subjects which I will mention briefly as they appear later in the agenda.

- The defibrillator, that is installed in the telephone box located in Hanging Houghton hasn't been needed yet thankfully. Thanks again to Mr Bob Cox for all his sterling work in setting up this project. Bob will give us update later in the meeting.
- The neighbourhood watch coordinator, Mr Tony Boullemier must be thanked for the publication of the Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter which has been an informative and useful communication, keeping us updated and persuading us to be aware of the possibilities of the ever-present anti-social activities. Tony will update us more fully later in the meeting
- The Neighbourhood Link is now up and running for those who want to participate and thanks go to Mr Richard Flavell-While who has generously given up his time and skills to create this and also maintain our website.
- The Parish Council has dealt with seven Planning Applications this year and has had input through Bob Cox & DDC Cllr Nick Bunting into the Settlements & Countryside Local Plan Part 2. relating to the proposed removal of a Special landscape Area. The Parish Council decided not to go ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan on the recommendation of the group set up to investigate the option.
- Two Lime trees have been taken down in Hanging Houghton due to disease making them potentially unsafe. We are waiting to hear from NCC regarding the planting of some new ones.
- The PC was advised to increase the precept and keep funds in reserve this year due to the splitting of the NCC into two unitary authorities when we may be required to pay for things which are currently covered by the NCC. Furthermore, other costs such as insurance etc have risen.
- It is hoped that another litter pick will take place at some stage during the year.

The Chairman closed his report by thanking vice chairman Mike Philpott for all his support and guidance and the council as a whole for its hard work and perseverance in meeting the challenges throughout the year.

5. Social Events Report

Cllr Philpott said that what has now become an annual tradition, a group congregated on Christmas Eve to sing carols on The Green. It was the perfect way to start the festivities and we were joined by villagers from Hanging Houghton, Lamport and visiting family members. We didn't have the accompaniment of last year's keyboard player but nevertheless we managed to sing quite heartily albeit to the wrong tune on one occasion! The annual village BBQ was well attended despite the less than ideal weather. Over 40 villagers attended and a good time was had by all.

Cllr Philpott thanked Colin Harris, Tony Wasikowski and Buff Marshall who provided their barbecues for everyone to use.

6. Defibrillator

The defibrillator has been installed in the old telephone box for just over one year and it has not been needed to treat any member of the community during this time but was deployed once as a standby measure.

The box has been repainted with new signage showing its current use. In the telephone box there is a direct line to the ambulance service and can be used by any member of the public if and when required.

The current 'Village emergency telephone system' VETS, has 10 names and Cllr Cox is looking forward to increasing that number. Work is ongoing to organise a training session and he would be pleased to include any member of the village if they contact him.

7. Neighbourhood Watch

Tony Boullemier, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator said that there had been a recent day time burglary in Hanging Houghton but had no further details to report. However a green van had been noticed in the vicinity on the same day. Parking and speeding remain an issue. Unfortunately authorities are reluctant to reduce the speed limit along A508 at the junction with Lamport High Street which will inevitably result in accidents. There is still a continuing problem with anti-social behaviour in Hanging Houghton and along Brampton Valley Way with young people and possibly drugs. Mr. Boullemier emphasized the importance of all residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police.

8. Open Question time

8.1 Village Neighbourhood Link

It was confirmed that a flyer will be prepared and delivered to every household advertising the Link and detailing how to use it.

8.2 Parishioners wanted to know what work was being undertaken by Northamptonshire Highways along the footpath adjacent to the A508 on the Maidwell side. It appears to be path clearance which is badly needed along the footpath between Manor Road and The Swan. The Clerk will write to Ian Boyes, NCC Highways for clarification.

8.3 Comment was made about the gap in the trees adjacent to the water treatment plant in Hanging Houghton. The Chairman said that this matter had been discussed some years ago when it was confirmed that the trees belonged to Lamport Hall who had declined to replace them. However, the Clerk will contact Lamport Hall once again on this matter.

8.4 There was a concern voiced that the cow parsley had been cut down along with the grass cutting instead of leaving a swathe near the fence. Cllr Ward pointed out that the grass cutters were following the cutting instructions correctly.

8.5 Parishioners were still concerned about the level of broadband service provided by Gigaclear and that some properties were still not able to be cabled in to receive a broadband connection. Cllr Flavell While said that he would contact BT for an up to date position and whether they would be able to provide an alternative service to those who need it.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

Signed:

Date: