

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of GREAT HOUGHTON**

### **Held on Tuesday 14 May 2019, in the Village Hall, Great Houghton**

#### **001/19 Appointment of the Minutes Clerk**

The Parish Clerk, Mr Mike Billingham was appointed as the Minutes Clerk

#### **002/18 Apologies were received from C Carr, R Jeakings**

#### **003/18 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 were approved by the meeting.

#### **004/18 The Parish Council Chairman's report**

. The problems at Northamptonshire County Council have already affected us; firstly, the W8 bus service was withdrawn in July. However, Cogenhoe and Whiston PC took the lead in organising a joint bus service to replace it, for which we are very grateful. The Parish Council elections that were due to be held this year have been cancelled; but they are due to be held in 2020 to tie in with the newly organised Unitary Council. We look forward to more villagers eager to join the Parish Council to ensure our village identity is maintained for the benefit of the community.

We now have a new website, this is much easier to maintain and update, also more consumer friendly.

The phone box has been converted to a Book Swap this being the Parish Councils' way of covering the withdrawal of the mobile library service, many thanks to Katie Browett for her assistance in sourcing the books and to John Marrs for looking after it.

After many years of sterling work as Editor of the Parish News, Roz Bryan retired; Bill Garner has taken on the role, many thanks to you both.

During the year 3 Parish Councillors retired, however we have been fortunate in welcoming Rod Jeakings, Bill Garner and Mike Barham to fill these places, but we still need 2 further people to bring us back up to a full council.

I have to thank Rod Jeakings for taking on the Village Design Statement this is an important document to have registered with the Planning Authority; they have to refer to this on any planning applications. It is important that villagers do respond to the survey, which was sent out in April, every opinion counts.

We called an Extraordinary Meeting in July to discuss the planning application at Hampton Gate for some 520 houses, about 30 out of 650 villagers attended. We still wait for any further action/progress from the developers.

We were advised in April by Northampton Borough Council that the land opposite the Village Hall that runs along Brackmills Wood has been selected as suitable for 840 houses.

I would like to thank the GHPFA for all they have done over this last year in keeping the Hall and grounds in tip top condition and generating a good income, with plans to improve the facilities as well.

Finally, I would like to thank our Parish Councillors and our Parish Clerk in all their untold efforts to maintain the village as we all wish it to be.

Cllr Thomas Bowler

#### **005/18 Reports from village organisations**

##### **GHPFA**

At the first committee meeting held in May 2018, Bill Hart was elected Chairman, Chris Carr, Secretary and Terry Burnham, Treasurer. During the year Paul Jinks stood down from the committee as the Parish Council representative. However, we were delighted to be joined by both Bill Garner and Rod Jeakings as the new Parish Council representatives – indeed it was great to see Rod return to the fold. In addition, Sue Stevens joined the committee as the WI representative. Once again, the committee has worked incredibly hard this year and this has resulted in yet another successful year for the GHPFA.

##### **Playing Field**

Park Landscapes continued to be responsible for the cutting of the field and other associated field maintenance work during 2018. Plans were developed by the committee for the purchase of a gang-mower and to look into the feasibility of the GHPFA taking responsibility for the cutting of the field.

Following the ROSPA Annual report in June 2018 on the Children's Play Area a number of remedial actions were carried out to play equipment in the area. Plans were developed by the committee in 2018 for a partial reconfiguration of the Play Area – to be carried out in 2019, with the support of Great Houghton Parish Council.

The top corner of the playing field was cleared, levelled and seeded during the summer. This work will continue with the intention of creating a picnic/seating area in 2019 and this will include a memorial bench/table for Trevor Clarke.

##### **Village Hall**

Once again almost 500 separate events were held at the hall and field during 2018. New Data Protection rules (GDPR) came into effect in May 2018 and the GHPFA produced its own document on Data Protection Policy and Procedures which is being adhered to.

In May 2018, the main hall was closed for one week to allow for the refurbishment of the hall floor – this involved the cleaning, filling and resealing of the whole floor. At the same time the hall curtains were dry-cleaned and repaired.

In June, the Mikron Outside Theatre Group performed a play on the subject of Suffragettes – it was a great success and they will return in 2019 to perform another play for us.

Once again, the Bonfire Night proved to be very successful with a profit of over £3,000 – by far the largest income generating event held by the GHPFA during the year. Many thanks to all individual clubs and village organisations that come together to make the evening such a success.

The GHPFA organised the Christmas Social Evening which was held on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018 in the hall – many thanks to the Weston Favell Singers, the WI and to Rod for taking on the role of MC. Attendance was excellent but we need to find a way of attracting younger villagers to the event.

#### **GHPFA Development Strategy/Lease**

The Development Strategy for both the Playing Field and the Village Hall continues to be followed where possible, however, any major work to the village hall itself has been put on hold until the new lease has been finalised between the Great Houghton Parish Council and the GHPFA. Work on the new lease has continued throughout 2018 with Chris Carr taking the lead role with our appointed solicitors and the GHPC. The agreement and signing of the new lease are expected very soon.

#### **User Groups**

Most of our major user groups have managed to continue using the facilities during the year; however some of them are struggling to maintain their membership levels. Sadly, the Youth Club is currently not running and the GHPFA Committee believes it has a duty to try and support the user groups in any way we can.

#### **GHPFA Finances**

Our Treasurer, Terry Burnham, will present the 2018 figures to the AGM, once again these will show a healthy surplus for the year and we are extremely fortunate to have Terry looking after our finances. During 2018, the committee looked at introducing card payment facilities and these have now been introduced.

In January 2018 the GHPFA received £384.00 from the Waitrose Community Token Scheme.

The Ton-Up Club was once again a key source of income during 2018.

#### **Management and Operation of the Bar**

We must stress to all villagers and other people hiring our facilities that the Village Hall is licensed premises and we are bound by all relevant licensing legislation. In addition, the GHPFA General Committee and Bar Committee are liable for the proper management and operation of the bar.

Angus Buglass and his superb team behind the bar ensure this happens and this is one of the main reasons why we have been able to post a surplus in 2018. Our thanks go out again to Angus and his team.

#### **Conclusion**

Thanks again to everyone on the GHPFA Committee for all their hard work during the year. But a special vote of thanks must go to Chris Carr who takes on far more duties than should be expected. Indeed, during 2018, in order to reduce some of Chris's workload, the GHPFA tried very hard to recruit someone to take on the various roles of Facilities Assistant/ Caretaker/Handyman – we advertised these positions but unfortunately the response was limited and we were unable to recruit anybody. We will continue to try and find additional (paid) help during 2019 and in the meantime I must thank Chris again for all she does for the GHPFA and for her patience in this matter.

The GHPFA is in very good health, both operationally and financially, however we do need to attract more volunteers (who don't have to join the committee if they don't want to) and hopefully we can attract some of the younger residents of Great Houghton.

Bill Hart

#### **Neighbourhood Warden**

Paul Townsend reported that recent fly tipping incidents have been dealt with; otherwise it had been most quiet in the parish with little anti-social behaviour being reported.

#### **Neighbourhood Watch**

There was no report provided by Neighbourhood Watch

#### **Parish News**

Having taken over from Roz Bryan I have now overseen four publications of the Parish News and am beginning to get an understanding of what is required. I am pleased to report that the number of advertisers has increased along with the number of pages in order to ensure sufficient space for information.

Bill Garner

#### **Great Houghton Pocket Park**

There was no report provided by Pocket Park Committee

#### **Community Police Report**

Thank you for the invitation this evening. A year ago I explained the operational model we were working to, and how our resource had been aligned to meet the demand facing the organisation, that demand is still there and a challenge to manage on a daily basis.

I am pleased that your Neighbourhood team has remained consistent since August last year when Sophie joined the team, she and Andy (PCSO) continue to be as visible and accessible to the community, engaging to understand your priorities and

addressing them or identifying the most appropriate agency. You share them with 5 other parishes; their activity is driven by demand and reacting to recorded crimes.

I am pleased that Great Houghton continues to see extremely low numbers of crimes, the lowest in Northampton and one of the lowest in the county; it continues to be a safe place to live and work.

The next 12 months will see further change to policing in Northamptonshire, Chief Constable Nick Adderley has been in post since August 2018; We have a new strapline, FIGHTING CRIME AND PROTECTING PEOPLE. The policing priorities for the force have been set which are:

Serious and Organised Crime

Rape and Sexual Violence

Residential Burglary

Child Abuse and CSE

Reducing Road Fatalities and Serious Injury

Domestic Abuse.

The PFCC has achieved a raise in the Council Tax precept, recent press releases suggests that Neighbourhood Policing will see a benefit, plus recruitment of 100 police officers across the county.

In line with the priorities, Sophie and Andy visit every victim of burglary, there are plans to conduct some speed monitoring using a mobile speed camera.

Sgt Nick Paul

### **Short Mat Bowls**

Sessions on Monday Evening & Tuesday Morning very well attended

The Club play in numerous Competitions & Friendlies over the Year - Internal & External - & have won a couple of these in the last year!

The Club are very social, & the Annual Dinner at The Royal Oak, Cogenhoe was very successful!

Andy Odell - Secretary for GHSMC

### **W.I.REPORT TO GREAT HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

We have once again had a very happy and successful year as a W.I and members have been willing when asked to help with village events and ever generous in donating cakes for various stalls.

Our speakers for the year have been varied and interesting ranging from the writing of "Blue Murder" a locally based book, the International Leather Museum, Barnwell Manor and a nostalgic evening of music and memories of the 60's.

Our outings included an afternoon tea at Dobbies Garden Centre, a beauty evening at Boots, tasting Belfair Chocolates at Towcester and a Christmas lunch at The Old Cherry Tree.

In June Northamptonshire WI celebrated their centenary by holding a picnic in the grounds of Althorp, a lovely hot afternoon with all the county WI's in attendance and a chance to see around Althorp House.

Also in June we held a Royal Ascot Ladies Day afternoon tea at the village hall, a chance to wear our posh frocks and dust off the fancy hats. Neighbouring WI's were also invited for an enjoyable afternoon.

We continue to hold coffee mornings on the second Friday of the month, also a craft morning on the second and fourth Friday of the month at the hall to share and teach new crafts which have proved successful and good social events. Everyone is welcome.

Our meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month in the Parsons Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. We are always happy to attract new members; they may be assured of a warm welcome.

Elaine Fleckney

### **006/18 Questions from the floor**

GHPFA Chairman enquired about progress on renewal of lease. It was hoped that this would soon be completed with both parties simply waiting for final document to be provided by solicitors.

### **007/18 Chairman's closing remarks**

The Chairman thanked residents for attending

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19.30

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Signed

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Date