

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HOUGHTON-ON-THE-HILL PARISH COUNCIL,
HELD IN THE METHODIST CHURCH SCHOOLROOM,
MAIN STREET, HOUGHTON-ON-THE-HILL,
WEDNESDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2010, AT 8:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Cllr. Mr. Mort Stevenson (Chairman)
Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sharman (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. Mr. Peter Duke
Cllr. Mr. William Scott
Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sleath
Ms. A. M. Davies (Clerk)

2 members of the public including Mrs. Francesca Wall-Bray, Houghton Tree Warden.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies from Cllr. Mrs. Eileen Bent and Cllr. Mrs. Susan Swann had been received and accepted

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THE 7th JULY 2010

The Minutes of the Meeting of the 7th July 2010 were confirmed and signed.

4. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN ON PROGRESS OF DEBATED ISSUES

The Chairman's report was presented primarily as an update for the Councillors' benefit. Issue arising out of this report that requires a decision from the Parish Council will be raised as agenda items as necessary (See Appendix 1, Chairman's Report to the Parish Council 01/09/10).

5. CORRESPONDENCE

1. LRALC July & August 2010 Newsletters. - Noted.
2. E-mail, 20/07/10, from Reverend Paula Hollingsworth thanking the PC for the letter of appreciation 11/07/10. - Noted.
3. Letter, 14/07/10, from RCC Competitions Committee - Invitation for 2 Houghton village representatives to attend the RCC Achievement Awards 2010 Prize Presentations to be held in the Old Grammar School, School Road, Kibworth, on Thursday 23rd September, 6.30pm. This event will be held in conjunction with the RCC's AGM Council agreed to consider nomination of representatives under Agenda Item 10. RCC Village/Community Achievement Awards 2010.
4. Letter, 30/07/10, from Emma Scase requesting that the PC might consider supporting her application to the Heritage Lottery Fund in order to continue research started on Houghton village history, to gather and document available information into an accessible record for future reference. Council agreed to consider this request under Agenda Item 12. Houghton on the Hill Parish Plan.
5. E-mail and letter, 08/08/10, from Robert Dews, CPRE Leicestershire PR, in reference to Campaign to Protect Rural England - Parish Litter warden Campaign. Letter requests that the PC might consider the appointment, by CPRE Leicestershire, of a Parish Litter Warden. – Noted and considered.

The clerk was asked to place a short article in the October Issue of Houghton News in order to create public awareness of this situation vacant. Further details upon application to the clerk.

6. E-mail and attachment, 09/08/10, from LRALC Re: Local Referendums to Veto Excessive Council Tax Increases. Deadline for comments to LRALC was 24th August. - Noted.

7. E-mail and flyer attachment, 13/08/10, from NALC in reference to the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) announcement of their plans for the Community Right to Build on 23rd July as part of the Coalition Government's Big Society plans. - Noted.
8. St. Catharine's Church, application for PC grant 2011/12 towards restoration of a significant historic building. - Noted.
9. HFA application for PC annual grant 2011/12 and PC grant 2011/12 to Park Life. - Noted.
10. HFA, Park Life and Houghton Field Sports & Social Club audited accounts 2009/10. - Noted.
11. New Guidance on Assessing Land for Designation as an AONB or National Park - PC comments invited. Received 25/08/10. Deadline for comments 8th October 2010. - Noted. *Copy of "New Guidance on Assessing Land for Designation as an AONB or National Park" is to be circulated, for Councillors' information, in this month's black bag.*

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Accounts presented for payment:

Houghton Field Association, PC Grant 2009/10 to HFA	£ 2,300.00
Clement Keys, external audit fee	£ 158.63
S. Clark, bus shelter cleaning (5 x £6.50)	£ 32.50
Post Office Ltd., postage stamps	£ 10.20
LRALC, Councillor training fee	£ 15.00
E. A. Sleath, Councillor travel expenses. Claim form submitted	£ 9.60

- ***It was RESOLVED that all accounts presented for payment 01/09/10 be paid in full.***

7. HOUGHTON ON THE HILL PC STANDING ORDERS

Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sleath reported that the Standing Orders Working Party had not yet been able to meet. Therefore, Working Party recommendations for full Council consideration will be presented at a future PC Meeting.

The Chairman temporarily adjourned the meeting to allow Mrs. Francesca Wall-Bray, Houghton Tree Warden, to give a verbal report on the progress of the Tree Maintenance Programme and the Village Tree Planting Scheme.

Having thanked Mrs. Wall-Bray for her report, the Chairman re-opened the formal PC Meeting.

8. TREE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

Council was not presented with any new issues for consideration.

9. VILLAGE SEATS MAINTENANCE

Council considered four estimates received for the re-staining of 9 village seats:

HDC Quick Response Team	£414.32 plus VAT @ 17.5%	£ 486.83
RGM	£135.00 plus VAT @ 17.5%	£ 158.63
J.B. Garden Services	£275.00 no VAT	£ 275.00
Charles Harrison Services	£288.00 no VAT	£ 288.00

- ***It was RESOLVED that the estimate of £158.63, submitted by RGM be approved as best value for the re-staining of the 9 Houghton village seats.***

10. RCC VILLAGE/COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2010

Council approved the nomination of Vice Chairman Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sharman and Mrs. Francesca Wall-Bray, Houghton Tree Warden, as Houghton village representatives to attend the RCC Achievement Awards 2010 Prize Presentations to be held in the Old Grammar School, School Road, Kibworth, on Thursday 23rd September, 6.30pm.

11. HOUGHTON ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

At requested by Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sleath, Council agreed to the relevant modification and updating of the PC website "Services" page.

12. HOUGHTON ON THE HILL PARISH PLAN

Council agreed to support the application of parishioner Emma Scase to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding to continue research started on Houghton village history, to gather and document available information into an accessible record for future reference.

13. CONFIRMATION OF REMEMBRANCE DAY SUNDAY PROCEDURE

Cllr. Mr. Peter Duke offered to co-ordinate Remembrance Day Sunday events and was duly appointed Cllr. Co-ordinator of Remembrance Day Sunday events.

The clerk was asked to order the Royal British Legion Wreath and to book the Village Hall for Remembrance Day Sunday, 14/11/10.

Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sleath agreed to be responsible for the purchase of Remembrance Day flowers and the subsequent placement of these flowers on the War Memorial in time for 11:00am, 11/11/10.

Council agreed that Councillors available on the 11/11/10 would attend the village event and that Chairman Cllr. Mr. Mort Stevenson would deliver the usual Remembrance Day eulogy.

- ***It was RESOLVED that a maximum of £25.00 expenditure on Remembrance Day Sunday flowers be approved and be coded to S.137.***
- ***It was RESOLVED that total expenditure incurred for Remembrance Day Sunday, estimated at £60.00, be coded to S.137.***

14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The clerk reported:

1. Planning Application/s PERMITTED:

1. Planning Application 10/00549/LBC

Proposal: Erection of a conservatory to the rear

Location: The Cottage, 50, Main Street, Houghton on the Hill, Leics. LE7 9GD

Planning Application 10/00549/LBC permitted 8th July 2010

2. Planning Application 10/00868/NMA

Proposal: Non-material amendment to alter size of chimney (09/01482/FUL)

Location: 3, Forsells End, Houghton on the Hill, Leics. LE7 9HQ

Planning Application 10/00868/NMA permitted 21st July 2010

3. Planning Application 10/00820/TCA

Proposal: Felling of tree

Location: 22, Main Street, Houghton on the Hill, Leics. LE7 9GD

Planning Application 10/00820/TCA permitted 26th July 2010

2. Planning Application WITHDRAWN:

1. Planning Application 10/00831/FUL

Proposal: Erection of a detached garage

Location: 77, Uppingham Road, Houghton on the Hill, Leics. LE7 9HL

Planning Application 10/00831/FUL withdrawn by applicant

2. Planning Application 10/00894/FUL

Proposal: Installation of first floor window to side elevation

Location: 22, Main Street, Houghton on the Hill, Leics. LE7 9GD

Planning Application 10/00894/FUL withdrawn by applicant

3. Planning Application/s REFUSED:

1. Planning Application 10/00672/FUL

Proposal: Erection of one and a half storey front extension and first floor rear extension
(revised scheme of 09/002283/FUL)

Location: 25, Uppingham Road, Houghton on the Hill, Leics. LE7 9HJ

Planning Application 10/00672/FUL refused 14th July 2010

Appendix 1

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL 01/09/10

Houghton on the Hill Village Directory July 2010

The distribution of the Village Directories has been successfully completed

LCC Highways issues

1. The second damaged section of metal railing in front of Houghton Primary School has been replaced by LCC Highways.

2. Maintenance of the LCC verge adjacent to 14, Scotland Lane.

LCC Highways has again assured the Parish Council that the unacceptably overgrown verge will be strimmed. LCC Highways may agree to remove the bramble roots. Following this remedial work, LCC Highways will again consider if the re-seeding of the verge is necessary.

Seven Locks Housing issues

1. The Parish Council has received written confirmation from Seven Locks Housing that the maintenance of the grass verge at the top end of the Seven Locks Housing rented garages off Weir Lane is the responsibility of Seven Locks Housing. Remedial action by Seven Locks Housing has been confirmed and is awaited.

2. The Parish Council has received written confirmation from Seven Locks Housing that a replacement metal post to support the security light at the access to the Seven Locks Housing garages behind Field Close has been ordered. The PC is waiting to be notified of the exact date of the replacement.

Village War Memorial

Weather permitting; Harborough Stone Ltd. has scheduled the cleaning of Houghton on the Hill War Memorial for Wednesday 8th September. The works will be carried out over two days.

Mr. John Sharpe, LCC Principal Historic Buildings Officer, has been invited to inspect on site work in progress on either or both of these days.