Great Houghton Parish Council

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of Great Houghton Parish Council held on Tuesday 16 July 2024 at the Village Hall, Leys Lane commencing at 7.30pm.**

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| **In Attendance**: Cllr S Williams, Cllr R Shaw, Cllr M Barham, Cllr J Havard, Cllr J Browett, Cllr K Barker | **Also, in Attendance**: M Billingham PC, D Clingo, WNC Cllr Andrew Grant |

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| **388/24. Opening Procedures**1. To receive and approve apologies for absence:
2. To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18 June 2024
3. To receive declaration of interests related to the business on the agenda.
 | 1. Apologies were received from WNC Cllr E Bowen.
2. The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18 June 2024 were **APPROVED.**
3. There were no declaration of interests relating to the agenda item.
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| *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*) |
| **389/24. Public Participation Section**  |  Noone wished to address the meeting |
| *Members of the public are invited to address the council. limited to 15 minutes maximum with individual contributions limited to 3 minutes****)*** |
| **390/24. To receive following Reports**1. To receive report from West Northamptonshire Councillors
2. To receive reports from Police / PLR
3. To receive report from Great Houghton Playing Field Association
4. To receive updated SAS Speed Report
 | 1. WNC Cllr Grant introduced himself to the meeting and Provided a report (see appendix A).

The meeting was referred to the extensive report from WNC Cllr Stephen Clarke previously circulated.1. The meeting was referred to the Police report previously circulated. One Assault without Injury in village, 2 x theft from vending machines the Lakes.
2. The meeting was referred to the minutes from last GHPFA meeting previously circulated.
3. The meeting was referred to the excellent SAS speed report produced by Richard Ahern and previously circulated
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| **391/24. To consider and determine Councillor Vacancies**1. Application for co-option – David Clingo
 | 1. The council unanimously **RESOLVED** to co-opt David Clingo onto the council, thereby filling the vacancy following the resignation of John Russell
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| **392/24. To receive and adopt the Finance Administration Report** 1. To approve the Receipts and Payment Accounts to end of June 2024
2. Payments to be authorised.
3. To receive and note Internal Control Report
 | 1. The accounts to the end of July 2024 were **APPROVED** with a balance of £36,818.23.
2. The following payments were **AUTHORISED**.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Parish Clerk | T00342 | Salary | 318.00 |  |
| HMRC | T00343 | PAYE | 146.40 |  |
| HGM | T00344 | Maintenance (0627) | 300.00 | 50.00 |
| HGM | T00345 | Maintenance (0605) | 300.00 | 50.00 |
| HGM | T00346 | Maintenance (0604) | 300.00 | 50.00 |
| Kirkwells | T00347 | Planning Advice | 684.00 | 114.00 |
| Parish Clerk | T00348 | Expenses | 34.58 |  |
|  |  |  | **2082.98** | **264.00** |
| Card Payments |  |  |  |
| Amazon | T00341 | Subscription  | 8.99 |  |
| **TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR MONTH** | **2091.97** | **264.00** |

1. The matter of the Internal Control Report was deferred to the next council meeting.
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| **393/24 To receive and consider Planning Matters**1. The Annual Planning Report
2. Receive report from PAG.
3. Update on Development at The Green
 | 1. 2024/3403/TCA 36a High Street. Tree Work. The council had no comment to make.
2. Nothing to report from PAG.
3. The meeting was referred to communication previously circulated advising of delay in planned stage 2 engagement.
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| **394/24 To receive the Clerk’s Report**1. Fly-tipping issue Disused Railway
 | 1. The meeting was referred to letter from resident previously circulated regarding fly-tipping issue on disused railway land. Not considered a matter for parish council. Residents can easily report fly-tipping via the WNC website or on its App.
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| **395/24. To receive Report on village maintenance/Highway matters**1. Update on Leys Lane, Disused Railway/Cycleway/Footpath.
2. Update on Pocket Park replacement of bench.
3. Update on grass cutting issues at Bungalows Willow Lane
4. To receive a report relating to change of service – Village Hopper
 | 1. The meeting was advised that the hedge had now been cut back at the junction. The footpath was progressing with the tree issues having been resolved. Still awaiting further news regarding resurfacing. New councillors were advised of policy for GHPC to source resurfacing of lane to car park once WNC had completed resurfacing. **ACTION** Clerk to write further regarding School Hedge and Bedford Road verges.
2. The meeting was referred to communication received from Pocket Park Committee regarding possible assistance to fit benches. Dates to be advised.
3. There had been an issue with the grass not being cut outside bungalows. Clerk had contacted various agencies and now cut.
4. The meeting was advised on the meeting attended by Cllr Barker & Clerk when informed of loss of W8 routs and provision of second minibus for Village Hopper. May result in increased service to village but awaiting final updated timetable.
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| **396/24. To consider environmental & Biodiversity Matters**  | The meeting was reminded of obligations contained in Biodiversity Policy. **RESOLVED** that this be standing agenda item for future meetings. **ACTION** Cllr Clingo to source WNC recommendations for consideration at next meeting |
| **397/24. To consider the monthly public messages** | * Residents to be mindful of need to ensure their hedgerows are cut back and not obstructing footpaths.
* Residents should report fly-tipping issues via the WNC website at: <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cleaner-communities/report-fly-tipping>
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**Meeting closed at 8.45pm**

**Appendix A WNC Cllr Grant Report**

Cllr Andrew Grant Member for Hackleton and Grange Park.

Meeting of Great Houghton Parish Council Tuesday 16 July 2024

Andrew thanked the Parish Council for the warm welcome and gave details of his role as a

West Northants Councillor as Chair of the Children, Education and Housing Overview and

Scrutiny Committee and The Conservative Group Business Manager.

With regards to next year’s elections Gt Houghton would become part of the new ward of

Cogenhoe &amp; The Houghtons. Andrew or his colleague Cllr Stephen Clarke would attend Gt

Houghton Parish Council meetings whilst Cllr Bowen was away.

Andrew talked about the council budget of £383,000,000 coming in £220,000 underspent

despite significant pressures on the Children’s Trust of £17,000,000 overspend

and Adults £8,000,000 overspend.

WNC had agreed to put an additional £10,000,000 into the highway’s maintenance budget

for the financial year 2024/25

Dearngate road which is in a very poor state of repair will only be resurfaced once the fire

damaged building in Bridge street is demolished and Bridge street is reopened to traffic.

WNC has provided £1,100,000 to the Dearngate Theatre to strengthen the roof following the

RAAC concreate issues, this repair will extend the life of the roof by 30 years.

The improvements to the market square in Northampton means the market will reopen on

the 20 th September 2024.

A new spend of £125,000 pounds to replace the outdated computer screens in our 34

Libraries. It is interesting to note 160