

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HOUGHTON-ON-THE-HILL PARISH COUNCIL,
HELD IN THE METHODIST CHURCH SCHOOLROOM,
MAIN STREET, HOUGHTON-ON-THE-HILL,
WEDNESDAY 6th OCTOBER 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. Mr. William Scott
Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sleath
Ms. A. M. Davies (Clerk)

2 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies from 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 1ST SEPTEMBER 2010

The Minutes of the Meeting of the 1st September 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 06/10/10).

5. CORRESPONDENCE

1. LRALC September 2010 Newsletter. - Noted.
2. NALC Legal Briefing 21/09/10 - Future of the Standards Framework for Members of Local Authorities in England. - Noted.
3. Letter from HDC, 01/09/10 - Parish/District Council Planning Liaison. - Noted.
4. Letter from HDC, 09/09/10 - Notification of Consultation, Review of Licensing Policy. - Noted.
5. Letter from HDC - Street Trading in Harborough District Council's Area 20/07/10, invitation to attend a meeting of the Scrutiny Panel for Places being held 07/10/10. - Noted.
6. Letter from HDC, 17/09/10. Re: Harborough District Development Framework - Core Strategy. Noted.
7. E-mail from East Midlands Empowerment Partnership – Free Workshops for Local Councillors. Noted.
8. Houghton Methodist Church, application for PC grant 2011/12 towards maintenance of community room. - Noted.
9. Houghton Village Hall, application for PC annual grant 2011/12. - Noted.
10. Houghton Scout Group, application for PC grant 2011/12. - Noted.
11. RCC Weekly Bulletin 27th September 2010. - Noted.
12. Hard copy of NatWest Bank Statement for Houghton Field 25th Dec 2009 -25th May 2010. Statement provided to the PC by Parklife. Statement shows funds deposited by Parklife into Acc. Houghton Field. – Noted and considered.

Council agreed that consideration of the release of a potential grant to Parklife is still pending Council receipt of documentation confirming that Parklife has opened a bank account which clearly refers to "Parklife" by name.

13. E-mail from LRALC and questionnaire from "Have Your Say" Re: Consultation on the DRAFT third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) Consultation dates 01/10/10 to 26/11/10. Both received yesterday, 05/10/10. . – Noted and considered. A copy of questionnaire is being circulated in this month's black bag, four copies were available at the PC Meeting 06/10/10

Council agreed to include "Consultation on the DRAFT third Local Transport Plan (LTP3)" as an agenda item for the PC Meeting 03/11/10.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Accounts presented for payment:

Harborough Stone Ltd., cleaning & re-pointing of Houghton War Memorial	£ 1,276.05
E. A. Sleath, Councillor travel expenses to LRALC AGM 15/09/10.	*£ 9.60

*Claim form submitted

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

7. RCC VILLAGE/COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2010 - RESULTS

Vice Chairman Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sharman gave a comprehensive report on the RCC Achievement Awards 2010 Prize Presentations held in the Old Grammar School, School Road, Kibworth, on Thursday, 23/09/10. The AGM of the RCC preceded the RCC Achievement Awards 2010 Prize Presentations on the same evening. Vice Chairman Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sharman and Mrs. Francesca Wall-Bray, Houghton Tree Warden, attended the AGM as members of the public and the Achievement Awards Presentation Meeting as Houghton village representatives. Cllrs. Mrs. Eileen Bent and Mr. Peter Duke attended both meetings as members of the public. Therefore all members of the Parish Council RCC Achievement Awards Working Party were present at the RCC Achievement Awards 2010 Prize Presentations.

Houghton on the Hill was declared the overall winner of the "Cleaner and Greener" category and received the gold award for this category. Vice Chairman Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sharman and Mrs. Francesca Wall-Bray, Houghton Tree Warden, as appointed representatives for Houghton village, received a framed certificate declaring and confirming Houghton on the Hill village as gold award and "Cleaner and Greener" category winner of the RCC, Leicestershire and Rutland, Village Achievement Awards 2010 and a winner's cheque for £150.00.

Vice Chairman Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sharman thanked everyone who had contributed to this village achievement and emphasized that, although the Tree Planting and Maintenance Programme together with the restoration of the village pump had been major contributory factors to this splendid result, the involvement of much of the village community and the work of village volunteers had helped Houghton on the Hill to stand out from other competition entries. Vice Chairman Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sharman concluded her report by stating that all members of the Parish Council RCC Achievement Awards Working Party had thoroughly enjoyed working on this project.

The framed certificate and the winner's cheque were formally handed over to the Chairman. The Chairman handed the cheque to the clerk and requested that it be banked. In the absence of Cllr. Mrs. Sue Swann, PC Representative to the Village Hall, the Chairman agreed to ask the Village Hall Committee if the framed certificate might be displayed in the Village Hall.

Council agreed that the Parish Council RCC Achievement Awards Working Party would reconvene to deliberate how the winner's cheque might most appropriately be spent. The Working Party will present their recommendations for the consideration of full Council at the next PC Meeting 03/11/10.

The Chairman warmly congratulated and thanked everyone who had contributed to this major village achievement and added that the achievement was particularly impressive since a total of 31 villages, not only from Leicestershire but also from Rutland, had entered the competition.

8. TREE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

All Cllrs. had received a copy of Mrs. Francesca Wall-Bray's "Houghton Tree Warden Report Sept. 2010". This report had been circulated in the meeting pack for 06/10/10.

Having considered the Tree Warden's report, Council agreed:

1. To pursue replacement trees still awaited as conditions of two planning application permissions.
2. To pursue compensation for hedging whips destroyed as a result of building materials having been inappropriately deposited on the A47 Highways verge adjacent to the back garden of No. 1 Firs Close.
3. That more work is needed on Chapel Close Open Space – work on the bank, the stream, and work to eradicate the devastating encroachment of two notoriously vigorous types of weeds that grow in this area.
4. That pending relevant permissions granted, to apply for available RCC grants related to work needed on Chapel Close Open Space. Deadline for RCC applications is 31st October. This deadline precedes the date of the next PC Meeting 03/11/10. Matthew Bills, HDC Landscape Design Officer, is due to come out on a site visit this week with a view to identifying, agreeing and permitting work needed on Chapel Close Open Space.

The Tree Warden's request, to allocate a portion of the RCC prize towards a couple of new trees, was covered under the previous Agenda Item 7

In the absence of Mrs, Francesca Wall-Bray, Houghton Tree Warden, Cllr. Mrs. Eileen Bent reported that the Tree Warden is organising a village daffodil planting event for 12th – 15th Nov., to coincide with Remembrance Sunday 14th November. Village organisations, including Houghton Primary School, will be planting daffodil bulbs in various village locations.

Council agreed, in principal, to support this event provided that the various village organisations obtain necessary permissions for the planting from land owners and/or the relevant authorities and that the funding of bulbs and planting is carried by the organisations. Funding may be reviewed pending Council deliberation of the spending of the RCC prize at the PC Meeting 03//11/10.

9. HOUGHTON ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Council was not presented with any new issues for consideration.

10. 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. Pending a meeting of the Standing Orders Working Party, recommendations for full Council consideration will be presented at a future PC Meeting.

11. HOUGHTON ON THE HILL PARISH PLAN

Council was not presented with any new issues for consideration.

12. REMEMBRANCE DAY SUNDAY

Cllr. Mr. Peter Duke reported that all aspects of arrangements for Remembrance Day Sunday events are well in hand and nearing successful completion.

The Council is grateful for the contribution of time and effort willingly given by various small groups of parishioner volunteers. This volunteer help is recognised as being indispensable to the success of the event. Councillors attending the Remembrance Day Sunday events will warmly thank these volunteers during the course of the morning of Sunday 14th November.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mr. Peter Duke for overseeing the co-ordination of Remembrance Day Sunday events. Council is confidently looking forward to the success of this traditional event.

13. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The clerk reported:

1. Planning Application/s PERMITTED:

1. Planning Application 10/01063/FUL

Proposal: Erection of replacement conservatory
 Location: 42, Main Street, Houghton on the Hill, Leics. LE7 9GD
 Planning Application 10/01063/FUL permitted 1st October 2010

2. Planning Application TO BE CONSIDERED BY PC:

1. Planning Application 10/01142/LBC

Proposal: Demolition of existing chimney and erection of replacement (false) chimney
 Location: Eaton House, 57 Main Street, Houghton on the Hill, Leics. LE7 9GE
 Date received by PC: 10/09/2010
 Date of End of Consultation: PC had requested and received a date extension to 11/10/2010
 Having considered the plans the Council instructed the clerk to inform HDC Development Control Team that the Council has no comment to make on this application.

2. Planning Application 10/01206/FUL

Proposal: Erection of detached garage (revised scheme of 10/00831/FUL)
 Location: 77, Uppingham Road, Houghton on the Hill, Leics. LE7 9HL
 Date received by PC: 10/09/2010
 End of Consultation: PC had requested and received a date extension to 11/10/2010
 HDC Development Control Team had informed the PC that there are some consistency issues over the submitted plans (i.e. the floor plans and elevations do not tie up) and that HDC is currently awaiting amendments.
 Having considered the plans the Council instructed the clerk to inform HDC Development Control Team of the Council's reasons for objection to this application.

