

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Great Houghton Parish Council held at 7.30pm on
Tuesday 10 December 2019 in the Village Hall, Leys Lane, Great Houghton**

In Attendance: Cllr Shaw, Cllr Barham, Cllr Williams, Cllr Sampson,

Also in Attendance: M Billingham Parish Clerk, Paul Townsend Neighbourhood Warden, D Avil resident

798/19 Opening procedures <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) To elect Chairperson for meetingb) To receive and approve apologies for absence.c) To approve minutes of previous ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 12 November 2019d) To receive declarations of interest related to the business on the agenda.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) In the absence of both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman Cllr Shaw was ELECTED to chair the meetingb) Apologies were received from Cllr Bowler, Cllr Jeakings, NCC Cllr Bowen, NBC Cllr Flavellc) The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 November 2019 were APPROVED.d) There were No declaration of interests relating to the agenda items																					
<i>Members are reminded that the disclosure of a Disclosable Pecuniary interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business</i>																							
799/19 Public Participation Section		David Avil offered to become a member of the Community Speedwatch Group and expressed his interest in becoming a councillor.																					
<i>Members of the public are invited to address the council. limited to 15 minutes maximum with individual contributions limited to 3 minutes</i>																							
800/19 Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) To receive a report from County Councillor representativeb) To receive a report from Borough Councillor representativec) To receive a report from Police / Neighbourhood Wardend) To receive a report from Great Houghton Playing Fields Association		<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The meeting was referred to the report from NCC Cllr Bowen, previously circulated. (see appendix)b) The meeting was referred to the report from NBC Cllr Flavell previously circulated.c) The meeting was referred to the crime report indicating that there had been 2 non-dwelling burglaries in October but no crimes reported for November. It was confirmed that PC917 Ismail Nawaz had now been appointed for the community. The Warden reported that he had carried out a number of walk-rounds but no problems had been reported.d) There were no representative of GHPC present to provide a report and the meeting was referred to minutes of last GHPFA meeting																					
801/19 To receive and adopt the Finance & Administration Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) To receive and approve the Receipts and Payment Accounts at end of October 2019b) To receive report on payments to be authorisedc) To receive quarterly internal control report		<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The accounts to end November 2019 were APPROVED showing a balance of £27937.99 (£16045.36 + £11954.93 outstanding cheque £62.30)b) The following payments were AUTHORISED.<table><tr><td>Parish Clerk</td><td>100641</td><td>Salary</td><td>314.90</td></tr><tr><td>HMRC</td><td>100642</td><td>PAYE</td><td>71.80</td></tr><tr><td>Rogers Quickprint</td><td>100643</td><td>Parish News</td><td>321.00</td></tr><tr><td>Parish Clerk</td><td>100644</td><td>Expenses</td><td>188.69</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3"></td><td>896.39</td></tr></table>c) The quarterly internal control report was received and ENDORSED		Parish Clerk	100641	Salary	314.90	HMRC	100642	PAYE	71.80	Rogers Quickprint	100643	Parish News	321.00	Parish Clerk	100644	Expenses	188.69				896.39
Parish Clerk	100641	Salary	314.90																				
HMRC	100642	PAYE	71.80																				
Rogers Quickprint	100643	Parish News	321.00																				
Parish Clerk	100644	Expenses	188.69																				
			896.39																				
802/19 To receive the Clerk's report <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) To consider cost proposal for bench in Brackmills Parkb) To consider current vacancy & promotional opportunity Xmas Social		<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The Meeting was advised that NBC Cllr Flavell had kindly agreed to cover the full cost of a bench to be installed in Brackmills Park. Regrettably no response has yet been received from Brackmills Management regarding further funding. ACTION clerk to chase up in New Year and to also write to Chris Barker BID.b) GHPFA had agreed to a display at the Xmas social. The meeting was referred to the display boards now purchased and dressed for event. David Avil confirmed that he was willing to become a councillor and was duly co-opted to fill the current vacancy. ACTION Clerk to notify District Authority and to forward appropriate forms for completion.																					

