

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF HOUGHTON-ON-THE-HILL  
PARISH COUNCIL, HELD IN THE METHODIST CHURCH SCHOOLROOM,  
MAIN STREET, HOUGHTON-ON-THE-HILL,  
WEDNESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JULY 2008, 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. S. Swann  
Ms A. M. Davies (Clerk)

Beat Officer, PC 1309 Paul Faithfull, and four other members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies from Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sleath 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 2<sup>nd</sup> JULY 2008

The Minutes of the Meeting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2008 were confirmed and signed.

The Chairman welcomed Beat Officer, PC Paul Faithfull (Id. No. 1309) and then temporarily adjourned the meeting.

The adjournment was to enable PC Paul Faithfull to inform, update and answer questions put by all present on the recently reported crime of crossbow firing and the dangerous, offensive use of laser beam lights in the St. Catharine's Green area of the village. A crossbow bolt had been fired and embedded in a steel door at 46, St. Catharine's Way. PC Faithfull had also been asked to inform the Council of any incidents of anti-social behaviour reported to the police in connection with the village bench located at the rear of St. Catharine's Green.

The owner occupiers of 46, St. Catharine's Way were unable to attend the meeting but, in their absence, their adult daughter, a local parishioner but not resident at 46, St. Catharine's Way, gave an account of the recently reported crime and also of alleged incidents of anti-social behaviour involving underage drinking, smoking and illegal substance use at the location of the village bench at the rear of St. Catharine's Green.

PC Faithfull informed the Council and the public that there is no indication that the crossbow was fired from St. Catharine's Green. Neither the crossbow related crime nor the dangerous offensive use of laser beam lights is isolated merely to Houghton village. Police investigation is in progress. Council will be kept informed.

PC Faithfull was unable to substantiate that any incident of alleged anti-social behaviour, in connection with the location of the village bench at the rear of St. Catharine's Green, has been reported to the police. At the Council's request, PC Faithfull agreed that a police neighbourhood consultation would be conducted to gather relevant input on the matter from local residents living in the proximity of the bench. Council is to be informed of the findings of this consultation. Having thanked PC Paul Faithfull for his attendance, the Chairman re-opened the formal PC meeting.

4. VILLAGE BENCH SITUATED AT THE BACK OF ST. CATHARINE’S GREEN

This Extraordinary Meeting of the PC had been called by the Chairman primarily for Council deliberation on the current location of the village bench at the rear of St. Catharine’s Green.

Having listened to both Beat Officer PC Paul Faithfull and the public, Council expressed concern for the safety and well being of both local residents and the young people allegedly congregating around the bench in non-daylight hours.

Council agreed that further deliberation and/or decisions on the location of the bench would be put in abeyance pending the findings of the police neighbourhood consultation and a similar survey to be conducted by Houghton Neighbourhood Watch.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. Planning Application CONSIDERED BY COUNCIL:

1. Planning Application 08/00935/REM

Proposal:                   Erection of two storey detached dwelling and detached garage (reserved matters of 07/01050/OUT)

Location:                   8/8A St Catharine’s Way, Houghton on the Hill Leics. LE7 9HE

Date received by PC:       14/07/2008

End of Consultation:       31/07/2008

Having considered the plans the Council instructed the Clerk to inform HDC Development Control Team of Council’s reasons for objection to Planning Application 08/00935/REM.

6. HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE

In the absence of Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sleath, Councillor heading the Parish Council web site working party, Cllr. Mr. William Scott reported that the working party had as yet not met but that such a meeting is scheduled for next week, date to be finalised.

Cllr. Mrs. Sue Swann, with apologies, gave notice that she is no longer able to continue her commitment as a member of the Parish Council web site working party.

- *It was RESOLVED that the monthly informal Houghton PC Meeting Report, based on unconfirmed minutes and written specifically for publication in the Houghton News, be restricted to publication in the Houghton News and not be posted on the Houghton Parish Council web site.*
- *It was RESOLVED that the Houghton Village Directory is not to be posted on the Houghton Parish Council web site.*
- *It was RESOLVED that material is not to be posted on the Houghton Parish Council web site prior to full council approval.*
- *It was RESOLVED that in addition to the web site administrator, Cllr. Mrs. Ann Sleath, the chairman and the clerk also be registered as authorised users of the Houghton Parish Council web site.*

The Chairman concluded the meeting by advising the Council that, although August is usually the Council’s “rest” month, should an August meeting be considered necessary Council will receive the usual timely notification, agenda and date of such a PC Meeting. The agenda and date will also be posted on the three village notice boards, giving the public the required number of days notice of the PC Meeting.

There being no further business to transact the meeting was closed at 9:00 pm.

SIGNED.....

CHAIRMAN

DATE.....