

**NOTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF HOUGH ON THE HILL  
PARISH, HELD AT CARLTON SCROOP VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY  
12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009 AT 7.30PM.**

The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of Hough on the Hill Parish Council, Cllr Mrs S Morgan. It was attended by 7 parishioners including the Chairman. Apologies were received from Parish Cllrs I.Lawson and C.Sherwood. District Cllr Kerr also sent his apologies.

1. Notes from the meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008 were read and taken as a true record.

2. Annual report of the Parish Council.

The Chairman of the Parish Council presented the report.

Continuing its policy of restricting new build in areas designated unsustainable the only new planning permissions granted were for 5 extensions or alterations to properties an additional one being refused. Additionally permission was granted for a conservation pond at Brandon and a manege at Gelston. A change of use application at Gorse Lodge to hold wedding receptions is still being considered.

The Parish Council finally established the ownership of the Old School Steps and hopefully they will now be made safer.

Footpath 14 at Brandon had also been resolved and the Parish is now waiting for LCC to open it up for the public use.

Following concerns over dog fouling in Hough and Gelston, letters were sent to villagers requesting dog owners to clean up after their pets.

The Parish Council still holds a yearly meeting with the Head of Highways to bring issues affecting the Parish to the departments notice. Last year it was announced that a quick response team had been formed to carry small but urgent repairs to the road system. Following the BT decision to decommission all their public phones in the area the Parish considered keeping them as landmarks. However investigations revealed that the ongoing cost of maintenance could prove a burden on the parish.

Mr Porter retired from maintaining the war memorial site and sadly died shortly after. A letter of thanks on behalf of the Parish had already been sent to him.

The LCC has decided not to send its Mobile Library to Hough due to insufficient users. The Parish Council are however negotiating to either get the service reinstated or to extend its Access Library to further users.

The possibility of closing the right turn to Marston on the northbound A1 is being considered by the Highways Agency. The Parish Council has voiced their concerns over the effect this may have to surrounding villages.

Finally thanks were given to District Councillor Kerr for attending Parish Council meetings and keeping the Parish informed of District Council issues.

3. Finance report of the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that the accounts of the Council now held a small but healthy balance. The precept for 2009/2010 had been reduced by 24% and was based on a basic budget.

4. Attendance records of Parish Councillors.

The Clerk reported that out of a possible 28 attendances, 20 which was 72% was achieved. Apologies were accepted for all absences.

5. Report and accounts of Hough Charities.

It was reported that a balance of £954.66 was held at the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008. Of this £946 was distributed to 42 households as a Christmas gift and a bereavement contribution. Following retirements of Rev Fiddymont and Mr A Gossard, Rev Harding and Parish Councillor B Gray were appointed as replacements. It was further added that anyone knowing of deserving cases in the Parish can contact the Trustees for more information.

6. Presentations from Local Organisations and Village representatives.

a. Village Hall Fund.

It was reported that the Village Hall fund now stood at £5906.83. (14<sup>th</sup> December 2008)

b. Playing Field Committee.

It was reported that the Committee was now down to two members and there were difficulties in recruiting new members and attracting funding. A request was therefore to be made to the Parish Council as owners of the site to take over the running and control.

c. Hough History Society.

It was reported that the society have a list of 32 members and monthly meetings attract an average of 14 to 18 persons. Last year had a variety of illustrated talks and visits including a Christmas social and dinner.

d. Report from Brandon.

It was noted that there had been a lot of building activity in Brandon including new build based on applications approved prior to the village being declared unsustainable. It was further reported that Prince Charles had visited the village to look at dry stone walling. The visit had not been well publicised.

7. Any matters of concern to Parishioners.

The general state of some of the roads were discussed and particular heavy vehicles using the whole width of some of the smaller roads. The Parish Council were asked to investigate with Highways weight limits and appropriate signage particularly on the Gelston/Marston road. Comment was also made on the Parish Councils attempts to have passing places on the Brandon/Hough road.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked Parishioners for their attendance and involvement in the meeting and the meeting closed at 8.10pm.