

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF HOUGH ON THE  
HILL PARISH, HELD AT CARLTON SCROOP VILLAGE HALL ON  
THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2011 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 4 parishioners including the Chairman. District Cllr Kerr also attended for part of the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr J Hancock, Cllr R Kingscott and Cllr A Knott.

1. Notes from the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010 were read and taken as a true record.
2. Annual report of the Parish Council. The Chairman of the Parish Council presented the report:

The year 2010 – 2011 has been a very quiet year for the parish as far as planning applications are concerned. 3 applications were lodged for listed buildings, both for internal and external work; 2 revisions of existing permission were sought; 3 applications were made for extensions, one of which was refused; a retrospective application was made for alterations to outbuildings in the conservation area and was approved; 3 applications were made for the removal of trees in the conservation area that also received approval. Gorse Lodge, Stubton finally gained conditional approval to hold wedding parties on site. The application for barn conversion at Brandon is still waiting an outcome. The application to erect a wind turbine at Hougham has just received approval. The issue of the travellers' site at Fulbeck is still unresolved.

Several members of the Parish Council had their annual site meeting with the area head of Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) Highways Department. A variety of topics were discussed; the condition of several of the roads in the parish, trees and hedges overhanging the roads, the provision of a grit bin in Gelston and a barrier at the bottom of the double bend, adding the Brandon to Barkston road to the county gritting schedule and the condition and merit of various road signs. Our meetings with the staff from Highways are always useful and our requests are given reasonable consideration. We have also given Parish Council support to the retention of the safety mirror at the end of Folly Lane, in a dispute between Highways and a local resident.

Since the Parish Council has taken over responsibility for the playground, the local monthly inspections and the external annual inspection are well established. This year has seen the replacement of a goodly number of bolts that had been removed from the equipment, primarily the teenagers' shelter. Also more than £1000.00 was spent on new bark to replenish the underlay of the equipment and a new seta is planned within the playground fencing. It has been agreed to put aside £400.00 each year to start an equipment replacement fund. During the year 2 councillors attended a playing field safety training course.

In the interests of safety, the Parish Council has sent out several requests to residents to cut back hedging that overhangs the road. The LCC Highways Department is very supportive in this and will further write if there is no response to the request from the council. They will also take legal action in extreme cases.

In Gelston, the horse chestnut tree on the green succumbed to weeping canker making it unsafe. Consequently it has been cut down but we have been offered a replacement by a local resident. We are also replacing the "No Parking" sign on the green with a new one which will show the amount of the fine leviable.

Last summer the Parish Council was contacted by a resident in Fenton to enlist our help. It appears that the MOD is selling off the former Fulbeck airfield land, offering it firstly to the original owners. As Fenton has no parish council of its own, we were asked to support an effort to reopen 2 footpaths that had been closed by the MOD. Hough Parish Council was happy to do this and wrote both to the MOD and LCC. The LCC has since agreed to reopen the footpaths.

During the year the Parish Council has had a change of clerk. I would personally, and on behalf of the council, like to thank the outgoing clerk, Mr John Shead, for all his work and the support he gave to the council. I would also like to thank our new clerk, Mr Andy Anderson, for all his extra work in getting to grips with the job so quickly. I also wish to thank District Councillor Vic Kerr for his ongoing support in keeping us up to date with decisions made at district level.

### 3. Finance report of the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that the accounts of the Council continued to be in a healthy position with sufficient reserves to cater for unexpected events. The precept for 2010/11 had been increased by 8% following an increase of 3% in 2010/11. This increase is necessary to cover any future increases in the costs of maintaining the playing fields. Should there be no increased costs, this sum will be put towards starting up a playing fields equipment fund. Money has been held in reserve for a possible election in May 2011.

### 4. Attendance records of Parish Councillors.

The Clerk reported that out of a possible 26 attendances, 22 were achieved representing 84%. This is a vast improvement over the previous year. One councillor has notified his intention not to stand for re-election in May 2011. There may therefore be one vacancy for a parish councillor. Last year's reported vacancy was filled in May 2010.