3. Planning Application 10/01249/TCA

Proposal: Work to tree
 Location: 31, Scotland Lane, Houghton on the Hill, Leics. LE7 9GH
 Date received by PC: 16/09/2010
 End of Consultation: PC had requested and received a date extension to 11/10/2010
 Having considered the plans the Council instructed the clerk to inform HDC Development Control Team that the Council has no comment to make on this application.

4. Planning Application 10/01096/FUL

Proposal: Change of use to beauty salon
 Location: 18, Main Street, Houghton on the Hill, Leics. LE7 9GD
 Date received by PC: 05/10/10
 End of Consultation: 20/10/10
 Having considered the plans the Council instructed the clerk to inform HDC Development Control Team of the Council's reasons for strong objection to this application

5. Planning Application 10/01321/TCA

Proposal: Works to trees
 Location: "The Willowsic", 34, Main Street, Houghton on the Hill, Leics. LE7 9GD
 Date received by PC: 05/10/10
 End of Consultation: 20/10/10
 Having considered the plans the Council instructed the clerk to inform HDC Development Control Team that the Council has no comment to make on this application.

14. VERBAL REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES IN RESPECT OF:

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

In the absence of Cllr. Mrs. Sue Swann, the clerk reminded the Council that the next Village Hall Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 17/11/10.

- **Gardeners' Club**
- **LRALC**

Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sleath gave a verbal report on the LRALC AGM 15/09/10. A copy of the minutes of the LRALC AGM 15/09/10 is being circulated in this month's black bag.

- **Field Association**

Cllr. Mr. William Scott gave a verbal report on Houghton Field Association AGM and Quarterly Meetings, both held 13/09/10. A written copy of this verbal report was also distributed to all Councillors and will be filed with Council's records. Council considered issues, requests and questions raised in the report. Council agreed that Cllr. Mr. William Scott would report the outcome of Council's considerations of issues, requests and questions raised, by HFA, that require further input from the HFA Committee at the next Quarterly HFA Meeting in December 2010. One question raised was why there was a PC representative at the HFA Meeting and would the PC clerk have any documentation which might explain this. This was a request merely for information and receipt of this information would not require further input by HFA. Council agreed that HFA be directed to the "Conveyance and Constitution for Houghton Field". This document governs the management of Houghton Field.

A copy of this document can be accessed and downloaded from the HFA's own website at: http://houghtonfield.co.uk/page_1262185271162.html

The clerk was instructed to inform the HFA accordingly.

- **Rural East "Have Your Say"**

Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sleath had been unable to attend the Rural East "Have Your Say" Meeting held on Tuesday, 21st September 2010. However, minutes of the meeting will become available on the Rural East "Have Your Say" website at: <http://www.leicestershireforums.org/rureast/news.html>

- **HDC Planning**

Council agreed to Cllr. Mr. William Scott's request to form an HD Development Framework - Core Strategy Working Party in the event that Council's input is needed when the HD Development Framework - Core Strategy is published 15/10/10, this publication date precedes the date of the next PC Meeting 03/11/10. There will then be a ten week consultation period ending 23/12/10.

- **CASCET**

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 3rd November 2010, at 8:00pm in the Methodist Church Schoolroom.

There being no further business to transact the meeting was closed at 9:15 pm.

SIGNED.....
CHAIRMAN

DATE.....

Appendix 1

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

Village seats maintenance

Unsuitable weather conditions delayed the re-staining of the village seats. RGM, contracted to undertake this work, assured the PC that the work would be carried out as soon as the weather permitted. The seats were re-stained yesterday, 05/10/10.

LCC Highways issues

1. The loose streetlight, near the Village Hall on Main Street, has been stabilised.
2. The LCC verge adjacent to 14, Scotland Lane has been strimmed and tidied by LCC and has been acknowledged as being part of LCC routine grass cutting and maintenance responsibility.

Seven Locks Housing issues

Seven Locks Housing has replaced the unsightly, rusty metal post that supports the security lights at the access to the Seven Locks Housing garages behind Field Close.

The clerk has requested adjustment of the angle of the security light facing Weir Lane. The current angle is causing light pollution to some properties on Weir Lane. Seven Locks Housing has assured the PC that this adjustment will be made.

Village War Memorial

On the 8th and 9th of September, Harborough Stone Ltd. carried out the cleaning and re-pointing of the Houghton on the Hill War Memorial.

Mr. John Sharpe, LCC Principal Historic Buildings Officer, came to inspect on site work in progress and considers that Harborough Stone did a splendid job of work. Mr. John Sharpe is also satisfied with the current, post cleaning condition of the War Memorial inscriptions