

LAMPOR AND HANGING HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL
Wednesday 26 January 2022 at 7 pm
in the Old Laundry, Lamport Hall, Northamptonshire

1. ATTENDANCE, apologies and Declarations of Interest.

Present: Cllrs B. Cox, C. Dugmore, J. Farr (in the Chair), D. Gasson, R. Flavell-White, F. Allbury (Parish Clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllrs C. Harris, P. May and Cllr K. Parker (WNC)

Declarations of interest: Cllr Flavell White declared an interest in item 7.3 – Brixworth Bulletin questionnaire regarding the precept.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 17 November 2021 were approved and signed by the Vice Chair.

3 MATTERS arising from the MINUTES

Grit Bins

The bin located in Hanging Houghton has been replaced, and Lamport Hall staff have now removed the compacted grit in the bin on the Lamport Triangle and replenished it with fresh supplies.

4 HIGHWAYS

4.1 Footpath: Manor Road to Brixworth and to Maidwell

Councillors reported that WNC have cleared the footpath from Brixworth right through to Maidwell. However it has been noted that by clearing the vegetation, damage has been caused to the tarmac surface and it is hoped that repairs will be carried out before they leave the site.

4.2 Traffic along Lamport High Street

The Clerk said that Andy Grimmitt has been nominated as the contact at Lamport Hall and she has advised Mark Stocker.

4.3 Dog waste bin, Hanging Houghton

Reported on the OnMyStreet website and repairs will be carried out within six months.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A parishioner has asked that the Parish Council give consideration to organising a village get-together on Sunday 5 June 2022 to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Councillors suggested a bbq or picnic. It was agreed to enlist volunteers to organise this and Cllr Dugmore will ask Mike Philpott who headed the Social Events Committee in recent years who should be approached. The Clerk said that there were still funds available in the Social Events bank account totalling £573.85.

6. PLANNING

6.1 WND/2021/0594: Grooms Cottage, Manor Road, Hanging Houghton

Construction of extension to outbuilding.

Listed building consent approved 25 November 2021

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6.2 WND/2021/0673: Blueberry Lodge, Harborough Road, Maidwell

Construction of tennis court and associated fence enclosure.

Full planning permission approved 14 December 2021

6.3 WND/1 2021 TPO 1,2,3 Lamport Grange, Hanging Houghton

For information – no action required by the Parish Council

Councillors commented that the hedging on the perimeter of this property required cutting back and concern was raised about the temporary building that is still located in the garden. The Clerk will investigate and report back.

6.4 DA/2019/0144: land to the west of Mercedes Avenue, Brixworth
Appeal against the decision by DDC rejected (full refusal paperwork circulated by email 4th January 2022)

7 FINANCE

7.1 Balance at Bank: accounts and budget for the current financial year circulated by email.
Balances at bank 19 January 2022: current account £2,949.94 and £1,728.89 in reserve account.
When payments totalling £537.70 are made at this meeting the true total balance will be £4,141.13.
£603.80 of the credit balance is allocated for maintenance of the telephone box and the defibrillator.

7.2 Items for payment to be made by bank transfer:

F.R. Allbury: salary and expenses	£408.10
HMRC: Clerk's PAYE	£94.60
ACRE: annual membership	£35.00

Cllr Farr proposed that the payments should be made, seconded by Cllr Gasson. The Bank account will be accessed online after the meeting to verify that the payments have been made in accordance with those listed in the minutes.

7.3/4 The Clerk confirmed that the precept request and the WNC grass cutting grant application had been signed and returned.

Discussion took place regarding the Brixworth Bulletin 2022 precept questionnaire and draft figures circulated by the Clerk with the agenda. The Parish Council had already circulated an explanatory open letter to parishioners with the agreed budget 2022/23 so that everyone could see how the precept was spent so it was therefore considered not necessary to complete the questionnaire. The Clerk was asked to forward a copy of the letter and budget to the editor of the Brixworth Bulletin.

7.5 External Affordable payroll service
Councillors discussed the proposal from NcALC to offer a payroll service for small parish councils with up to two employees. The cost to the Parish Council would be approximately £100 per annum. The Clerk briefly outlined the current procedure using HMRC Real Time Information which provides this service free of charge. The Parish Council is registered as an employer and the Clerk as the employee. Tax due is calculated when a salary is paid, with the Clerk paid net of tax and the tax element paid directly to HMRC. At the end of the tax year, it also provides a P60.

It was unanimously agreed that at the current time it was not felt necessary to change to a system at an additional cost when the current one works perfectly well. However, it was acknowledged that the situation may change in the future, and it was agreed to review the Parish Council's position annually at each January meeting which would give sufficient time to enrol before the start of the new tax year.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/CRIME

Report from Peter Dugmore circulated by email 24 January 2022. Peter said that the parish had been quiet over the past few weeks with nothing to report whilst continuing to post local and national news on the dedicated Facebook page. Peter aims to produce a further newsletter by the end of March. He continues to receive support from the Neighbourhood Watch Central Support Team.

Cllr Cox reported that some fly tipping had occurred near the Brampton Valley Way approximately half a mile past the copse. He saw a vehicle with a trailer leaving the area and having noted the registration number, passed the information to the police.

9 DEFIBRILLATOR

Cllr Cox said that he continues to keep a watching brief on the battery which now shows one light. As soon as it ceases to function a new battery will be ordered and installed. The Clerk confirmed that provision for this expense has been made in the budget.

10 GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

Cllr Dugmore said that from her initial enquiries there had been very little positive feedback. It was agreed to add this to the agendas for the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

11 TO ENGAGE WITH NCALC ASSET MAPPING PROJECT (AMP) and appoint a Working Group comprising the clerk and 2 Councillors

It was agreed that the Parish Council would participate. The Clerk would circulate the current Asset Register as a starting point and this will be expanded when Councillors walk the villages. A deadline of 28th February had been agreed to co-ordinate responses and prepare a spreadsheet for submission to NcALC. In the meantime the Clerk would complete the necessary paperwork and claim the grant offered of £219.62 which will be paid directly into the bank account.

12 WEBSITE

The Clerk will ensure that Cllr Flavell While has all the documents needed to be displayed before the remote internal audit takes place.

13 CORRESPONDENCE

WNC Tree Policy and Strategy Task

Cllr Cox who is participating in this project on behalf of the Parish Council asked the Clerk to enquire if Lamport Hall would like sight of the results of this project in view of their considerable work on tree planning on the estate.

14 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

16th March 2022 at 7.00 pm in The Old Laundry, Lamport, Northamptonshire.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.55 pm.

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Date:.....2022