

HOUGH ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Hough on the Hill Parish Council held on the 9th December 2010 at Carlton Scroop Village Hall commencing 8.00pm.

Present at the meeting –

S Morgan (Chair)	C Sherwood
T Newcombe	R Kingscott
B Gray	A Knott

1. Public Forum:

No members of the public were present. The councillors wished to record their thanks to all the parishioners who have been using the grit bins to grit the roads during the recent severe inclement weather, but noted the complaints about no grit bin being available in Gelston.

The Clerk to the Council is to write to Highways to thank them for gritting the roads and query the progress on providing a grit bin for Gelston.

2. Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received and accepted from J Hancock. District Cllr Kerr also sent apologies.

3. Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Notes of the last meeting:

The notes of Parish Council Meeting of 30th September 2010 were agreed as a true record as read, approved as the minutes of the meeting, and signed by the Chair.

5. Reports from Clerk and Members on any matters outstanding:

- a. Adopt a phone box scheme. A status update from SKDC was circulated to the councillors present.
- b. There were no other matters outstanding.

6. Planning matters:

- a. The following planning application outcomes were noted:

- i. Erection of one and two storey extensions to dwelling house and erection of garage, Orchard Cottage, Hough Road, Frieston.
Refused.

ii. Erection of new three bay cart shed with play room above, Church Lane Farmhouse, Brandon.

Approved.

iii. Erection of wind turbine, Frinkley Farm, Hougham.

Awaiting approval.

iv. Barn conversion to three dwellings, Court Leys, Brandon.

Awaiting approval.

v. Extension of time limit, Lodge Cottages, Brandon

Awaiting approval.

b. The following related matters were considered:

There were no other related matters for consideration.

7. The following items from Councillors were considered:

a. Cllr Morgan – registration of Brandon land.

It was explained that the Land Registry disputed the area shown on the conveyance map as to them it was not clear. The Land Registry sent back a tracing map which basically but not exactly agreed with the conveyance map. The land in question has historically been maintained by the Parish Council and is recognised by the residents of Brandon as being in the Parish Council's ownership. It was agreed that the Parish Council would reapply for registration with clearer maps and documents. It was also agreed the Land Registry should be asked to clarify the ownership of the land between the Parish Council land and the road.

b. Cllr Morgan – tree on Gelston Green.

Currently awaiting removal of stump and roots and for P&A Stone to submit bill for payment. The Parish Council has received an offer of a free sweet chestnut tree as a replacement. It was agreed to accept this offer. The Chair will liaise with the donor.

c. Cllr Morgan – playing field matters.

i. Seat. After much discussion it was agreed that a durable seat was to be placed inside the play area at Hough playing field. The cost of the seat is £260.00 plus VAT. Before proceeding the Parish Clerk was instructed to investigate the method and cost of bolting down the seat securely.

i. Inspections. It was agreed to amend the current inspection form to show that each item had been checked, note any faults found and any action required. An updated inspection rota was agreed:

Dec 10 Cllr Sherwood

Jan 11 Cllr Knott

Feb 11 Cllr Kingscott

Mar 11 Cllr Newcombe

Apr 11 Cllr Gray

May 11 Cllr Morgan

Jun 11 Cllr Sherwood

The Parish Clerk was instructed to now arrange for the annual equipment inspection to be carried out by Wickstead Playscapes at a cost of £45.00. The Chair proposed a small notice, informing the general public of the Chair and the Clerk's contact numbers, be fixed at the entry to the play area, to allow them to

report damages etc. This was agreed and the Clerk was instructed to produce a suitable notice.

iii. Repair of items. Cllr Kingscott is to inform the Parish Clerk of the name and contact details of a local “handyman” to carry out minor repairs identified from the councillors’ monthly inspections. It was agreed that the Clerk could authorise minor repairs, under £50.00 to be carried out. Professional repairs to the play equipment will continue to be carried out by Wickstead Playscapes.

d. Cllr Morgan – overhanging hedges and trees.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the owner of the property on the road down into Hough from Gelston requesting him to trim back hedges and trees on the bank on the boundary between his property and the paddock, in the interests of road safety.

e. Cllr Newcombe – police public meeting.

Cllr Newcombe reported back from the Grantham North Rural Neighbourhood Panel Meeting that he attended in October 2010. The meetings are aimed at parish councils and neighbourhood watch members. The police will use the meetings to listen to local concerns and agree police priorities for the next few months. The next meeting will be in January 2011 and Cllr Newcombe will attend.

f. Cllr Morgan – Gelston Green Sign.

Cllr Morgan explained that the current sign was in need of repair/replacement. It was proposed to include the notification of a possible £200.00 fine on the notice. It was agreed that the Clerk would go ahead and purchase an appropriate sign at a cost of no more than £25.00 plus VAT.

g. Cllr Morgan – letter of appreciation to outgoing Clerk.

The letter was agreed and signed by the chair.

8. Financial matters:

a. Precept 2011/2012.

The Chair proposed that the sum of £800.00 be removed from the precept calculation as this has already been accounted for in reserves. It was agreed to raise the grounds maintenance element by £400.00 to build up funds for possible replacement of play equipment. It was, therefore, agreed to request £5,372.00 as the precept for the financial year 2011/2012. The Clerk was instructed to forward this request to SKDC.

b. The following payments were authorised:

i. Village Hall Meeting 9th December 2010 - £10.00.

ii. Grounds maintenance 10th and 28th October 2010 - £250.00.

iii. Retrospective payment to County Mulch for playground chips - £1,163.25.

iv. Payment of outgoing Clerk’s salary and expenses.

c. The Parish accounts could not be formally approved as the mandate for the bank to allow the incoming clerk access to statements etc had not yet been signed. The mandate was signed by the three necessary signatories at the meeting.

d. There were no other related financial matters.

9. Correspondence:

a. The correspondence received and shown on the attached list was noted.

- b. A letter concerning the maintenance of the War Memorial was received and was to be discussed at the next meeting. In the meantime Cllr Kingscott will open informal discussions with the PCC.

10. The following matters requiring urgent discussion were discussed:

- a. Cllr Kingscott requested authorisation to publish parish councillors' contact details on his community website. It was agreed to place this on the next meeting agenda as an item for discussion. It was agreed that the Brandon councillors could put their names and contact details on the Brandon notice board.
- b. Cllr Kingscott raised the matter of emergency planning. He agreed to circulate details to all councillors.
- c. Cllr Gray requested that councillors forward to him the names of any parishioners over 55 who might be entitled to payments from the Hough Charity.
- d. Cllr Gray reported back from attending the Hough Community Project Meeting in November 2010. The project is to provide community facilities in the church. WREN had given a grant of £40,000, the PCC had give £20,000 and a further £15,000 had been received from private donations. It is aimed to have all funds raised by June 2011 and to have the project completed by December 2011.

11. Presentations from other invited speakers:

The clerk read out the following items from District Cllr Kerr, who was unable to attend in person:

- a. There was to be a public enquiry in February 2011 into the gypsy site.
- b. There will be free parking in the evenings (from 7.00 pm) and weekends in Grantham from 1 December until March 2011.
- c. Low cost housing in any sustainable villages on green field sites is now permitted.
- d. In reply to a query from Cllr Kingscott: - Highways have gone back to Mr Arnold of Brandon requesting more information about the proposed fishing lake/log cabins that had been previously been refused.

12. The date and time of the next meeting was agreed as 24 March 2011 at Carlton Scroop Village Hall, commencing 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.10 pm.