### 5. Report and accounts of Hough Charities. Cllr Brian Gray presented the report:

Funds available - £1025.00. This is from rent of 2 fields between Hougham and Brandon gifted to the charity many years ago. 40 households each received £25.00 and one household received £75.00 to assist with funeral expenses. A rent increase for the 2 fields has been applied for.

The charity covers Hough, Gelston and Brandon and is for anyone of pensionable age, or in distressed circumstances, who has lived in the parish for more than one year. If anyone knows of anyone in need who qualifies and is not currently claiming, please inform Cllr Brian Gray or any other trustee.

### 6. Presentations from Local Organisations and Village representatives.

a. Hough Community Project. Presented by Cllr Brian Gray:

Funds required to complete first stage of project = £94,000.00. This includes all work at west end of nave. Funds pledged so far: - WREN - £40,000.00 (available until July 2011), Mr Cust of the Brownlow family - £15,000.00 and £20,000.00 from the PCC. Further grant applications are to be made to SKDC, LCC and the lottery fund.

b. Parochial Church Council. Presented by Cllr Sue Morgan:

The parish continued in vacancy throughout the year. The Rev Lesley Harding, associate priest (House of Duty), aided by Rev Stuart Hadley, supported the Rural Dean in caring for the parish until September 2010. The Rev Alan Littlewood took over on an informal basis for the rest of the year, with additional help from the Rev John Cook. The PCC would like to welcome the Rev Lillian Hall to help with the ministry.

During the year 2010 the members of the PCC were:

Ex-officio parish priests – Revs Lesley Harding, Alan Littlewood and Stuart Hadley. Reader – Mr R Wall. Church wardens – John Lord and Jean Rodgerson (Hough) and Rosamund Robb [secretary] and Angela Simms [deanery synod] (Brandon). Elected members – Michael Blades, Judy Byron [minutes secretary], Chris Brightman, Tony Fillingham, Jill Lewis (treasurer), Alice Norris, Chris Rimmer, David Silver, Wendy Silver and Angela Stone.

Attendances to services are maintained with festival services having good numbers present. Two services were cancelled due to no vicar being available or the regular vicar being away. The “self help” service was maintained once a month. The financial status is satisfactory although a loss of £1,316.00 was made over the year. However, the parish share of £4,970.00 was paid in full. The village fete provides most of our income with other smaller contributions from the harvest lunch, solo evenings, etc.

The PCC held 3 ordinary meetings during the year with approximately 80% attendance. There were a number of smaller meetings concerning the Community Project and the church with the church wardens, secretary, treasurer and Michael Blades. Thanks go to those who have provided ministry during the year. Also thanks to parishioners who have helped to maintain the church; cleaning, glowers, churchyard, etc.

In the coming year several meetings are being arranged in connection with the Community Project. Also several musical evenings starting 6 May and finishing 1 July. The village fete is to be held on the usual date of 2 July 2011.

c. Historical Society. Presented by Cllr Sue Morgan.

Membership continues to be strong. Visiting speakers usually attract about 14 members. This may not sound a high figure, but, when you take into account the

wide range of subjects on which the talks are based, it is a reasonable number. The harsh winter, and the number of viruses going the rounds, also took its toll on the number of people prepared to turn out.

The 2010 programme was a varied one:

April – The Car Dyke Mystery – Dave Start looked at the evidence for Roman creation of the dyke and their possible use of natural water courses.

May – Simon Pawley gave a talk on the history of Sleaford.

June – summer visit to Elys Manor House in Ponton. Shown round by the owners who are trying to preserve existing medieval features and write a history of the house.

September – individual visits instead of an organised group visit.

October – talk on ancient salt making by Tom Lane.

November – talk by Kevin Harrison on outstanding women in Lincolnshire. An amazing amount of research brought these feisty women to life.

The annual Christmas social was a success, although numbers were low, as was the February dinner.

January – Tina Lee gave an illustrated talk on the effects of the civil war on the eastern counties.

March – Tony Lane from the Grantham metal detecting club showed finds which had been collected over 30 years.

Altogether a good year for the society and the promise of an equally interesting programme in the year to come.

#### 7. Any matters of concern to Parishioners.

No further matters were raised.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked parishioners for their attendance and involvement in the meeting and the meeting closed at 7.55pm.