

HOUGHTON AND WYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Parish Council Meeting** held on Wednesday 2 March 2022, 7:00pm.

Present: Cllr C Spearing (Chair) Cllr R Baxendale
Cllr D Bonny Cllr P Boothman
Cllr N Elborn Cllr B Gilmour
Cllr R Guinea Cllr D Keane
Cllr A Skinner

Staff present: Lois Dale, Parish Clerk.

There were 2 members of the public present, including D & C Cllr Dew.

<p>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE There were no apologies.</p>
<p>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Cllr Boothman declared an interest in item 8.1 as he is a neighbour of the applicant.</p>
<p>3. PUBLIC COMMENT There was no public comment.</p>
<p>4. MINUTES RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 2 February 2022 be agreed as a correct record. Proposed: Cllr Gilmour; Seconded: Cllr Boothman. For: 8, Abstentions: 1</p>
<p>5. MATTERS ARISING The Action List was reviewed and will be updated. Risk Assessments: A preliminary document has been produced with further actions listed. This will be discussed at a meeting on 16 March. Electric supply to Clock Tower: There are currently no supplier comparisons available. Cemetery Hedge: RESOLVED: Up to £1,000 be allocated for this work. The Clerk will ask Cambridge Tree Services if they can complete this as soon as possible. ACTION: Clerk Proposed: Cllr Gilmour; Seconded: Cllr Baxendale. All in favour. Scout Hut: Cllr Guinea will arrange a meeting with the Scout Hut Committee to discuss various issues. The Committee has confirmed it has to carry out some remedial work on the hut to keep it functional. The Scouts will do some ecology work on the area of land in front of the hut. ACTION: RG</p>
<p>6. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT. Cambs County Council have set their budget with a less than 5% increase to include extra government funding for social care. Underspends from the previous year will be put back into reserves which will be increased. More than £1 million is allocated to Community groups. The County Council Flood Risk Management Plan will go to the Environment Committee for adoption. This will allow local flood groups to apply for grants. Highways have no budget left for work in this area until April. C Cllr Dew promised to look for money from elsewhere to address problems until then. Active Transport is high on the agenda for most authorities. The right scheme needs to be used in the right place or it will not be used. It is likely that the Transport Plan for St Ives will be revisited to include this. Funding is often only available for a limited time so projects need to be ready to go in order to access funds. It is hoped that this can include completing the pedestrian/cycle way along the A1123. It was pointed out that as new roads are built, they should include active transport routes alongside them. This will happen with the work on the A10 and A428.</p>

Huntingdonshire District Council's budget shows an increase of 3.6%. This is based on receiving government funding available for 2022-23 only.

HDC is looking at ways it can help residents with increasing energy bills.

HDC has started an online consultation – the Huntingdonshire Climate conversation, which runs from 25 Feb to 25 March 2022. This can be found at: [Listening to You - Climate Conversation - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/Listening-to-You-Climate-Conversation)

7. CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT

7.1. To authorise payments due

RESOLVED: The payments be approved and paid. This includes up to £2,000 for urgent tree work required before the end of March.

Proposed: Cllr Gilmour, Seconded: Cllr Bonny. All in favour.

The annual budget report to date were noted.

A pay increase of 1.75% for 2021-22 has been agreed for NALC salary scales. This will be applied from March 2022 and will include back-dated pay from April 2021.

The Clerk will ask the Houghton & Wyton Community Fund for a report on its activity since it was set up. **ACTION: Clerk**

8. PLANNING MATTERS

8.1. [Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey garden room extension](#)

Sweet Briar Thicket Road Houghton Huntingdon PE28 2BQ Ref. No: 22/00103/HHFUL

[Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey garden room extension](#)

Sweet Briar Thicket Road Houghton Huntingdon PE28 2BQ Ref. No: 22/00104/LBC

RESOLVED: Houghton & Wyton Parish Council recommend that this application is APPROVED for the following reasons:

There is no visual impact from the road.

The extension has been carefully designed to match the existing building with the use of reclaimed bricks and tiles.

Improvement in building technology and design will allow the new addition to have better temperature regulation and energy efficiency.

The new extension complies with HWNP Policy 17 and the defined character area of Thicket Road.

Proposed: Cllr Gilmour, Seconded: Cllr Bonny. All in favour

8.2. [First floor side extension](#)

Taliesyn Houghton Hill Houghton Huntingdon PE28 2BS Ref. No: 22/00017/HHFUL

RESOLVED: Houghton & Wyton Parish Council recommend that this application is APPROVED for the following reasons:

The extension appears to be of a high-quality design and respects the setting.

