

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HOUGHTON-ON-THE-HILL PARISH COUNCIL,
HELD IN THE METHODIST CHURCH SCHOOLROOM,
MAIN STREET, HOUGHTON-ON-THE-HILL,
WEDNESDAY 2nd JUNE 2010, AT 8:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Cllr. Mr. Mort Stevenson (Chairman)
Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sharman (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. Mrs. Eileen Bent
Cllr. Mr. Peter Duke
Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sleath
Cllr. Mrs. Susan Swann
Ms. A. M. Davies (Clerk)

Guest Speaker, Mrs. Wendy Martin, Chairman Harborough District Community Safety Partnership.

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies from Cllr. Mr. William Scott had been received and accepted

2. GUEST SPEAKER, MRS. WENDY MARTIN, CHAIRMAN HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. Wendy Martin, Chairman Harborough District Community Safety Partnership, and then temporarily adjourned the meeting.

Mrs. Wendy Martin addressed all present on the work of the Community Safety Partnership, especially the joint action group. The Community Safety Partnership consists of the Police, the Police Authority, the Fire and Rescue Service, the Probation Service and Harborough District Council. Community Safety Partnerships, often known as CDRPs (Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships), have been in existence for several years. The philosophy behind them is that by working together, rather than separately, they can tackle low levels of crime and enhance the quality of life in the area.

Having given her address, Mrs. Wendy Martin answered questions put by members of the public and the Council.

Having thanked Mrs. Wendy Martin for her attendance and informative address, the Chairman reopened the formal PC Meeting.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THE 5th MAY 2010

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of the 5th May 2010 were confirmed and signed.

5. 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 02/06/10).

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Accounts presented for payment:

E. A. Sleath, Councillor travel expenses. Claim form submitted £ 9.60

- ***It was RESOLVED that accounts presented for payment 02/06/10 be paid in full.***

2. Revision of Budget 2010/11

All Councillors had been circulated with a copy of the Spreadsheet, "Budget 2010/11, Revised Budget and Forecast to 31st March 2011", presented by the Clerk/RFO. A copy of the spreadsheet had been included in the meeting pack for this PC Meeting.

- ***It was RESOLVED that the revised Houghton on the Hill Parish Council Budget 2010/11, presented 02/06/2010 by the Clerk/RFO, be approved.***

7. CORRESPONDENCE

1. E-mail, 14/05/10, from Steve McCue, Park Life Committee, offering Monday 14th June 2010 as a possible additional alternative date for the informal meeting of some Councillors with members of the Park Life Committee. Venue, Houghton Field Pavilion at 8:00pm - Noted and considered. Of three dates originally proposed by Park Life, the PC had opted for and confirmed Monday 7th June, but it transpired that this date clashes with the next Quarterly HFA Meeting at which the attendance of two of the relevant Park Life Committee members is also expected. Consequently, Park Life has offered an additional alternative date for the informal meeting with the PC.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the playground project in more detail, including funding and sustainability.

Council agreed that the newly proposed date, Monday 14th June, is mutually convenient. Council agreed that as many Councillors as available, but fewer than full Council, will attend the informal meeting, 14/06/10, with Park Life Committee members.

No decisions will be made at this informal meeting, attending Councillors will report back to full Council. Any decision issues will be presented for the consideration of full Council at a subsequent PC Meeting.

2. E-mail, 18/05/10, from Peter Hosking, Environmental Works Team Manager LCC Highways, giving detailed explanation of the 3 strands of the County Council's energy saving scheme for lighting. See Appendix 1, "Chairman's Report to the Parish Council 02/06/10". - Noted and considered.

Council considered it unnecessary to request the implementation of this initiative within the village as a priority.

Since the eventual implementation of this initiative is inevitable, Council agreed to await receipt of a detailed proposal from LCC within the next three years, in the hope that, with LCC/PC consultation, the eventual implementation of the scheme will be as appropriate as possible for Houghton village.

3. LRALC May 2010 Newsletter. - Noted.

4. Letter, received 25/05/10, from Lee Quincey, Team Manager Southern Team, Transport Schemes Development. Reply to PC letter sent 07/03/10. - Noted.

5. Information e-mail, as requested by the PC, from Allan Smart, Assistant Community Speed Watch Coordinator for Leicestershire, giving cost of Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs and attachment "Draft Memorandum of Understanding". - Noted.

6. Decision Notice: Referral for Investigation re: Alleged breach of the Code of Conduct, received 22/05/10, from Harborough District Assessment Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee. - Noted.

The Assessment Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee has received a complaint concerning the alleged conduct of a Parish Councillor and gives notification that the allegation will be referred to the Monitoring Officer for investigation. In accordance with legislative procedure, this decision notice, including a summary of the allegation and identification of potential breach of the Code of Conduct, was sent to the person or persons making the allegation, the member against whom the allegation was made and the clerk to the Parish Council.

