

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 TUESDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2006
AT 8:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

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 6th SEPTEMBER 2006

The Minutes of the Meeting of the 4th October were confirmed, and signed.

4. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM CLLR Mr M. STEVENSON ON
PROGRESS ON MINOR ITEMS ALREADY DISCUSSED

The Chairman read out a short report detailing the progress of minor matters for the benefit of the Council. The report was for information only. There was some short discussion on each topic with minor clarification of some points. (See Appendix 1)

5. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CLLR. MR S. BLACKWELL ON
PROGRESS ON THE TREE-PLANTING SCHEME AND TO DECIDE
ON A COST AND INITIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE AGREED
POSITIONS OF TREES.

Before the report was received, the meeting was closed so that the Tree Warden of the Parish could apprise the Council of the latest information concerning discussions with Harborough tree department. The information given to the Council in this session was deemed to be of significant value and the Chairman thanked her for her valuable contribution.

The meeting reopened and Cllr Mr S. Blackwell gave his report, which with the additional information from the tree warden was seen as a very valuable and significant piece of work. Following some discussions the following resolutions was made:

- It was **RESOLVED** that the plan be adopted in principle
Expenditure made under authorisation of Highways Act 1980, s.116 –provision of trees and verges.

- It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr S. Blackwell should set up a working party involving all those with an interest to manage the implementation of the tree-planting plan.

- It was **RESOLVED** that the plan should be funded this financial year to a maximum sum of £3,250 – as per approved Parish Budget.

Expenditure made under authorisation of Highways Act 1980, s.116 –provision of trees and verges.

- It was **RESOLVED** that the maintenance plan for the current village trees and removal of dead trees be undertaken as quickly as possible.

Expenditure made under authorisation of Highways Act 1980, s.116 –provision of trees and verges.

- It was **RESOLVED** that provision be made for the replacement of any removed dead trees in accordance with expert advice.

Expenditure made under authorisation of Highways Act 1980, s.116 –provision of trees and verges.

- It was **RESOLVED** that the Elizabeth jubilee tree on St Catharine’s Green be left as it is to see how it survives until the spring.

Expenditure made under authorisation of Highways Act 1980, s.116 –provision of trees and verges.

6. TO RECEIVE A PROGRESS REPORT FROM CLLR NUNAN ON THE SITUATION OF THE ALLOTMENT FENCE AND TO AGREE THE FENCING OPTION, COST, AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

From the register of interests, it was noted that Cllr Mrs A. Sleath and Cllr. Mr S. Blackwell had previously declared interests in the subject of the allotments. Consequently, they took no part in the following discussions and vote.

The quotations from three fencing companies was discussed and following some discussion:

- It was **RESOLVED** that option number 3 from the quote by Bowden Fencing Ltd (quote reference D40 HOTH A) should be accepted.

Expenditure made under authorisation of Highways Act 1980, s.116 –provision of trees and verges.

Discussion took place on the expenditure for a sign to be placed at the allotments. After some discussion, it was decided that further discussion on this item should be postponed until the fence is in place.

The reporting of a continued nuisance by a Houghton resident in fly-tipping at the allotment and stealing of allotment produce has generated had no response from the police. It was decided that the Clerk should write to the new Inspector of Local Policing to see if anything can be done in respect of this continued irritant.

The lack of response by neighbouring Councils to help Houghton support its allotment gardens when their residents use the facility has lead to the proposal that non-parish users of the allotment gardens should pay double for their plots. After some discussion

- It was **RESOLVED** that all non-Houghton parish residents be asked to pay double the rent per plot from 1st April 2007.

Cllr Mrs S. Nunan, being the Garden Club representative was asked to transmit this decision to the Garden Club and ask the officers there to implement this resolution for next year and let the Parish Council know the financial consequences.

6. VERBAL REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- School Governors – nothing to report
- Village Charities - nothing to report
- Village Hall - nothing to report.
- LRAPLC - nothing to report
- Field Association – nothing to report
- Billesdon Community Forum – nothing to report

There being no further business to transact the meeting was closed at 21:10 pm.

SIGNED.....

CHAIRMAN

DATE.....

Appendix 1

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Allotments

There has been some activity with the allotments and I will not steal the thunder of Cllr Nunan and her report but would like to add that a fly-tipper has been caught and the police informed. The incident number is 312.17.10.06 and I look forward to hearing from Councillors what progress if any has been made.

Other aspects of the allotment include changes to rents, the state of the hedge/fence and boundaries and the responsibility of fencing further along and into Smart's yard.

A47

We have heard from Leicestershire County Council that we are to have two Vehicle Activated Signs on the A47. The details and locations of these are in the Black Bag. Mr & Mrs Capper have received a response from the Prime Minister concerning lorry speed and road safety. This will be included into the letter to be sent to Simon.

Planning

There have been two planning applications this month. The first is to the removal of trees and perhaps the tree warden would like to comment on the application. The second concerns an extension in Ingarsby Lane and a site visit would be useful for this application.

Police

We have heard that Insp. Norman has retired and the new Commander of the Local Policing Unit is Inspector Siobhan Barber. Perhaps an invitation for her to come and meet the Parish Council would be appropriate?

Charity Commission

We have now received a letter from the Charity Commission saying that they are now going to discuss with the trustees the concerns that the Parish Council has raised. They have taken pains to point out that any Councillor involved with the Field Association is in danger of being in a position of a conflict of interest and suggest that due consideration is given to their position in respect of that and a declaration of interest may be appropriate. They are asked to be careful in respect of their duties.

Bus stop meeting

The Clerk has received this month a copy of some minutes purporting to be from the meeting between the Parish Council and the Highways authority at their site meeting. It would seem to be a document written to send to Simon on their position rather than a record of the discussion. It is included in the Black bag.

Black Bag

A few Councillors are complaining that they are not seeing the Black Bag – and I am one of them. The Clerk is now including in the bag some important and relevant documents that need to be seen by all of the councillors. It is given out at the parish Council meeting and then effectively disappears. The importance of the documents included in it is such that it needs to be seen by all – no exceptions. Please pass it on in good time.