

HOUGHTON AND WYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Parish Council Meeting** held on Wednesday 6 March 2024, 7:00pm.

Present: Cllr P Boothman - Chair
Cllr Gilmour
Cllr D Keane
Cllr R Southworth
Cllr Baxendale
Cllr R Guinea
Cllr A Skinner

There were two members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Hunter and Rodgers.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED: Following minor amendments the minutes of 7 February 2024 were approved as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr Baxendale; Seconded: Cllr Southworth. All in favour

RESOLVED: The minutes of 19 February 2024 were approved as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr Guinea; Seconded: Cllr Gilmour. All in favour

5. MATTERS ARISING

- MVAS on A1123 – Quotes are awaited for a new solar powered speed sign and options to solar power the existing sign. Data gathered from the signs shows approximately two-thirds of vehicles were recorded as travelling below 40mph; there were higher speeds including one over 70mph. **DK**
- 20mph limit – CCC Highways Have not yet issued a formal consultation on this initiative. It had been hoped to advertise this formally in the Village Magazine, it will be mentioned in the Parish Council article to allow people to respond. **PB**
- An appointment has been made to cover the Timebank role during Rose's maternity leave.
- Fence at car park entrance – this will be progressed **Clerk/Asst Clerk**
- Playing Field hedge – repairs are needed to the hedge along the roadside. Tree Wardens will be asked if they can plant some infill trees here. **Clerk**
- National Trust (NT) Car-park information sign – a design and specification for this is being sought **DK**
The NT will be asked for a further meeting to discuss this and other issues. It was suggested they could operate a booking system for parking.

6. DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS

D Cllr Keane submitted the following report:

Huntingdonshire Band D Council Tax is set to go up by £5 a year to £160.86 from the new financial year starting on 1 April 2024.

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/news/council-budget-202425/>

Information on registering to vote and ID required information

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/elections/register-to-vote/>

Do you have friends or family living abroad who are British citizens? Let them know they can now vote in UK Parliament elections, even if they've lived outside the UK for more than 15 years. <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/who-can-vote/other-registration-options/voting-if-you-live-overseas>

On 31 March 2024, the existing free garden bin service will come to an end and be replaced with a new fortnightly garden waste subscription service.

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste/garden-waste-subscription-service/>

From 1 April 2024 food waste will no longer be accepted as part of the garden waste collections. By law HDC cannot charge for the collection of food waste and now that the garden waste service is moving over to a chargeable service, food waste has to be excluded. Any food waste you have can go in the grey bin or composted at home. <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste/garden-waste-subscription-service/food-waste/>

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC), in collaboration with Wild About Huntingdon, is pleased to invite residents to a Community Planting Day on Friday 15 March from 10.30am at Riverside Park, Huntingdon.

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/news/community-planting-at-huntingdon-riverside-park/>

D Cllr Keane agreed to arrange a meeting with the new Chief Executive of HDC.

7. CLERK & RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT

7.1. To authorise payments due and paid and note financial reports and bank balances

RESOLVED: Payments now due are authorised:

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

The budget report and bank balances were noted.

7.2. To discuss the payment of Sports Clubs invoices

A meeting with Sports Clubs has been requested for Mon 18 March. The Assistant Clerk will be asked to make suggested amendments to draft leases for each club and circulate for comments.

Football and Cricket clubs will be asked about any improvements or work they may need to their pitches which are part of the general field surface.

The grass cutting schedule will be initiated.

7.3. Office rental arrangements

A meeting will be arranged with the PCC to progress discussion on rental of the Parish Office and improving energy efficiency of the St Mary's Centre. **RB & Clerk.**

8. PLANNING MATTERS

8.1. Replacement of hedge with new fence and cycle/bin store to the front of the property, and installation of a playhouse to the rear. 7 Hill Estate Houghton

Huntingdon PE28 2BX Ref. No: 24/00175/HHFUL

RESOLVED: Houghton & Wyton Parish Council recommend that this application be REFUSED for the following reasons:

There is no objection to the playhouse at the rear or storage for cycles and bins, however we cannot support the removal of the existing hedge and replacement with new hedging in front of a close boarded fence at the front of the property. A tall, solid fencing structure would be contrary to Character Area definition within our Neighbourhood Plan and Policy HWNP17. We also believe this is contrary to HDC Local Plan and associated Design Guide.

Proposed: Cllr Skinner, Seconded: Cllr Southworth. For: 6, Abstentions: 1

8.2. Erection of single storey extension to the rear of dwelling, first floor extension above part of the existing garage and erection of garden room. 27 Home Farm

Road Houghton Huntingdon PE28 2BN Ref. No: 24/00252/HHFUL

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

We note that the design will lead to the loss of a garage, but there is adequate off-road parking on a private driveway.

