

## LAMPOR AND HANGING HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 10 May 2023

Lampport Hall, Northamptonshire at 7pm

1. Attendance and apologies Cllr Bob Cox  
Cllr Dale Gasson  
Cllr Colin Harris (Chairman)  
Cllr Percy May  
Cllr Richard Flavell While

In attendance: WNC Cllr Jonathan Harris and 11 parishioners

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jonathan Farr, Cathy Dugmore: Peter Dugmore (Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator): WNC Cllrs Cecile Irving Swift and Kevin Parker.

2. Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting 26 May 2022

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Financial Report and Accounts

Audited Financial Report and Accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 are available to view on the Parish Council website. The Parish Council closed the financial year with a balance of £3,568.50 against an opening balance of £3,504.82 brought forward from the previous financial year. Included in the true balance is £323.80 which is the remaining sum held in respect of defibrillator funding (lottery grant and local fundraising).

Although the Parish Council had received an increase in Precept from £5,800 to £7,300, unforeseen additional expenditure had been incurred due to the passing of Queen Elizabeth II in respect of the book of condolence and also replacing the damaged and stolen dog waste bin.

4 Chairman's Report

Cllr Harris gave a warm welcome to the 89<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the parish of Lampport and Hanging Houghton and hoped that everyone present would find the meeting both informative and interesting.

The new governing body, West Northamptonshire Council was proving to be an excellent source of help and guidance, increasing their activities across many aspects of governance which, in itself of course has increased the workload of the Parish Clerk and the Council. The Chairman expressed his sincere thanks to Councillor Jonathan Farr who as vice chairman has offered stable and reliable support on all issues. The seven strong Council whose collective wisdom has steered the Parish Council to conclusive decisions, made in a just and proper manner. He also thanked the Parish Clerk, Frances Allbury whose hours were stretched even further as the convenience of digital technology adds to the flow of incoming communication and information. Thanks were due to Lampport Hall for allowing The Old Laundry to become the permanent home for meetings, and finally WNC Councillors Kevin Parker and Jonathan Harris for their attendance and continued support. In addition to Councillors, the Chairman thanked Peter Dugmore, the Neighbourhood Watch Officer and Community Police Coordinator who had provided a superb service in both roles. Peter had intended to relinquish the office this year but following an impromptu discussion and only the very slightest of persuasion he decided to continue – a decision for which we are profoundly grateful.

During the year the country celebrated The Queen's Jubilee with a highly successful Open Gardens/Meet Your Neighbours event and a grand Tea in the Barn organised by the Community Group and Church Volunteers. Marking the Jubilee, 4 trees had been planted close to the seat that overlooks the valley in the lane leading to the old railway track. A commemorative plaque mounted on a backboard and post by Councillor Dale Gasson will be positioned nearby. The remaining saplings have been planted in the grounds of Lamport Hall.

Events enjoyed by the parish throughout the year were a Safari Supper, the Harvest Supper and a Pub Quiz that filled the restaurant area of The Swan.

The Community Group now officially titled Social Mojo is a welcome addition to the parish social scene which working independently or alongside the Church Volunteers, the PCC and the PC will promote more activities and events in the future.

The passing of Queen Elizabeth in September Overshadowed any of our events this year. The council was prepared for such an occurrence as a meeting of Operation London Bridge, had previously been held between the council, representatives of Lamport Church and Lamport Hall. 25 action points requiring co-ordination were undertaken including a letter of condolence sent to the Palace from the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. A letter of acknowledgement has since been received from King Charles. A book of condolence with a memorial photograph of the Queen was made available in Lamport church. The book is now lodged in Lamport Hall.

Conservation Status application for both villages had been applied for, following a survey conducted by Mr Alan Mayes accompanied by Councillors Cox, Harris and ex-councillor Mike Philpott. This is a lengthy process and the scheme is now closed for the present time but we are on the list for the next session. Sadly, Mike passed away in December last year and will be greatly missed. As a councillor and vice chairman of some twenty years or so, Mike was a splendid organiser of social events and a steady source of advice and local knowledge.

Planning applications were addressed at regular intervals plus one specific meeting. All plans are now viewed online unless for the purpose of clarification, paper copies are purchased.

Other points of interest include the proposed renovation of the Hanging Houghton notice board will be undertaken during this summer. Village grass cutting has once again been awarded to Countrywide Garden Maintenance. The seat on the corner of Lamport High Street and the A508 was in a broken and dilapidated condition and has been removed by WNC. The Litter pick squad has again been out in force in both villages. Braving the elements and risking life and limb on both sides of the A508, they help to keep the parish looking neat and tidy. The dog waste bin at the entrance to Hanging Houghton was demolished by an out-of-control vehicle and a new bin purchased and installed. Additional signage to prevent parking on the grass verges was acquired which appeared to be effective for most of the time.

Parking in Manor Road HH and speeding in Lamport continues to be a problem. Residents are encouraged to park courteously, and the speeding issue will be addressed yet again when the decision is made to apply for a targeted traffic control installation.

The Parish Council website will be updated on a more regular basis thanks to Councillor Flavell-While. It contains a new administration area for content management so we hope everybody will keep a lookout for current information.

Finally, thank you for listening and we hope you will stay to join us for a guided tour of Lamport Hall, kindly organised by Mr Mark Herrod.

## 5. Social Events Mojo Committee

Cllr Dale Gasson gave an overview of the newly formed Social Events Mojo, saying that during the first Covid lockdown his wife Ruth had set up a supportive Facebook contact group to enable people within the villages to continue to communicate and provide support to each other if and when needed. Fliers were dropped to enable those not using Facebook to also make contact. From this there was some response enabling support for residents who were shielding. This page remains as a residents only page offering contact, communication and support under the name of Hanging Houghton and Lamport Community Group. This is now managed by the Social Mojo members.

A community led initiative for the Queens Jubilee with no fundraising element began plus long term social events. A Jubilee Barn Party attended by 100+ villagers was organised plus Open Gardens and a working party formalising the social calendar of the village with a flexible team of residents organising regular social, not for profit, inclusive events: *Lamport and Hanging Houghton Social Mojo*.

Although the group is fluid there is a currently a core group of organisers: Nigel and Susan Cole, Ruth and Dale Gasson, Pat and Trevor George and Christine Ingram with interested villagers opting in and out of events they would like to be involved in planning. Recently advice was taken from ACRE – Action with Communities in Rural England- about formalising the group with some safeguarding and protective policies resulting in the appointment a Treasurer Trevor, and Secretary Ruth. Public liability insurance is now in place.

Other events organised were Carols on the Green on Christmas Eve with thanks due to Mark and Emma Price and Saul's for gifting all with a tasty pork pie. The Social Mojos half share of the existing parish councils social fund was used at this event to provide free hot drinks for all. He thanked the Parish Council for gifting half of the balance remaining from the previous social events committee with the other half donated to the PCC.

A quiz was held in The Swann, Lamport with attendance exceeded expectations and Cllr Gasson thanked The Swann and Dave the regular compere for making it a successful event. Residents feedback was extremely positive and demonstrated that the villagers were ready for such a group. The quiz will now become at least a biannual event.

A Coronation party and barn dance and picnic on the green proved very successful. The next event will be the Safari Supper on 7<sup>th</sup> July organised by Hilary Cox. The Social Mojo will be working with Hilary to replicate this successful event but allowing Hilary to pass the reigns and take a well-earned and requested rest. Further events are planned including a annual barbeque on the green in late August, a second quiz in the autumn and carols on the green.

The group remains open to new members and suggestions for additional events. The social group can obtain funding from ACRE for the community with the support of the Parish Council which was readily given.

## 6. Neighbourhood Watch

A report prepared by Peter Dugmore, Neighbourhood Watch and Police Liaison Representative was read out by the Chairman.

Peter said that fly tipping continued to be a cause for concern recently with rubbish tipped on the track in the valley between Hanging Houghton and Cottesbrooke. Thankfully he was able to provide PCSO Kevin Lumbis with discarded motor cycle number plate in the vicinity which may help identify the culprits. Mark Herrod, at Lamport Hall was also advised as the fly tipping occurred on Lamport Estate land and he confirmed that his staff would remove the debris.

Posts continue on the Lamport and Hanging Houghton NHW facebook and twitter accounts with latest communications both local and national sometimes duplicated sometimes in the Neighbourhood Watch newsletter.

An addition to the Neighbourhood Policing Team is Lee Stevens who has experience of local policing for many years.

As a reminder the four Northants Police priorities are violence against women and girls: drug harm: serious organised crime and serious violence. Hopefully none of these will be major issues for the parish. Finally Peter confirmed contact details for slow time issues (not crime reporting):

Jo Wright – Brixworth [Jo.Wrght@northants.police.uk](mailto:Jo.Wrght@northants.police.uk)

Kev Lumbis – Moulton [Kevin.lumbis@northants.police.uk](mailto:Kevin.lumbis@northants.police.uk)

Matt Moore – [matt.moore@northants.police.uk](mailto:matt.moore@northants.police.uk)

#### 7. Report from West Northamptonshire Council prepared by Cllr Jonathan Harris

Cllr Harris gave a brief synopsis of his detailed and informative report. The report in full will be available to view on the Parish Council website.

In particular Jonathan highlighted the continued pressures on finances especially in relation to children's care and adult social services which is demand led with £50 million from various reserve pots being used during the current financial year. Council taxes rose by the maximum allowed set at an average of 4.99%. An Ofsted report on Fostering Services under the Children's Trust had rated the service inadequate. The Council is awaiting the outcome of a judicial review relating to the land sale adjacent to Sixfield (Northampton Town FC) which if lost could result in an award of costs alongside the fees paid by the Council to defend the challenge. The Council is working on a Local Plan replacing the existing Joint Core Strategy and Local Plan Part designed to last until 2041 which relates to housing needs.

Comment was made concerning the Local Government Review detailing revised boundaries for elected representatives of WNC. Details can be found in the full report.

Cllr Harris said that he was also focussing on the establishment of a community based Shopper Hopper mini bus service reconnecting villages with no public transport. A food larder based in Brixworth has been established which has proved very helpful to local residents.

Cllr Harris is working with Lamport residents in relation to traffic issues along the High Street.

Another topic covered in detail in the report relates to Local Area Partnerships - Health and Wellbeing Strategy and he is a representative, the focus being to work on the 10 'live your best life' ambitions.

Open Question Time

The Parish Clerk commented on the lengthy delays in dealing with local planning applications. Cllr Harris said that WNC are well aware of the difficulties faced by the Planning Department relating to staffing issues. A new resident of Lamport recently moved into the area was also anxious about long delays with a planning application for a new roof on his property.

Tracey Stocker said that Cllr Harris would be engaging with residents of Lamport and the Parish Council in relation to resolving the traffic issues along the High Street. The Clerk commented that this is on the agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

The Clerk was asked to once again try and get the Council to instal bigger waste bins in both Laybys on the A 508 at the current ones are completely unsuitable for the quantity of rubbish deposited which caused an overflow on the surrounding area. Cllr Harris said that he would give the Clerk contact information to the appropriate Council department.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.20 pm and all present were invited to join a conducted tour of Lamport Hall.

Signed:

Date: