

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of GREAT HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 12 September 2017, in the Village Hall, Great Houghton (Subject to approval at next meeting)

Present: Cllr T Bowler (Chair), Cllr R Shaw, Cllr P Jinks, Cllr G Kilborn

Also present: M Billingham Parish Clerk, NCC Cllr E Bowen, members of public F & R Knowles, D & K Richmond, T & A Barnes, R Jeakings

413/17 Opening procedures:

- a) **Apologies for absence** – were received and approved from Cllr Cansdale (Holiday), Cllr Declerck (child arrangements)
- b) **Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting** –Subject to clarification from the Clerk, the minutes of the ordinary meeting dated 8 August 2017 were approved, as a true record by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.
- c) **Declarations of interests from members** –There were no declarations of interests

414/17 Public Participation Section: Members of the public addressed the council and submitted documents (attached) regarding their serious concerns relating to the proposed relocation of the Bus Stop outside the White Hart in the High Street. The chairman thanked them for attendance and ensured that their concerns would be taken into account when the Council debated the matter later on in the Agenda (418/17 (d))

415/17 Reports

- a) **County Councillor.** Cllr Bowen reported on her recent activities – Finance matters including adult health care seeking appropriate support for dementia care and compiling strategy. – Resolution of the lighting issue in Leys Lane – Had recently met with owner/developer of old School site who was very positive and keen to work with the Council and the community. - Agreed to take up the matter of HGV traffic with appropriate authority on behalf of Parish Council.
- b) **Borough Councillor** The meeting was referred to earlier emails received from Cllr Flavell regarding the cutting of the tree at the Cherry Tree and the NBC position relating to HGV's through the village.
- c) **Police/ Neighbourhood Warden** The meeting was referred to report from Police - 2 burglaries reported in August, the first during the daytime of 02 August in Willow Lane, this has been filed as undetected. The second was during the evening of 09 August, this still has outstanding enquiries that are being progressed. PC Parrott has now left the team, his replacement has been identified and will start on 30 October 2017, PCSO Andy Wood will remain your contact, and he will be supported by PC Parr and PC Lemon for any tasks that require an officer's intervention.
- d) **Great Houghton Playing Fields Association (GHPFA):** The meeting was referred to the minutes of the GHPFA meeting

416/17 Finance & Administration Reports

- a. Members received and **APPROVED** the Receipts and Payments account for the period to the end of August 2017. The Clerk confirmed a balance of £28407.91. Income includes £350 advertising and 40p interest. There were no outstanding cheques from previous month.
- b. Members **AUTHORISED** the following payments:

Parish Clerk	100357	Salary	194.42
Parish Clerk	100358	Expenses	52.08
HMRC	100361	Income Tax	48.80
NCALC	100362	training course	36.00
P Wright	100363	Maintenance	360.00

691.30

417/17 To Receive the Clerks Report: The agreement for the purchase of the BT telephone kiosk (previously circulated) was considered, accepted and signed by the chairman. **ACTION:** views of the community to be sought regarding future use. – Felling of Tree, awaiting further response from Cllr Flavell. – Chain-link fence now repaired. – The meeting was advised that dog fouling signs had disappeared from Pocket Park area! One had been replaced and clerk had been advised by supportive dog owners of unacceptable behaviour of others! **ACTION:** the Neighbourhood Warden to be consulted as to further action to be taken against offenders. The meeting was advised of incident of dog fouling observed recently on Playing Fields. **ACTION:** Clerk to write to individual on this matter.

418/17 To receive the planning report:

A Applications Received

<p>N/2017/0688 (0689) 34 High Street, Gt Houghton Single storey rear extension</p>	<p>Satisfied that the proposal is now far more in proportion to Stone House, issues have been addressed/removed. Subject to meeting conditions of the conservation area and takes into consideration any comments from neighbours, the Council have no objections</p>	
<p>A/2017/0033 Planning Appeal 2 Hill Cottage Demolition conservatory, erection two storey extension</p>	<p>Not able to consider this matter as not received in time to include on Agenda. Matter will be dealt with through the Planning Advisory Group.</p>	

- B The matter of the design Statement to be deferred to next meeting when all councillors present and Nigel Perkins available to attend meeting.
- C The PAG report on above application was received and **APPROVED**. The meeting also **APPROVED** the amendments to the Terms of Reference previously circulated.
- D The meeting considered the plans for the bus stop, taking into account concerns expressed previously by members of the public. It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council was fully supportive of the proposed location of the bus stop by the bench, on the Green, just above the Lime Farm Way turn. The council however concurred with the objections raised by local residents and objected to the proposed relocation the other bus stop in the High Street, by the White Hart car park due to considerable concerns over road safety issues, the loss of limited parking areas, and the added restriction on what is already a difficult junction with Little Lane. The Parish council would therefore seek that the current bus stop remains at its current location. **ACTION:** the Clerk to notify the planning authority of this decision and to seek a further site meeting with the appropriate planning officer to discuss further if necessary.
- E The meeting was referred to the response received regarding noise and dust from the Little Norway development N/2017/1104. It had been confirmed that there was a time restriction of between 7am and 6pm for such work to be carried out. **ACTION:** The clerk to write to planning authority pointing out that work today had continued to 6.20pm. The clerk to be advised of and report all future breaches of time constraints.

419/17 To consider further the NBC Northampton Local Plan It was confirmed that the plans were continuing to be circulated by round-robin to all councillors. That PAG Councillors had now had opportunity to review them. The clerk advised the meeting of proposed consultation meeting relating to sites identified for proposed housing development within the plan on Wednesday 20 September at the Guildhall (1pm to 2pm Clerk's) (4.30pm to 5.30pm Councillors).

420/17 To consider further joint Parish response to the SNC Local Plan (Part2 a) It was confirmed that the plans were continuing to be circulated by round-robin to all councillors. That PAG Councillors had now had opportunity to review them. The meeting was referred to response from SNC to letter from Andrea Leadsom MP (previously circulated) which was extremely critical of NBC who are falling short by a long way in identifying sufficient land bank for housing development.

421/17 To consider and determine recruitment initiative for current Parish Council Vacancy and presentation evening. The Clerk confirmed that so far only 19 people had responded to the invitation! The meeting was advised of the three catering quotations received. It was **RESOLVED** that the quote from Sally O'Dell be accepted. It was confirmed that councillors would obtain gifts for presentation, the cost of which would be met by individual donations from councillors. **ACTION:** Councillors to email clerk with suggestions for presentation displays. **ACTION:** Clerk to send out reminders for confirmation of attendance. Rod Jeakings advised that he wished to be considered for the current councillor vacancy. It was **RESOLVED** that Rod Jeakings is co-opted to fill the current councillor vacancy and he duly signed a declaration of acceptance of office.

422/17 To receive Report on village maintenance matters.

- A The Clerk reported on the work undertaken by the Community Team on clearing the ditches at the playing fields. Unfortunately a complaint had been received from a local resident as his garden had now been exposed due to the cut back of the hedge (the meeting was referred to photographs). **ACTION:** The clerk to write to resident advising that whilst regrettable, the work carried out in managing the playing fields, hedges and ditches, was appropriate. That the council could not be held responsible for ensuring screening which was a matter for each householder to consider installing their own fencing, as other's have already done.
- B The meeting was referred to the councils previous agreement to arrange for the annual cut-back of the pocket park to be undertaken by the Council's contractor and the need for additional equipment (previously circulated) along with the subsequent quote for the council to pay for the coppice to be reduced and trees trimmed (previously circulated). Concerns were raised by a councillor who had been approached by a member of the Pocket Park Group who seemed to be at odds with that being requested? The meeting was however referred to recent email (previously circulated) from Secretary of the GHPP Group confirming the action they wished the Council to undertake. It was **RESOLVED** that the cost of the tree work (£280) and the additional equipment (£38) be accepted.
- C The Clerk advised the meeting of the need to replace or refurbish the three notice boards throughout the village. Some locks were no longer working, back boards had distorted and they now no longer present a very good image for the village or the council. **ACTION:** Clerk to obtain various quotes on replacement or refurbishment for further consideration.
- D The meeting was referred to previous communications relating to the overgrown hedge alongside the old school building which was encroaching onto the footpath thereby creating a risk to pedestrians. NBC Highways had taken some action but the responsibility lies with the property owners. **ACTION:** Clerk to write to owners seeking maintenance of the hedge.

423/17 Renewal of GHPFA Lease and Trust Deed: The meeting was referred to further communications previously circulated from Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) providing further advice on this matter. A draft Trust Deed document had now been ordered which will require a joint meeting with GHPFA representatives to discuss. **ACTION:** Clerk to seek contact with Trustees or to advise ACRE if they can no longer be contacted.

424/17 To consider future development of website and its management. Due to absence of certain councillors, this matter to be deferred to next meeting.

425/17 To consider and determine any further action on traffic management issues: The meeting was referred to recent communications relating to the speed activated awareness camera which is to be moved back to its previous location at the entry to the village near the Leys Lane junction. There was a need however to obtain a replacement padlock and to source bolt cutters for this to be done. **ACTION:** councillor to provide bolt cutters. Clerk to obtain new padlock.

Consideration was given to the problem of parked cars at the ends of the High Street and The Green where white lining had been applied to the path allowing vehicles to be parked half on the path. This however had not been utilised due to the high kerb and blocking access to water meter. It was also considered that current parking created a natural 'pinch-point' that effectively slowed traffic down.

The meeting was referred to the unacceptable response from NBC regarding requirements for introducing HGV vehicles that required 60 movements per day before restrictions could be considered! The meeting was also

advised that all villages along the main Bedford Road artery into Northampton had 7.5 t limits preventing HGV from turning off (Billing, Brafield, Little Houghton) the Great Houghton turn was the first permitted way for lorries seeking to gain access to Newport Pagnell Road and the Motorway! The concern is not the number of HGV's but the fact that the road is simply not suitable for any HGV vehicles. The current small temporary signs recently placed on a post each end of the through road were simply not good enough resulting in regular issues with HGV's causing damage to the road and the roadside, exposing large dangerous potholes, as well as near misses with other road users! The meeting was reminded that NBC Cllr Bowen had agreed to take this matter up with the appropriate officers. **ACTION:** Clerk to write further to NBC Highways regarding unacceptable response and all incidents relating to HGV's to be reported to Cllr Bowen through the Parish Clerk. The meeting further discussed the lack of action relating to the Bedford Road Junction which was considered dangerous and had already resulted in one death of a village! **ACTION:** Clerk to write to Borough and County Councillors further on this matter.

426/17 To consider and determine response to NCALC Emergency Plan: The meeting was referred to communication from NCALC (previously circulated) which required a survey to be completed. **ACTION:** Clerk to complete survey on behalf of Parish Council.

427/17 To consider and determine response to Parishes Against Pollution: The meeting was referred to communication from Milton Parish Council (previously circulated). **ACTION:** Clerk to respond offering support for campaign.

428/17 To consider the monthly messages – Continued dog mess – Ideas for use of BT Kiosk

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00 pm

Signed

Date