The additional Garden Room is not visible from the road or overlooking to any neighbours, and also sits well on this large corner plot. We believe the extension will fit in with the existing street scene and there is no overlooking to neighbours in Home Farm Road. However, there will be an additional window to the rear overlooking a property in Wessell

Proposed: Cllr Southworth, Seconded: Cllr Skinner. All in favour

8.3. Houghton Grange update and S106 agreements

Cllrs Baxendale, Skinner, Keane and Boothman met with Homes England and HDC Planners to discuss the phase 2 planning application. It is felt this was a useful meeting for all involved and further response is awaited from Homes England.

A revised planning application is expected to be submitted by Homes England. Our District Councillors have already requested that this application be taken to the Development Management Committee for a decision should the officers decision be at odds with the Parish Council response.

Houghton Grange phase 1 building is behind schedule so resulting S106 is likely to be delayed.

A meeting was held with planning officers to discuss potential initiatives for S106 funding from phase 2. This was useful to both sides and will involve further discussion.

8.4. Other Planning matters

The Parish Council has been invited to attend a meeting on 14 March with Bellway Homes who wish to develop about 400 homes on a site north of the A1123 opposite Houghton Grange. This site is within Wyton on the Hill parish.

St Ives Town Council will be asked if they have any news on the development at The How. **PB**

9. REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1. Bus stop at Hartford Marina

There has been no further contact from Highways on this initiative, an update will be sought. **Clerk**

9.2. Drainage and flooding issues

The Parish Council congratulate Nigel Swaby, who has been appointed to the Regional Flood and Coastal committee, where his knowledge of the planning system will be useful.

The Flood Group plan to submit a Freedom of Information request for the report on the sewer inspection carried out by Anglian Water.

The Parish Council will again request a meeting with Anglian Water. It is important that someone from the operational waste water team attends to provide specialist knowledge and answers to questions.

Flooding resulting from the outskirts of the parish and to the north were discussed.

Concerns were raised about the potential for release of foul water into the Back Brook if there was a surge of water through the treatment plant north of Ruddles Lane, and where it is believed sewage from RAF Wyton and Wyton on the Hill is treated

The Flood Group has been logging drainage problems at properties in the village.

There is some reluctance to give details due to concerns that it will affect house prices. Data may have to be generalised to provide information while still complying with Data Protection Regulations.

9.3. Marking the 80th Anniversary of the D Day landings on Thursday 6th June.

It is noted that the local British Legion branch is not arranging any commemoration of this event. Cllr Keane will ask Wyton on the Hill Parish Council if they or RAF Wyton are planning events. The Parish Council expressed willingness to support an event if residents were willing to organise something.

10. PROJECTS

10.1. Clock Tower phase 2

A revised drawing has been submitted to CCC Highways for discussion. This will be followed up. **RB**

10.2. Village Defibrillators

A planning application to place a Defibrillator in a cabinet on the external wall of the Three Jolly Butchers has been submitted to HDC. They have asked for more information, which will be sought and supplied. **BG**

A grant to a defibrillator has been applied for.

10.3. Play Area repairs

Some bark surfacing has been spread on the Play Area and more will be ordered. Two sets of swings have been ordered and will be installed within 8 weeks.

Quotes for further repairs and the replacement of the gate at Laughtons Lane are being sought. **Asst Clerk**

10.4. Parking in the village – update

There is no update from CCC Highways on progress with the parking restrictions requested on St Ives Road. This will be chased. **Clerk**

It was noted that it is felt that parking on Huntingdon Road to the west of Victoria Crescent has increased and is at times causing a bottleneck in this area. This will be monitored for potential future work and an article in the village magazine and letter to the school will remind people to park responsibly and legally.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

The Cricket Club are thanked for providing Risk Assessments for their sight screens on the Playing Field.

It is noted there was a break-in at the National Trust Tearooms. The Parish Council hope to discuss this with the NT at a meeting to be arranged.

There was an accident on the A1123, leaving a cyclist injured. No further information is available.

A resident has asked again if the bus shelter by Manor Close can be removed as it is considered an eye-sore. This structure does not belong to the Parish Council, but they agree it could be improved. Efforts will be made to find out who should be responsible for this and ask them to replace the clouded Perspex. **Clerk**

12. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS, DELEGATED ACTION OR FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Applications will be submitted to retain the existing Assets of Community Value in the parish. Applications will also be made for the playing field at Houghton School, the Three Jolly Butchers public house and the site of Beers garage. **Clerk & Asst Clerk**

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be **Wednesday 10 April 2024 at 7pm.**

Signature Date.....