

LAMPORNT AND HANGING HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL
Wednesday 25 September 2019 in the Old Laundry, Lamport Hall at 7 pm

1. ATTENDANCE, apologies and Declarations of Interest.

Present: Cllrs B. Cox, F. Flavell While, C. Harris, (in the Chair), P. May, M. Philpott, B. Ward, F. Allbury (Clerk)

Declaration of Interest: None

Apologies: Cllr. J. Farr, DDC Cllr. K. Parker

In attendance: Mark Herrod, Director, Lamport Hall

The Chairman welcomed Mark, the newly appointed Director of Lamport Hall since the retirement of George Drye.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 17 July 2019 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3 MATTERS arising from the MINUTES

None

4 HIGHWAYS

4.1 Speeding and traffic issues: Lamport High Street

No further update from Tracey Simonetti-Stocker. Anglian Water has now completed work in the High Street and will re-instate the recently repainted white lines shortly.

4.2 Meadow Flower verges

Cllr Ward suggested planting ox eyed daisy and Cllr Cox scabious seeds in the designated area. Cllr Ward will check to ensure they are planted at the right time of year.

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4.3 Broadband Connection

Cllr Flavell While confirmed that BT had now upgraded the exchange to offer superfast broadband. However Gigaclear had been given the contract to provide local broadband and there were therefore insufficient numbers of prospective new customers to role out their own programme. Cllr Cox said that he was in the process of arranging a Gigaclear connection through an alternative route to his and immediately adjacent properties. Mark Herrod said that he was aware of a community- based group who offered broadband connection. He would pass details onto the Clerk who would forward them onto Cllr Flavell-While to investigate and report back.

5 PLANNING

5.1 DA/20191/0144: Land west of Mercedes Avenue

Awaiting decision from DDC. As no progress had been made with this application for six months it was agreed to file the paperwork and remove it from the agenda for the time being.

5.2 West Northants Strategic Plan

Recent documents had been circulated including an email from Cllr Nick Bunting advising the Parish Council to monitor activity and express views when requested. Councillors were concerned that it had been decided not to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan based on information contained in the Plan.

5.2 Settlements and Countryside Local Plan Part 2

Cllr Cox said that the section of importance to the Parish Council ran from pages 44 to 52 which encompassed the future of the SLA which the Parish Council were keen to retain. Cllr Cox felt that the general wording of this document was more encouraging than the West Northants Strategic Plan in relation to future housing. It was agreed to once again monitor progress of this document and in the meantime ask Cllr Kevin Parker for his comments on both documents.

6 FINANCE

6.1 Balance at Bank: accounts and budget circulated. At 25 September 2019 the accounts showed a true balance of £1,380.75 in current account and £3,32.99 in reserve account. The second portion of the precept is due into the bank this month. £701.88 of this is allocated for maintenance of the BT telephone box and the defibrillator.

6.2 Items for payment:

Chq No., 530	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance:	
	June, July and August village grass cutting	£486.00
Chq No. 531	F.R. Allbury: Clerk's Wages/Expenses	£409.76
Chq No. 532	HMRC: Clerk's PAYE	£99.20
Chq No. 533	A. Boulemier: Neighbourhood Watch Leaflet	£14.40
Chq No. 534	J. Denton: churchyard grass cutting	£400.00

7 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/CRIME

It was reported that since publication of the latest NHW newsletter another burglary had taken place, this time in Lamport. Discussion took place on possible solutions that the Parish Council could investigate. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Ian Boyes, Northamptonshire Highways regarding the possible installation of low energy and aesthetically sympathetic street lighting suitable for small villages – just in general terms. The provision of two security cameras, one at each end of Manor Road might deter criminal activity. Cllr Cox would investigate and report back. Police had apprehended two people in connection with the recent burglary in Hanging Houghton. The parishioner residing at the property suggested organising a rota to patrol Hanging Houghton through the night, but this was not considered viable as not all parts of the village could be patrolled all the time and it would still leave many hours when properties were vulnerable. It was also felt that many parishioners could help themselves by installing low cost security lights to deter possible break-ins.

8 DD Local Code of Conduct for Parish Councillors

Document circulated to all Councillors for information and filing with their copy of the Code of Conduct.

9 CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Harrington Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation
Information noted and filed.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Trees, Townsend Close: Mark Harrod said that the Hall would be planting some trees at the end of Townsend Close to obscure the water treatment site as part of a countryside stewardship campaign.

10.2 Litter Pick: Sunday 27th October 2019 was agreed at 10.30am. Everyone to meet at the defibrillator box on Hanging Houghton village green. Cllr Ward will provide the sacks, and the Clerk would prepare a flyer for the notice boards and the website.

10.3 Footpath along A508 between Hanging Houghton and The Swan: Councillors were still concerned about the dangerous and narrow condition of the footpath. Mark Harrod would take a look to see if trimming back adjacent hedging would help and the Clerk would write once again to Highways expressing the concerns.

10.4 Land sale, Manor Road, Hanging Houghton

The Chairman said that he had been approached by a parishioner living in Manor Road who is seeking clarification of the recent land expansion behind the house opposite to her. The parishioner was given to understand that the additional land was to extend the rear garden with car parking space immediately next to the lane. She has concerns that the area in front of her gate will be the only area for vehicles to turn and believes this space to be too small to allow vehicles to manoeuvre. The area is allocated on her building plan to be reserved for free access to her property although apparently not actually belonging to the property. It was agreed that Mark Herrod would look at the site and report back his findings to the Parish Council.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 18 November 2019 in The Old Laundry, Lamport Hall at 7.00 pm. It was also agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 27th May 2020 – 6.30 pm for 7 pm, rather than after the Parish Council AGM arranged for the 22nd May 2020. The Clerk will check availability with Vicki Grimmitt.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05 pm

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C. Harris, Chairman

Date:.....