

# Houghton on the Hill Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE METHODIST  
CHURCH SCHOOLROOM, MAIN STREET,  
HOUGHTON ON THE HILL, ON THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2014, AT 7.30 PM

## PRESENT:

**Members:** Cllr. Mr. H. Francis (Chairman), Cllr. Mrs. A. Sleath (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Paul Hart, Cllr. Mr. P. Lutman.

**Clerk:** Mr. S. Derry

**Members of the Public:** There were 13 members of the public present at the commencement of the meeting including county/district Councillor Simon Galton.

## ACTION

### 01-12/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Mrs. R. Hamilton and Cllr. Mrs. H. McSweeney.

### 02-12/14 NOTIFICATION OF DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Francis and Sleath declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of agenda items 5a and 5b (Allotments – Uppingham Road) and would therefore ordinarily not vote or participate in discussions on the matters. However, the Councillors had, prior to the Parish Council meeting held on 9 October 2014, each completed a Dispensation Request Form on the grounds that the number of persons prohibited from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business. The Parish Council had consequently **resolved** that a dispensation be allowed for the period from 9 October 2014 to 8 October 2018.

Councillor Sleath, as a member of Houghton Village Hall Committee, declared a disclosable non-pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 6c (release of grant – Houghton Village Hall). Councillor Sleath remained in the meeting as her impartiality obligations or any other obligations set out in the Code of Conduct would not be compromised.

### 03-12/14 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2014

It was **resolved** that the minutes be confirmed. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

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**04-12/14 ALLOTMENTS – UPPINGHAM ROAD (DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL)**  
At its previous meeting on 13 November 2014, the Parish Council had deferred consideration of a request for a meeting from Andrew Granger & Co. – Property Consultants who wanted confirmation that the allotments were in the Parish Council's ownership with a view to exploring whether there might be a way forward in respect of development potential.

Michael Granger – Director and Stephen Mair – Town Planner gave a presentation in which they explained planning policy and relationship to the allotments, valuation and brief explanation behind the method of a residual valuation and methods of disposal available. A map showing a possible alternative allotment site adjacent to and to the west of the existing allotments was also distributed.

It was **resolved** to defer consideration to a future Parish Council meeting pending receipt of more information from Andrew Granger & Co.

Clerk

**05-12/14 INFORMAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**  
Ian Hill – Chairman, Houghton Village Hall, was attempting to resurrect interest in the Neighbourhood Planning process and he reported that some residents had expressed an interest in assisting although more were needed. He expected progress to be made in 2015.

Ian Hill explained that he was in discussion with Harborough District Council concerning ease of access to the Village Hall.

**06-12/14 ALLOTMENTS – UPPINGHAM ROAD (TREE LOPPING)**  
The Chairman of Houghton Gardeners' Club had received a request from an allotment holder to either fell or lop a tree to prevent heavy shade falling on to his plot. The agreement with the Gardeners' Club contained the provision 'The Tenant shall not allow any sub-tenant, without the consent of the Council, to cut or prune any timber or other trees, or take, sell or carry away any mineral, sand or clay'. Consideration of the request had been deferred from the previous meeting on 13 November 2014 pending advice from the Gardeners' Club. The advice had been forthcoming and it was **resolved** to:

- a) Approve the trimming of side branches to a height of 9 feet.
- b) Remind the Gardeners' Club that the Parish Council would not be providing any financial assistance.
- c) Indicate to the Chairman of Houghton Gardeners' Club that the Parish Council was aware that some of the hedgerow between the plot referred to above and the road to Smarts had been removed and that the hedge should be re-established.

Clerk

# Houghton on the Hill Parish Council

07-12/14	<p><b>FINANCIAL MATTERS</b></p> <p><b>a) Invoices received and approval of payment.</b> It was <b>resolved</b> to approve the payments detailed in the Schedule of Payments as circulated by the Clerk with the agenda.</p> <p><b>b) Items to be included in the 2015/16 Precept</b> It was <b>resolved</b> to defer consideration to the Parish Council meeting in January 2015.</p> <p><b>c) Houghton Village Hall Grant</b> It was <b>resolved</b> that £400 of the 2014/15 grant relating to the removal of asbestos be paid.</p> <p><b>d) Houghton Field Association Grant</b> It was <b>resolved</b> that £432 of the 2014/15 grant relating to repairs to the pavilion roof be paid.</p>	Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk
08-12/14	<p><b>PLANNING APPLICATIONS</b></p> <p><b>a) 14/01506/FUL – Change of use from (C3) dwelling to (D1) dental surgery with internal alterations (36 Uppingham Road, Houghton)</b></p> <p><b>Resolved</b> to object for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>i) There was insufficient provision for the parking of vehicles.</b></li><li><b>ii) It would be unsafe for vehicles accessing the A47.</b></li></ul> <p><b>b) 14/01515/FUL – The re-forming of a historic pond with associated landscaping works within the field (Land South Side of School Lane, Houghton)</b></p> <p><b>Resolved</b> to support the application.</p> <p><b>c) 2014/REG3Mi/0248/LCC – Retention of double mobile classroom for a further 5 year period (Block H, UPRN 299) (Houghton on the Hill CoE (controlled) school, Main Street, Houghton)</b></p> <p><b>Resolved</b> to support the application.</p> <p><b>d) 14/01597/FUL - Erection of two storey side and front extensions and single storey front extension; partial demolition of garage (20 Main Street, Houghton)</b></p> <p><b>Resolved</b> to support the application.</p>	Clerk    Clerk    Clerk  Clerk

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09-12/14	<p><b>GRASS CUTTING</b></p> <p>Following the resolution to accept the funding offer from Leicestershire County Council to enter into a consortium arrangement with the neighbouring Parish Councils of Thurnby and Bushby, Stoughton and Scraftoft, the Parish Council had continued to liaise with those Parish Councils to determine practical arrangements. A further meeting had been arranged for 18 December 2014.</p> <p>It was <b>resolved</b> that the Parish Council's representatives should indicate that ten cuts were optimum for the cutting of grass verges.</p>	Clerk, Cllr. AS
10-12/14	<p><b>CLERK'S REPORT</b></p> <p>The Clerk's report was received and accepted. It included reference to progress on reported items following the Councillors' Annual Village Walk on 27 September 2014. It was reported that street light number 19 attached to the wall of Home Farm 51 Main Street had been functioning intermittently and was again not working. It was <b>resolved</b> to report the defect.</p>	Clerk
11-12/14	<p><b>REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON EXTERNAL BODIES</b></p> <p>Councillor Sleath reported on a meeting of Houghton Village Hall which she had attended.</p>	
12-12/14	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>The list of correspondence, as circulated by the Clerk with the agenda, was received and accepted. The following issues for action were considered:</p> <p>a) Sarah Rudkin, Communities and Places Manager, Leicestershire County Council had invited attendance at a Neighbourhood Planning Networking Event at County Hall, Glenfield.</p> <p>It was <b>resolved</b> to book one place for a Councillor and that the Councillor would be reimbursed for travelling.</p> <p>b) Phil Crossland, Director of Environment and Transport, Leicestershire County Council, was inviting completion of the National Highways and Transport Public Representative Survey.</p> <p>It was <b>resolved</b> that Councillor Lutman would complete the survey.</p> <p>c) Jake Atkinson, LRALC, had invited attendance at a free staff pensions briefing.</p> <p>It was <b>resolved</b> that the Clerk would attend and would be reimbursed for travelling.</p>	Clerk  Clerk, Cllr. PL  Clerk

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- d) Verina Wenham, Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, Harborough District Council (HDC), had written to some Councillors on 26 August 2014 to inform them of a complaint that had been received from a local resident concerning the conduct of Councillors at meetings of the Parish Council on 12 September 2013 and 12 June 2014. In compliance with procedures that had been adopted by HDC, the Ethical Governance Committee had met on 24 November 2014 and decided unanimously that there was no evidence before the Committee to support taking any further action and resolved that no action be taken.

It was **resolved** to submit a Freedom of Information request to HDC to ascertain the cost of the work undertaken as a result of the complaint.

Clerk

**13-12/14 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT AGENDA**

The following items were agreed:

- a) **Councillor Vacancy**
- b) **Grass cutting**
- c) **2015/16 precept**
- d) **Houghton Games**

**14-12/14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8 January 2015, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the Methodist Church Schoolroom, Houghton.

Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.29 p.m.

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Chairman

8 January 2015