The use of materials complementary to existing is acceptable.

The extension will make the building more cohesive than at present.

The new extension complies with HWNP Policy 17.

However, it is noted that there is no Design and Access statement for the application, contrary to as stated in the application form.

There is concern that although the Application states there are no trees within falling distance, it is clear there are several trees in close proximity.

Proposed: Cllr Elborn, Seconded: Cllr Boothman. All in favour

8.3. Houghton Grange phases 1 & 2 – updates

It is not clear if the phase 1 build is on schedule, Morris Homes confirm that planning permission requires the first slab level to be completed by December 2022. It was felt

that Morris Homes should inform residents of progress.

This development should have 39 affordable dwellings; these could be affordable rented, social rented or shared ownership.

Section 73 agreements require that management, maintenance, funding and a 25 year plan for the Green Space be set out. It is noted that many of the paths are planned to be permeable or grassed. The settlement ponds are naturalised, with full planting and ecology plans. It is hoped that this same consideration will be reflected in the phase 2 development.

The \$106 funding of over £47,000 relating to Houghton Grange phase 1 is released before 66% of the market housing is developed. It has been confirmed that the money can be claimed after its nominated project has been completed, which would allow the project to be expedited with the use of a loan or reserves.

Councillors hope to meet with Chris Prime, Partnership Housing Director, Morris Homes soon.

Cllrs Spearing, Baxendale and Boothman will meet with D Cllr Fuller and Neil Sloper soon to discuss HDC environmental policy. It is hoped that some concerns about the HDC handling of green space management on the Houghton Grange sites can be discussed. Homes England/AECOM have made a presentation on phase 2 to Hemingford Abbots Parish Council. During this they stated they intend to submit the application soon, and it is clear there are no changes following their discussions with this Parish Council.

Work with a specialist environmental lawyer to challenge the planning process continues.

There has still been no acknowledgement or response from MP Jonathan Djanogly in relation to being asked to support the Parish Council in forming a CLT.

It was agreed that the Parish Council needs to start organised communication about the Homes England plans to the community. **ACTION: CS, RB & PB**

9. TIMEBANK

Interviews for a replacement Coordinator will be held the following day with appointment as soon as possible.

10. PLAYING FIELD

10.1. Discussion on the future use/management of Playing Field

This is still in progress, with a meeting planned in the near future.

11. QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

11.1. Events planning

Planning is in progress. The Clerk agreed to suggest to the committee that they organise decorations throughout the village and encourage residents to get involved. Updates on the event to be held on 4 June will be publicised.

11.2. Commemorative trees

A meeting is being arranged with HDC to discuss a partnership project to plant trees on Loxley Green.

12. PARISH COUNCIL VISION

Progress will be discussed at a meeting on 16 March. **ACTION: All Cllrs**

13. PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

13.1. A1123 Speed Reduction Local Highway Initiative 2022/23- update

Cllrs Keane and Baxendale attended the LHI meeting with CCC officers and councillors. The precis of the report from SLR was used as a basis for this and was very useful. The outcome is not yet known.

13.2. Mill Street Local Highway Initiative 2021/22

This is still in progress. The delay is caused by staff shortages.

13.3. Pedestrian / Cycle way A1123

Cllrs Guinea and Keane met with a resident who is a keen cyclist to look at the areas where the path is incomplete and potential improvements to the signage along the route. The aim is to produce a scheme that can be ready to go when funding is available from CIL or the Combined Authority. Having a phased approach may help with progress. C Cllr Dew suggested a petition to support the proposal may help; this will be considered. **ACTION: RG & DK**

13.4. Layby on A1123 – parking restrictions

This is still with CCC.

13.5. Cemetery Extension

The conditions for the planning application have been discharged and work can begin. As scheme of work will need to be drawn up and advice and quotes obtained. Grant funding will be investigated. **ACTION: Clerk**

14. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk has looked at changing the gas supplier for the Pavilion; it was agreed this should be put on hold for now.

The St Ives Road Safety Committee invited attendance from the Parish Council at future meetings; there were no volunteers.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- The Parish Council expressed solidarity with the Ukrainian people at this current situation. It was noted that donations can be made to the Red Cross and Disasters Committee.
- Cllr Spearing is attending an online meeting on 8 March with Cambs Police about Huntingdon Community Engagement.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wed 6 April 2022, 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8:53pm

Signed:..... Date: