

## HOUGH ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Hough on the Hill Parish Council held on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at Carlton Scroop Village Hall commencing 8pm.

Present at the meeting –

S Morgan (Chair)  
T Newcombe  
B Gray

C Sherwood  
R Kingscott (joined at 8.20pm)  
V Kerr (District Councillor)

1. Public Forum:

There were no members of the public in attendance.

2. Apologies for absence.

The clerk explained that the councillors had a choice as to either note unexplained apologies or decide to accept/not accept reasons for absence. It is the reason for absence and not the absence itself that is accepted. The councillors elected to ask for reasons for apologies in future, and vote on whether to accept them or not at their meetings.

Cllr J Hancock tendered his apologies and gave reason for his absence. The attending councillors accepted his reason by resolution. Cllr A Knot also sent his apologies. His apology was noted.

3. Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Notes of the last meeting:

The notes of Parish Council Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> December 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:

There were no matters outstanding.

6. Planning matters:

a. The following planning application outcomes were noted:

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

Amended plans. Public consultation meeting.

Although not formally notified, Grantham Journal reported “Approved”. District Councillor Kerr confirmed that this had been approved with conditions.

- ii. Barn conversion to three dwellings, Court Leys, Brandon.  
Awaiting approval.
- iii. Extension of time limit, Lodge Cottages, Brandon.  
Withdrawn.
- iv. Tree felling. 7 Gelston Road, Hough on the Hill.  
Approved.
- v. Removal of trees and deadwooding, Woodnook, Hough on the Hill.  
Approved.
- vi. Extension and alterations to dwelling, The Poplars, Gelston.  
Awaiting approval.
- vii. Extension, attic conversion and replacement door, Manor Farm, Hough on the Hill.  
Approved.
- viii. Fell trees in conservation area, Park View, Hough on the Hill.  
Awaiting approval

- b. The following related matters were considered:

There were no related matters for consideration.

- 7. The following items from Councillors were considered:

- a. Cllr Morgan – registration of Brandon land.

The land at Brandon is now formally registered with the Land Registry.

- b. Cllr Morgan – tree on Gelston Green.

The contractor was written to requesting removal of the felled tree stump by mid March. To date there has been no reply nor has the stump been removed.

- c. Cllr Morgan – playing field matters.

Seat. The Parish Council has been advised that the proposed seat will need to be firmly secured to the ground both on health and safety grounds and to prevent it being stolen. The clerk was instructed to obtain quotes for this work to be presented at the next meeting in May 2011.

Inspections. Severe weather conditions hampered timely and full inspections in December and January. The Chair re-emphasised the importance of the monthly inspections. Councillors were asked to inform the clerk if they were unable to carry out their scheduled inspections.

Repair of items. Cllr Kingscott gave the clerk the name and contact number of a person who might be able and available to carry out minor repairs. The clerk was tasked to make contact and arrange a site meeting at the playing fields to discuss the repair of the wooden gate and removal of graffiti. The clerk was authorised to spend up to £50.00 without further consultation with the council. The Chair will look into the costs of replacing the broken latches on the gates.

- d. Cllr Morgan – overhanging hedges and trees.

The clerk was tasked to write to Highways Department to ask for assistance in dealing with the problem of overhanging trees at two locations. The council had written to the individuals concerned but to date had had no replies or action.

- e. Cllr Newcombe – police public meeting.

There was nothing to report as Cllr Newcombe had been unable to attend the last meeting.

- f. Cllr Morgan – Gelston Green Sign.

This is in hand. The clerk is to purchase the sign, backing board and post. He will investigate the possible use of the existing base.

- g. Cllr Kingscott – community website contact details.

Cllr Kingscott requested permission to place contact details for the councillors and clerk on the Brandon and surrounding area community website. The council agreed to the publication of names, addresses and e-mail addresses but not telephone numbers.

- h. Cllr Morgan – highway matters.

Most of the items raised last year have been auctioned. A grit bin is being provided for Gelston. The provision of barriers at the double bend is still awaited. It was agreed to decide at the next meeting (May) whether to arrange a meeting with the Head of Highways.

- i. Cllr Morgan – Royal British Legion Great Poppy Party Weekend.

It was agreed that no action was required of the Parish Council. The clerk will place copies of the RBL letter on the village notice boards after the election in May.

- j. Cllr Morgan – Parish Council Elections 2011.

Councillors were reminded to submit their forms in time (by 4<sup>th</sup> April 2011).

- k. Cllr Morgan – the Queen’s 2012 Diamond Jubilee.

This subject will be kept on as an agenda item. Notification will be put on the village notice boards at a later date. Cllr Kingscott will put information on the Brandon website.

- l. Cllr Sherwood – C001 road.

This is officially described by the County Council as a local road but approximately 1450 vehicles use it each day. It is in a poor state of repair, partially due to use by heavy goods vehicles who use it as a “rat run” from the A1 to the A17 and park on the verges causing damage. It is only a 5.5 metre rural lane. The clerk was tasked to write to Highways expressing the council’s concerns re the volume of vehicles, particularly the high numbers of HGV, with the incumbent cost implications of repairs, and seek advice to the “way ahead”.

m. Cllr Sherwood – footpath 14.

The meeting noted a query by a local dog owner over the problems of crossing a stile on footpath 14. It was also noted that 4 stiles have been changed to metal gates by the land owner.

8. Financial matters:

a. The following payments were authorised:

- i. Village Hall Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> March 2011 (£10.00).
- ii. Payment of Clerk’s salary and expenses. (the clerk gave details of his salary and expenses and requested that he be paid after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011. This was agreed. He went on to explain that in future the clerk was to be subject to PAYE and not annual payment by invoice. He will investigate this procedure).
- iii. Local Association of Local Councils annual subscription (£126.00).
- iv. Playing fields annual inspection fee (£54.00).

b. Playing Fields Association – financial support.

It was proposed and agreed not to support this request. It was further agreed that this subject would not be brought up at future meetings.

c. Parish accounts to 23 March 2011 were approved.

9. Correspondence:

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

b. Other correspondence received:

The Chair circulated a letter from K.N.O.T. about wind turbines for their information.

10. The following matters requiring urgent discussion were discussed:

There were no matters requiring urgent discussion.

11. District Councillor V Kerr informed the meeting that:

- a. The gypsies and travellers’ site at Fulbeck was now permanent. The latest inquiry had overruled all previous objections (S10/1081/MJRF/NN12).

- b. Car parking charges in Grantham will be reduced with effect from 1 May 2011.
- c. SKDC planning meetings will now be held every 4 weeks instead of 3.
- d. For every new house built, the developer will have to pay approximately £2000.00 to SKDC. This does not affect this parish as the villages are classified as being “unsustainable”.

12. The date and time of the next meeting (AGM) was agreed as 12<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at Carlton Scroop Village Hall, commencing 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.