

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HOUGHTON-ON-THE-HILL PARISH
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, MAIN
STREET, HOUGHTON-ON-THE-HILL ON WEDNESDAY 1st FEBRUARY
2006 AT 8:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Cllr. Mr M. Stevenson (Chairman)
Cllr. Mr S. Blackwell
Cllr. Dr. D. Campbell
Cllr. Mr R. Davis
Cllr. Mrs A. Nunan
Cllr. Mrs A. Sharman
Cllr. Mrs A. Sleath
Mrs K. J. Grundy (Parish Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were made when agenda items were being discussed and recorded accordingly.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 4th JANUARY 2006

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 4th January 2006, were duly amended, confirmed, and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Village Pump.

In view of the repair cost for the door of the pump housing, the Chairman asked that another quote be obtained. Another quote had been asked for and was expected.

Action Continuing - Parish Clerk

b) Insurance Cover

The insurance cover for the Parish Council was to be examined and reported upon by the Clerk. Although an overall report on cover had not yet been received, the Parish Clerk had reported that a response to one of the specific questions asked by the Council had been received. It would appear that trustee liability was not covered by

the present insurance. The Clerk did have details of a Company that might provide such cover and she was asked to find out how much this would cost.

Action Continuing – Parish Clerk

c) Garden Club Security Gate

Cllr D. Campbell reported that this had now been installed and the invoice now needed paying. The Parish Clerk reported that the invoice had now been received and the supplier paid.

Action Complete

d) Field Association Working Party.

Information and a recommendation from the Charities Commission were still being studied and based upon a collective opinion a plan was to be prepared.

Action Continuing – Cllr. D. Campbell, A. Sleath & A. Nunan

e) Unauthorised advertising sign in Main Street

The owners had removed it but now it was back affixed to the side of the house. The Parish Clerk was asked to contact them and have it removed.

Action - Parish Clerk

f) Highways issues

The Parish Clerk was to write a letter to the Highways department to arrange a meeting to discuss all of the Houghton Highways issues. The Highways engineer was happy to meet the Parish Council but asked that it be sometime in March as they are currently rescheduling priorities in the county and the effect of available effort and budget was not yet clear. The Council agreed to wait until March but asked for a firm meeting date no later than the end of March to be arranged.

Action - Parish Clerk

g) Police Bus

Cllr. S. Blackwell undertook to find out the date of the ‘fun day’ and book the bus. Providing that the booking is acceptable it has now been set for the 1st July – the Houghton ‘Fun-Day’.

Action Complete

h) The NHS

Posters were available calling on the public to be involved in the organisation and management of new NHS initiatives were put on the notice boards around the village.

Action Complete

i) Interstitial meeting of the Parish Council

The first interstitial meeting of the parish Council to informally discuss policy and to respond in detail to parish issues was held on the 16th January.

Action Complete

j) Dog fouling

Cllr. A. Sleath contacted Harborough District Council enquiring when the dog fouling control power comes to the parish Council. It appears that although these powers come to the Council in June of this year HDC has done little to prepare for them. HDC has promised to prepare something for the Parish Council before the next meeting.

Action Complete

5. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter had been received from Mrs Thomas concerning the Village Notice Boards and enquiring about Parish Council policy in respect what is allowed on them. The Parish Council discussed this issue for some time initially confirming that there had been no change in its policy. It formed the opinion that public notices, notices concerning issues useful or relevant to the village, and advertisements for village functions formed the majority of approved postings. Commercial advertisements for services, items for sale or any other 'business' related notices were not approved. The 'grey area' of functions, courses, or training that might be both considered commercial and of use or interest to the Village was to be decided upon on a case-by-case basis and common sense was to be used in this respect. The Parish Clerk was asked to respond to Mrs Thomas concerning her letter and this policy.

Action – Parish Clerk

A letter had been received from 'a member of the public' concerning low flying light aircraft from Stoughton airfield. The Council agreed that in the first instance a polite letter to the flying school asking them to divert their training approaches to the airfield away from the village centre. The issue would be brought up at the next Billesdon Forum (to be held in Houghton) in March to see if there was a consensus from all of the surrounding parishes on this matter.

Action – Cllr Mrs A. Sleath

There was no other official correspondence.

A bundle of circulars, notices, trade papers, and other paper matter relating to the Parish Council business were presented at the meeting for inclusion in this month's 'Black-bag'. They were looked at superficially and one item was passed to Cllr. S. Blackwell for action this was a poster calling on the public to be involved in the organisation and management of new NHS initiatives and corrected an earlier one that he had disseminated. The new poster was to be put on the notice board in the village.

Action Cllr. S. Blackwell

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

One planning applications had been received and this concerned an amended plan for 18 Home Close Road and involved an extension to the front of the house. The plans were considered, and as the Parish Council had no objection to the original plan, and this modification only brought the property forward and effectively re-positioned it to be more in keeping with the overall street, the Parish Council had no real objection to the changes.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

There was some settlement of outstanding invoices and cheques were prepared and signed.

New estimates for the clearance and flattening of an area of the graveyard had been received. After examining them, one was about £150 cheaper (if the VAT could be claimed) and it included an element for the clearing away of all rubbish and detritus. Some discussion then followed as to whether the Parish Council or the Church should place the order. The Chairman undertook to discuss this with the Church Wardens.

Action Cllr. M. Stevenson

8. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr D. Campbell undertook to ensure that the Garden Club did not ask work to be done without an estimate be prepared first and approval given by the Parish Council before work commenced.

Action Cllr. D. Campbell

9. PARISH COUNCIL CLERK VACANCY

A short list for interviewing candidates was to be drawn up in the next few days and interviewing to start in the next few weeks. Those who have not been successful need to be contacted soonest. As Councillors are going to be away over the next few weeks, this needs a speedy response.

Action All

10. REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

- School Governors – This Parish Council meeting clashed with a Governors Meeting and so little could be reported. Discussions with the Board during the last few weeks brought up the following issues:

Adult education – The school needs support to continue to this community facility. The Parish Council is awaiting details of what form of support is needed.

Contact between the School and the Cricket Club has been encouraged and letters sent to start that dialogue.

- Village Charities – trustees have now been appointed and once approved progress can be made on this issue.
- Village Hall – The Village Hall AGM is to be held on 6th February 2006.
- LRAPLC – Nothing to report
- Field Association– Cllr S. Blackwell gave a brief summary of the proceedings of the last meeting of the Field Association.
- Billesdon Community Forum - Nothing to report
- Parish Plan Action Group
A meeting is to be arranged between councillors to discuss the way forward with this issue. Date to be agreed.

Action Cllr. D. Campbell, A. Sleath & S. Blackwell

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 21:50 pm.

SIGNED.....

CHAIRMAN

DATE.....