

LAMPORT AND HANGING HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
in The Old Laundry, Lamport Hall, Northamptonshire
Wednesday 20 November 2024 at 7.00pm

1 **ATTENDANCE**, apologies and Declarations of Interest

Cllrs. B. Cox, D. Sinnott, C. Dugmore, C. Harris (in the Chair)

In attendance: WNC Cllr K. Parker

Apologies: Cllr J. Farr, P. May, Cllr R. Flavell While, WNC Cllr Jonathan Harris

No Declarations of Interest received.

2 **MINUTES to be approved and signed:**

Parish Council Meeting 25 September 2024

Cllr Dugmore proposed that the Minutes be adopted, seconded Cllr Cox.

3 **MATTERS** arising from the Minutes

3.1 Overgrown footpaths Manor Road/A508

The Clerk has received confirmation that the footpaths will be cleared but it might be sometime before the work is programmed into their schedule.

3.2 Conservation Area

Cllr Cox asked the Clerk to obtain an update on our application for conservation status. A response received stated that WNC still did not have the capacity for our application due to the full review of the Grand Union Canal and general casework. Councillors were extremely disappointed with this response especially since the original application was made in early 2022. The Clerk will respond accordingly.

4 **HIGHWAYS**

4.1 Speed Cameras, Lamport High Street

Mark Stocker provided details of the lithium batteries and chargers required. Having look at the budget for the current financial year and the proposed budget for 2025/26 it was agreed to purchase 4 lithium batteries and 2 chargers now and the remaining 4 batteries in the next financial year. Cllr Dugmore proposed the purchases, seconded by Cllr Cox. Carried unanimously.

4.2 Lamport Residents Safety Association (LRSA)

Having been in touch with Sarah Lee, it was agreed that this heading will only be included when Sarah has an update for the Parish Council. However, anything urgent can be circulated round between meetings. Sarah also said that she was trying to obtain 20 mph advisory speed signs, and therefore the Parish Council would not pursue this as well.

5 **PLANNING**

5.1 2023/0046: Land at Dale Farm, Harborough Road, Maidwell
Construction of dwelling and outbuildings – pending.

5.2 2024/3069: The Nook 3A Manor Road, Hanging Houghton

Rear two storey extension, part loft conversion, garage loft conversion and external cladding
Approved 17 October 2024

5.3 2024/2972: Meadowcroft, Manor Road, Hanging Houghton
Single storey front rear and side extension and rendering of all existing facing brick walling
Approved 9 October 2024

6 FINANCE

6.1 Balances at Bank and Budget/Expenditure for current year

Accounts for the current year circulated by email with the agenda, show a balance of £6,180.28 in Current Account and £1,975.43 in Reserve Account. When payments listed below totalling £1,474.06 are paid, the true balance will be £6,681.65. £263.80 held in Current Account is allocated for maintenance of the telephone box and defibrillator.

6.2 Items for payment: LGA 1972

F.R. Allbury: reimbursement Microsoft Licence/camera fixings	£77.02	S.137
F.R. Allbury: salary and travel	£576.86	S.112
HMRC: clerk's PAYE	£141.20	S.112
Countrywide Grass Cutting: September/October	£756.00	S.112

The Chairman will access the Bank account online to verify that the payments have been made in accordance with those listed in the minutes. Cllr Dugmore proposed that the payments should be made, seconded by Cllr. Cox.

6.3 Grass Cutting Contract 2025 season

CW Countrywide Grounds Maintenance will increase the cost of cutting the parish grass in 2025 to £225.00 plus vat per cut. They confirmed that they comply with the specification stipulated by WNC in all respects. 11 out of a maximum of 12 cuts were carried out this year, and it was agreed to continue with a maximum of 12 for next year.

6.4 Draft Budget 2025/26

A draft budget was circulated with the agenda. The Clerk and Councillors went through each item and noted that £500 had been included to cover the cost of 4 batteries in the financial year. Insurance was estimated to rise from £264 to £280. Budgeted in was also an increase in village grass cutting from £210 per cut to £225.00. The additional WNC grass cutting grant was also noted. Cllr Dugmore proposed adoption of the budget, seconded Cllr Cox. Agreed unanimously.

6.5 Precept Application 2025/26

Having examined the proposed budget in detail and taking into account the additional expenditure on batteries and other unavoidable increases, it was unanimously agreed to raise the precept request from £8,580 to £9,000. This will enable the Council to continue to increase the final balance at the end of the financial year to cushion against unexpected costs whilst ensuring that parishioners receive a good service. Cllr Sinnott proposed adoption of the precept application, seconded by Cllr Dugmore. Carried unanimously.

7 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/POLICE LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE

The Chairman said that until the vacancy is filled, the heading will be removed from agendas.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 A letter from the new MP Rt. Hon. Stuart Andrew. The Clerk will respond inviting him to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2025 at Lamport Hall.

8.2 Correspondence regarding Green Hill Solar Farm: for filing

8.3 Age UK: Every year Age UK like to circulate their magazine to the elderly parishioners and Cllr Dugmore has once again taken delivery of publication for delivery around the villages.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Parish Council Meeting 22 January 2025 at 7 pm in the Old Laundry, Lamport Hall. It was agreed

to move the published meeting date of 15 January back a week due to road works taking place week commencing 13 January 2025. The revised date will be published.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Signed:

Date: