

LAMPOR AND HANGING HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL
held via Skype
Wednesday 17 March 2021 at 7 pm

1. ATTENDANCE, apologies and Declarations of Interest.

Present: Cllrs C. Harris (in the Chair), B. Cox, J. Farr, P. May, R. Flavell-While, B. Ward

Apologies for absence: Cllr M. Philpott, DDC Cllr K. Parker

In attendance: Anthony Nixon, Liberal Democratic Focus Team for Brixworth

Declarations of interest: none

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 20 January 2021 and Planning Meeting 27 January 2021 were approved and will be signed by the Chair.

3 MATTERS arising from the MINUTES

3.1 Website

Cllr Flavell While said that the new server has been set up and the website will be transferred shortly.

3.2 Grit Bins

The Clerk reported that Northamptonshire Highways were awaiting further deliveries of new bins and that the broken bin outside Hanging Houghton would be replaced as soon as stocks arrive. Highways staff offered to break down the contents of the Parish Council owned bin located on the Lamport triangle at the same time. Cllr Ward said that he would advise the Clerk when the work has been completed.

3.3 Cycle path: Brixworth/Lamport

Cllr Cox said that despite his best efforts he has been unable to make any progress with securing sponsorship to fund a cycle path, mainly because most contacts are working from home. He will try again later in the year when hopefully things get back to normal.

4 HIGHWAYS

4.1 Speeding and traffic issues: Lamport High Street

No report available for this meeting. The Clerk will email Mark Herrod for his thoughts on the way forward.

4.2 Trial of temporary 20 mph advisory speed signs

The Parish Council will await the outcome of the pilot scheme in West Haddon when parishes will be invited to participate.

5 PLANNING

5.1 DA/2020/1146: Ladyholme, Faxton

No further progress from DDC Planning

5.2 The Cottage, 2 High Street, Lamport NN6 9HB

DA/2021/0199:

Reduce ground level of patio area, remove steps and construct new roof over inner courtyard.

DA/2021/0200 Listed Building Consent for new roof over inner courtyard, opening up of blocked doorway and insertion of new door, insertion of shower room, insertion of drainage under flagstones and alteration of bathroom floor on first floor.

Plans having been examined online, Councillors raised no objections and recommended approval.

6 FINANCE

6.1 Balance at Bank: accounts and budget circulated by email.

Balances at bank 17 March 2021: current account £1,350.17 and £2,728.76 in reserve account. When payments totalling £849.70 are made at this meeting the true total balance will be £3,229.23. £503.80 of the credit balance is allocated for maintenance of the telephone box and the defibrillator. The Clerk commented that when the final payment is made to the Information Commissioner for £35.00, the total amount remaining at the end of the current financial year would be £3,194.23 – down from the carry forward figure at the beginning of the year of £4,540.64. The increase in expenditure was largely due to increased village grass cutting costs – 13 cuts @ £160 per cut against 6 cuts @ £135 per cut the previous year. A larger than usual VAT reclaim would be made in April in the sum of £534.78 as VAT was paid on all the village grass cutting and also the laptop.

6.2 Items for payment:

Bank Payment	F.R. Allbury: Clerk's Wages/Expenses	£724.70
Bank Payment	HMRC: Clerk's PAYE	£90.00
Bank Payment	ACRE: annual membership fee	£35.00

Cllr Harris approved the items for payment: seconded by Cllr. Farr. The Chairman would check the bank account to confirm that payments had been made in accordance with paperwork circulated.

The Clerk said that the NcALC internal auditor approved the amended wording of the Risk Management to cover online banking. The revised document would be signed off along with all other policy documents later in the year. There is no need to edit to Financial Regulations.

7 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/CRIME

7.1 To appoint a Police Liaison Representative to act as a single point of contact with Northamptonshire Police

Cllr Flavell While said that having given the matter some thought he regretted that he is unable to take up the post due to other time commitments. Cllr May commented that Peter Dugmore may be interested in this vacancy or the vacancy for Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator resulting from the resignation of the current Co-ordinator Cllr Philpott. Neither post has to be filled by a Parish Councillor. It was agreed that the Clerk would resend the original email from NcALC advertising for a Police Liaison Representative to Cllr May so that Peter could make a decision.

7.2 Report by Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

In the absence of the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator the Clerk said that the attempted theft of a vehicle at Lamport Hall reported to her by Mark Herrod had been circulated very quickly on the NHW email list by Cllr May.

8 DEFIBRILLATOR

Nothing to report at present. Cllr Cox said that some expenditure would be required however within the next few months in respect of maintenance and general upkeep.

9 LOCAL ELECTIONS MAY 2021

The Clerk said that she had circulated a brief document outlining the procedure for completing nomination papers for the local elections to take place on the 6th May 2021. She would respond to everyone who needed specific Electoral Role numbers once she had received an updated list from DDC electoral services. Completed paperwork should be delivered to Cllr Cox for collection by the Clerk by 26th March 2021.

The Chairman said that Cllr Philpott had decided to step down as a Parish Councillor as at 31st March 2021, after nearly 20 years service. All Councillors expressed their thanks to Mike for his dedication and hard work during his time on the Parish Council which was appreciated by all his fellow Councillors and parishioners alike.

Having consulted with DDC and the NcALC internal auditor, the procedure to co-opt a new councillor has been agreed. The formula for this process is different in a local election year, when an official Notice of Vacancy is not required and a person can be co-opted within 35 days after the date of the local election. The Chairman said that Cathy Dugmore had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council and all Councillors felt she would be an asset to the Council. It was therefore proposed that Cathy be co-opted onto the Parish Council at the May meeting: proposed Cllr Cox, seconded Cllr May. The resolution was passed unanimously. The Clerk will contact Cathy.

10 CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 The Clerk read an email received from Tony Boulemier highlighting various issues:

- Brixworth Wombles – see item 11 below.
- Dirty road signs – see item 11 below
- Drains in Hanging Houghton have been cleaned out.
- Attempted vehicle theft - see item 7.2 above
- Vehicle parked in Manor Road: taxed and insured therefore not illegal.
- Update on Gigaclear – no action required by Parish Council.
- Update on road signage in Manor Road leading to Brampton Valley Way – no action required by Parish Council.

10.2 Cllr May said that the tenant of Manor Farm House, Tom Saunders would be terminating his residency of the Farm towards the end of the year and that it would revert back to the landlords, the Lamport Estate. This would result in a number of empty buildings, some of which are listed. Cllr May was concerned that by vacating the property there may be a problem with two vehicles currently parked on the site, with permission, and that should permission be withdrawn they would have to park in an already congested Manor Road. Parking issues was something that had already been raised with Mark Herrod at Lamport Hall in the past. It was agreed that the Chairman would telephone Mark to discuss parking and any other issues relating to the vacant buildings.

11 LITTER

The Chairman thanked Clive and Margaret Westley and Tony Boulemier for undertaking an unscheduled litter pick.

Cllr Ward said that he would organise a Spring litter pick: Saturday 10th April 2021 was agreed and notices would be put up to advise parishioners. It was also agreed that the dirty road signs mentioned under item 10.1 would be cleaned up at the same time.

12. DATES OF NEXT MEETNGS

Parish Council AGM 19th May 2021 at 7pm
Annual Parish Meeting 26th May 2021 – both remotely.

The meeting concluded at 8.00 pm

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C. Harris, Chairman

Date:.....2021