<p>803/19 To receive and consider the planning report</p> <p>a) To consider the planning report</p> <p>b) PAG report</p> <p>c) To consider Joint Parish Planning Group</p> <p>d) To establish Neighbourhood Plan Group (NPG) and receive update</p>	<p>a) The meeting was referred to the planning report previously circulated including application N/2019/1521 – 10 Willow Crescent. The council had no objections other than seeking that consideration should be given to any near neighbour issues.</p> <p>b) There was no report from the PAG. The meeting was advised that there would be a meeting of the group in the New Year.</p> <p>c) The meeting was referred to communication, previously circulated, from other Parishes seeking that we work together to fight further proposed developments that would have a detrimental impact on local infrastructure. It was RESOLVED to support this proposal. ACTION clerk to respond confirming support and seeking meeting in New Year.</p> <p>d) The meeting was referred to the box of documents containing details and records appertaining to NP and also referred to email from chairman regarding need to determine likely costs in order to ensure sufficient funding included in budget for 2020. ACTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NP Group to be established including, councillor representatives, professional planning services, district planning authorities, local residents, particularly those with planning experience. Clerk to seek initial cost estimates from recommended planning consultants. Every opportunity be taken to promote need for NP and enlist support from residents.
<p><i>Planning report previously circulated and accessible at www.greathoughton.org.uk</i></p>	
<p>804/19 To consider Bus Service Issues</p> <p>a) To consider any further matters relating Village Hopper operation</p> <p>b) To consider further information on real time bus display Bedford Road</p>	<p>a) The meeting was referred to the proposed draft letter to the Village Hopper operator, previously circulated. The council recorded its thanks to the author for its most appropriate wording. The meeting was advised of further expressed concerns being, picking up passengers from their home, amended timetable clashing with the Bedford Bus (41), use of the existing bus shelter at The Cross. ACTION: the draft letter to be amended to include these matters and seeking confirmation of meeting in January to discuss and resolve these issues.</p> <p>b) The meeting was referred to communications received regarding quote for the real time display to be fitted which had not yet been received. ACTION Clerk to chase up for next meeting</p>
<p>805/19 To receive Report on village maintenance matters:</p> <p>a) The Green – consider quotes for Chain-link Fence</p> <p>b) General maintenance issues –Potholes - Pocket Park maintenance</p>	<p>a) The meeting was referred to the many enquires made with local welding companies, previously circulated. Regrettably not one had yet responded. It was suggested that contact be made with the NBC contractor Steve Potter at the Westbridge depot tel. 01604 589464. ACTION Clerk to contact to seek quote for next meeting.</p> <p>b) The clerk referred the meeting to a number of pothole reports that he had made to Street Doctor which have been scheduled for repair. The meeting expressed its condolences to our groundwork contractor who had recently suffered a family bereavement. Accordingly the pocket park maintenance had been delayed although the hedge along the footpath to the field had now been cut-back.</p>
<p>806/19 To consider matters relating to GHPFA</p> <p>a) Renewal of Lease - Update</p>	<p>a) No further update on obtaining a copy of the new lease.</p>
<p>807/19 To receive updated report on traffic management issue</p> <p>a) Community Speed Watch-Volunteers Update</p>	<p>a) The meeting was advised that there were now 12 volunteers for the Community Speedwatch Group which could now be registered with the scheme. ACTION: Clerk to register group on scheme and arrange training.</p>
<p>808/19 To consider the monthly public messages.</p>	<p>Considerate Parking - Protect your property - beware on-line crime Merry Christmas</p>

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Signed.....

Dated.....

Appendix A

Report from NBC Cllr E. Bowen

The Budget Process has started and its one month earlier. It has been an unusual year because this could be the last County Council budget. It is therefore designed to give the unitary councils that would replace it, with the best possible start to be sustainable.

The proposed budget has taken account of demographic demands and demands in services and includes some business opportunities. It covers all of the Council's statutory duties and addresses the ongoing impact of the current year.

Due to the current election, the spending review has not been announced. So therefore some additional capacity has been built in should the spending review not be as has been surmised.

The budget consultation for 2020/2021 is now live also one month earlier than last year and I would like to encourage you all to have your say on the proposals.

The setting of the budget is a very important part of any council's calendar so it's important that you familiarise yourself with the proposals and give feedback where you feel it's needed.

The budget development process has been mindful of growing demand pressures in Adult Services and its closer working with NHS bodies. It recognises the need to bring improvements to Children's Services following feedback from Ofsted and as it transforms into a Children's Trust.

In Autumn 2018 there was a £64.2million deficit with no clear plan for delivery. The Council had therefore created the stabilisation plan and currently we are at £1.7m overspend in 2019. This is a massive improvement in financial controls.

The Council engaged with the Commissioners throughout the process and had input from specialists where required and the Chief Executives of each of the borough and districts.

Work to establish financial reserves is also continuing with the general and earmarked reserves total stand at £40.4million, should this budget be adopted in February. This would comprise of £20million general reserves with the remainder earmarked across services. £100m is what it should be.

The budget proposals include a council tax increase of 3.99%, comprised of a 1.99% rise in the core Council Tax and a 2% social care precept. An extra £30 million from Government has been identified, which is much welcomed.

Additionally, you may have heard that from 1 April next year that we have made provision for a 4% pay award. Staff have not had their salaries increased for several years.

You can take part in the consultation in the following ways:

- Completing the online survey.
- Emailing: consult@northamptonshire.gov.uk

The consultation runs until Tuesday 24 December. As the draft budget proposals are a month early this year, it gives us more time for consultation and scrutiny. The final budget report will be brought back before Cabinet in February prior to final approval at Full Council in the same month.

Specifics

- The budget includes £22million of process improvements.
- The opening base budget is £417.7million and its closing budget would be £447.7 indicating an increase of £30million. This includes inflation of £17.7million.
- The Council has rebalanced the baseline budget so that historic legacies will not be carried into the new unitaries.
- Approximately £30million would be put into the general reserve.
- There is growth in every budget; substantial growth in Children's Services and Adult Social Care.

In Adult Social Care there are plans to re-design the pathways experience and processes to provide an improved customer experience, reduce hospital stays and there would be a continuation of savings from Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts.

- The base budget for Place was £90.2million and it has a closing balance of £92.7million. It includes inflation, income generation and no changes to grants.
- The Corporate Services base budget was £12.7million and its closing balance will be £13.4million. It includes various savings and investment in technology. Public Health would train the customer service centre to deliver more services.
- The LGSS base budget is £14.2million and its closing budget is £13.9million so this has a slight reduction
- The Children's Services base budget is £116.5million and its closing budget would be £126.7million. The increase here does not include funding from the Department for Education (DfE) and other sources that we are looking to obtain.
The CEO feels this is a very safe and prudent budget for Children's Services.

Hope that is of help when you go through the figures.

Best Wishes

Lizzy

Elizabeth Bowen

Deputy Leader NCC