

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HOUGHTON-ON-THE-HILL PARISH COUNCIL,
HELD IN THE METHODIST CHURCH SCHOOLROOM,
MAIN STREET, HOUGHTON-ON-THE-HILL,
WEDNESDAY 14th JANUARY 2009, AT 8:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Cllr. Mr. M. Stevenson (Chairman)
Cllr. Mrs. A. Sharman (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. Mrs. E. Bent
Cllr. Mr. P. Duke
Cllr. Mr. W. Scott
Cllr. Mrs. A. Sleath
Cllr. Mrs. S. Swann
Ms A. M. Davies (Clerk)

3 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies from District Cllr. Mrs. Amanda Burrell 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 10th DECEMBER 2008

The Minutes of the Meeting of the 10th December 2008 were confirmed and signed.

4. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Accounts to be settled:

Clerk's variable expenses for December	£13.12
Houghton Methodist Church (Grant 2008/09 towards Community Room maintenance)	£300.00

- ***It was RESOLVED that all accounts presented for payment 14/01/09 be paid in full.***

5. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Copy of Pennbury Strategic Assessment Summary Report, December 2008 – noted.
Copy circulated in this month's "black bag".
2. Copy of Communities in Control: Real people, real power, Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity. A consultation – noted.
Copy circulated in this month's "black bag".
3. Local Dialogue Stakeholders Communications – Workshop invitation "Planning the future of Harborough, 04/02/09. Received 12/01/09, replies requested by 15/01/09 – noted
4. Reply from Sue Smith, Chief Executive HDC, in reference to HDC posts at risk – noted.
5. Letter from Mrs. B. Butler, Churchwarden St. Catharine's Church, on behalf of St Catharine's Church Parochial Church Council confirming that the restoration work on the church tower and the church building is an on going project - noted.
6. Letter from Houghton Methodist Church acknowledging receipt, 15/12/08, of a copy of the Parish Council Policy on Grants and subsequent submission, by the Methodist Church, of an application for Council contribution towards the maintenance of the Methodist Church Schoolroom for the financial year 2009/10 - noted.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. Planning Application PERMITTED:

1. Planning Application 08/01396A/FUL

Applicant: Regal Contracts UK Ltd
 Proposal: Change of use of builders yard and woodworking workshops to car and light commercial vehicle repairs and 24hr breakdown/recovery service (retrospective)
 Location: 2, Uppingham Road, Houghton on the Hill, Leics. LE7 9HH
 Date received by PC: 29/11/2008
 Planning Application 08/01396A/FUL permitted, subject to conditions, 17th December 2008

2. Planning Application REFUSED:

1. Planning Application 08/01456/FUL

Applicant: Mr. C. Campbell
 Proposal: Alterations to access gateway (resubmission of 08/01131/FUL)
 Location: 28, Uppingham Road, Houghton on the Hill, Leics. LE7 9HH
 Date received by PC: 13/11/2008
 Planning Application 08/01456/FUL refused 29th December 2008

3. Planning Application TO BE CONSIDERED BY COUNCIL:

1. Planning Application 08/01577/CLU

Applicant: Mr. Tom Moore
 Proposal: Erection of mono-pitch roof to side
 Location: 19, Firs Road, Houghton on the Hill, Leics. LE7 9GU
 Date received by PC: Not yet received by PC, downloaded from HDC Planning Website
 Overall Expiry Date: 03/02/2009

Having considered the plans, the Council instructed the Clerk to inform HDC Development Control Team that the Council has no comment to make on Planning Application 08/01577/CLU

7. TREE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

Mrs. Francesca Wall-Bray, Houghton Tree Warden, had sent apologies for absence at this PC Meeting and had also requested two general tree maintenance days in January 2009. Weather conditions had resulted in the postponement of tree maintenance work originally scheduled for December.

Council agreed to approve two general tree maintenance days in January 2009.

8. HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sleath updated the Council on research on possible PC website uses and reported receipt of an invitation to attend the Leicestershireparishcouncils.org Annual Usergroup event at Beaumanor Hall on Friday 27th February. If available on this date, Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sleath offered to attend this meeting.

- *It was RESOLVED that, in the event that Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sleath is available to attend the Leicestershireparishcouncils.org Annual Usergroup meeting 27/02/09, travel expenses be paid at 40p per mile upon the presentation of an expenses claim form.*

9. VERBAL REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES IN RESPECT OF:

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

Vice Chairman Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sharman reported:

The Houghton Gardeners' Club Committee Meeting 11/12/08 was solely for discussion and decisions on internal financial matters, income and expenditure. The next HGC Committee Meeting is on Thursday 22nd January 2009 - 7:45pm at the Old Black Horse.

A copy of the minutes of Minutes of Houghton Gardeners' Club Committee Meeting 11/12/08 is filed with Council's records.

- **LRALC**

• **Field Association**

Cllr. Mr. William Scott, being in receipt of the draft minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the HFA 08/12/08, was able to give a more detailed verbal report on the meeting. When received by the PC, the confirmed minutes of the HFA Committee Meeting 08/12/08 will be filed with Council’s records.

After lengthy debate and discussion, Council requested that, at the next HFA Quarterly Committee Meeting, Cllr. Mr. William Scott, as PC Representative to HFA, advises HFA of the following:

1. The Parish Council is pleased that the HFA Committee is currently giving serious consideration to expending the annual Parish Council grant on maintenance as per the stipulations of the “Parish Council Policy on Grants”. However, the PC wishes to advise HFA that “cleaning” is not considered to qualify as maintenance since it is neither structural repair to the fabric of the building nor maintenance of the grounds.
2. The Parish Council expressed concern about the state of the footpath across the Field and the state of the car park.
3. The Parish Council welcomes a future “playground presentation” and exchange of opinions and ideas when the HFA has more detailed information to present and after the village has also been made aware of HFA potential plans for this project. Councillors felt strongly that “the mound” should be retained as an integral feature of the playground.

The next Quarterly Meeting of the HFA is on 9th March 2009 - HFA Pavilion, 7:30pm.

- **Rural East “Have Your Say”**
- **CASCET**

Various Eco Town and CASCET press releases and e-mail up-dates, including the minutes of the CASCET Committee Meeting Thursday 11/12/08, had been circulated to all Councillors. A copy of the minutes of the CASCET Committee Meeting Thursday 11/12/08 is filed with Council’s records. When received, a copy of the minutes of the CASCET Committee Meeting Thursday 08/01/09 will also be filed with Council’s records.

Cllr. Mrs. Eileen Bent updated the Council on the two recent CASCET Committee Meetings and gave an extensive verbal report on current CASCET issues, progress, potential legal actions to be undertaken and crucial forthcoming fund raising events.

The Government's eco-town programme is subject to the BARD Judicial Review, which has been listed for hearing on 22nd and 23rd January 2009. In line with commitments which she has made to the claimants and to other interested parties in the case, the Secretary of State has decided to extend the deadline for responses on the draft Planning Policy Statement and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal on Eco-Towns from 19th February 2009 to 6th March 2009; this allows an additional two weeks for responses to the current round of consultation. End of public consultation for Phase 2 is therefore currently 6th of March 2009.

If the BARD Judicial Review succeeds, the whole eco-town process may have to start from scratch. An eco-town update article will be submitted for publication in the February Issue of Houghton News.

The next CASCET Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 5th February 2009 - Great Glen Parish Office, 7.30pm.

There being no further business to transact the meeting was closed at 8:45 pm.

SIGNED.....
CHAIRMAN

DATE.....