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 agreed that the two remaining, Council approved, Volunteer Tree Planting/Maintenance Team working days are to be carried forward.

Council was not presented with any new issues for consideration or decision.

9. RCC VILLAGE/COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2010

Vice Chairman Mrs. Ann Sharman reported that RCC has announced a significant increase in entries for this year's RCC Achievements Awards competition for villages. A total of 28 villages are competing in the 2010 event, precisely twice the number of last year's entries. The Competitions Committee would like to thank all those who have entered and wish them every success in the judging to be held in the second half of June 2010.

The judging panel will visit Houghton on the Hill on Monday 21 June 2010 at 11.45am and look forward to meeting PC representatives in the Village Hall on that date.

A display of photographs and other supporting competition entry evidence will be on show in Houghton Village Hall.

As many Parish Councillors as available and Mrs. Francesca Wall-Bray, Houghton Tree Warden, will greet the judging panel and look forward to accompanying visiting judges on a Houghton village walk, during which any questions will be very welcome and gladly answered.

Members of the original "RCC Village Achievement Awards 2010 Working Party" agreed to liaise on the preparation of display material and all other necessary arrangements for 21/06/10.

Council agreed that the Village Hall is to be hired for an appropriate length of time on 21/06/10.

10. HOUGHTON ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sleath reported the receipt of an e-mail report from Tim Heeley, Website Content Coordinator Leicestershire Parishes, giving a statistical summary of the progress of Leicestershire parish websites and significant addition to Leicestershire parish websites technical support during this coming year. Over the period of one year the PC website has received a total of 9,000 page view visits and, since the beginning of this year, 500 unique visits, i.e. approximately 100 unique visits per month.

Council agreed to consider the posting of information related to Harborough District Community Safety Partnership on the PC website.

Upon receipt of any request from Harborough District Community Safety Partnership to post specific HDCSP information on the PC website, the Council will consider the details of the specific information received and decide whether it is to be approved for posting on the PC website.

11. WAR MEMORIAL MAINTENANCE

Vice Chairman Mrs. Ann Sharman reported that John Sharpe, LCC Principal Historic Buildings Officer, has given written confirmation that a grant of 50%, £543.00, towards the cost of the cleaning of the War Memorial will be donated to the PC upon LCC receipt of proof of PC payment to Harborough Stone and LCC satisfaction with the completed work. This offer expires 31/10/10. John Sharpe welcomes the opportunity to inspect work in progress and would like to be notified when work commences on the site.

Harborough Stone has been contracted to undertake the cleaning of the War Memorial and has notified the PC that the work will be carried out in September 2010.

John Sharpe is pleased that, if it is found to be necessary after completion of cleaning, the PC will consider additional work to redefine the War Memorial inscriptions.

John Sharpe has also given written indication that, dependant on the availability of future funding, additional funding support from the LCC War Memorial Project may be available in the event that the redefinition of the memorial's inscriptions is considered to be necessary.

The public has a right to make representations, ask questions or give evidence related to planning applications, environmental issues and controversial local issues at any meeting of the Council (and any of its Sub-Committees) where any of these matters are included on the agenda for the particular meeting.

Ms. A. M. Davies, Clerk/RFO, is the owner occupier of 23, Uppingham Road.

Prior to Council consideration of Planning Application 09/00283/FUL, for 25, Uppingham Road, Ms. A. M. Davies confirmed that she has no wish, as a member of the public, to make any verbal comment on the building proposals of Planning Application 10/00672/FUL.

2. 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

Date received by PC: 29/05/2010

End of Consultation: 19/06/2010

Having considered the plans, the Council instructed the Clerk to inform HDC Development Control Team of Council's reasons for strong objection to Planning Application 10/00672/FUL.

The Chairman temporarily adjourned the meeting to allow Mrs. Francesca Wall-Bray, Houghton Tree Warden, to comment on Planning Application 10/00687/TCA.

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

3. Planning Application 10/00687/TCA

Applicant: Seven Locks Housing

Proposal: Works to and felling of trees

Location: Sheltered Accommodation, St Catharine's Terrace, Houghton on the Hill, Leics.

Date received by PC: Not yet received by PC but downloaded from HDC Planning website.

Date of End of Consultation: 22/06/2010

Having considered the plans, the Council instructed the clerk to inform HDC Development Control Team that the Council wishes to receive more information on Tree No. 626 (Common cherry, *Prunus avium*) and Tree/s G1 (Ash, *Fraxinus excelsior*). The planning application indicates that ownership of Tree/s G1 is still to be confirmed. Council requested the receipt of plans on which Tree/s G1 are clearly identified by their reference number and to be kept informed on progress made regarding ownership and subsequent proposed tree work to be undertaken by the established owners. Council also requested that, upon the completion of an unrestricted assessment of Tree No. 626, the Council be informed of proposed tree work to be undertaken. Council continues to be opposed to any unnecessary felling of trees.

16. VERBAL REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES IN RESPECT OF:

- **School Governors**
- **Village Charities**
- **Village Hall**

Cllr. Mrs. Susan Swann confirmed her acceptance of appointment as PC Representative 2010/11 to the Village Hall, and gave a detailed verbal report on the Village Hall Committee Meeting 20/05/10. The next Village Hall Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 25th August 2010.

- **Gardeners' Club**

Vice Chairman Cllr. Mrs Ann Sharman reported that the next HGC Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 22nd June at 7:30pm in the Black Horse.

- **LRALC**

Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sleath gave a verbal report on the Leicestershire County Council/Local Councils Conference 11/05/10.

- **Field Association**

In the absence of Cllr. Mr. William Scott, the clerk reported that the next Quarterly HFA Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, 7th June at 7:30pm in Houghton Pavilion.

- **Rural East “Have Your Say”**

Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sleath gave a verbal report on the Rural East workshop 26/04/10.

The next Rural East “Have Your Say” Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 30th June 2010 - Billesdon, Coplow Centre at 7:00pm.

- **HDC Planning**

- **CASCET**

Cllr. Mrs. Eileen Bent gave an extensive verbal report on the CASCET AGM, 19/05/10.

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 7th July 2010, at 8:00pm in the Methodist Church Schoolroom.

There being no further business to transact the meeting was closed at 9:20 pm.

SIGNED.....

CHAIRMAN

DATE.....

Appendix 1

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL 02/06/10

Reduction in Leicestershire Street Lighting.

At the request of the Parish Council, Peter Hosking, Environmental Works Team Manager LCC Highways, has advised the PC as follows:

The County Council's energy saving scheme for lighting is a project that contains 3 strands:

1. Switching off Lighting
2. Dimming of Lighting
3. Part-night Lighting

More detailed explanation of the 3 strands is as follows:

1. Switch off Lighting - this is being targeted at lighting that is essentially outside built up areas. Several sites were identified by a desktop study. These sites were then risk assessed by site visits by engineers and, in consultation with all the Emergency Services and the LCC accident unit, detailed schemes were developed to switch off lighting. The lighting columns will remain in-situ for 3 years following the switch off. Following reassessment, they will be removed from site if the lighting is no longer required. Lighting on the A47 is subject to this initiative and the detailed plans can be viewed on the County Council website. Approx 1500 lights across the County will be affected.

2. Dimming of Lighting - this is being targeted at the high wattage lamps that are still required to be kept illuminated. The lights will remain at full power during the evening peak time (and morning in the winter) but will dimmed to a lower output during the evening and through the night. Approx 3000 lights across the County will be affected.

3. Part-night Lighting - this will be introduced into the distributor roads and housing estates and will affect approx 40,000 lights across the County. The lights will be lit from dusk to approximately midnight and then be off until approximately 5.30 am. If it is still dark at 5.30 am they will turn back on until dawn. Each village/town is being risk assessed over the next 4 years. Draft proposals will then be sent to the Emergency Services, LCC accident unit, and the Parish Council for comments. Not all lights will be extinguished at midnight as there is a set of "exception criteria". The consultation period will last 1 month and staff from LCC will attend the Parish Council meeting that falls within the consultation period in order to more fully explain the project and the proposed plan. The consultation is not one concerning whether part night lighting will or will not be introduced. It will be introduced. The consultation will help ensure that the scheme is as appropriate as possible for the town/village.

If Houghton Parish Council would like LCC to implement this initiative as a priority within Houghton then, upon request, LCC will commence the risk assessment in the near future. If a request for prioritisation is not received by LCC, the Parish Council can expect to be contacted with a detailed LCC proposal within the next 3 years.

Council consideration of this information will be under Agenda Item 7. Correspondence

Speed control of vehicles using the Stretton Lane approach to the village & speed control within the village in general.

LCC Highways has completed the re-laying of all white lining throughout the village. The relaying of the white triangles to traffic calming features in Main Street was included in this work, as was the laying of 20mph roundels adjacent to the 20mph signs as you enter Houghton from both Stretton Lane and the A47.

LCC Highways has acknowledged that pedestrian issues in the area of the Garages and Public House adjacent to the A47 are now a priority, and has assured the PC that these issues will be addressed in the near future.

Cleaning of village seats and removal of graffiti from A47 Houghton Village signs

HDC contracted labour force, the Quick Response Team, re-visited the village and has completed the cleaning of the village seats.

Graffiti on the A47 Houghton village signs has been removed.

