

Hough on the Hill Parish Council – Annual Report - March 2018

Last year saw the untimely death of Cllr Paul Ramsden. Later in the year Paul Miley re-joined the council, leaving us with two councillors from each of the three villages. Sadly, Cllr Sonia Nevin is leaving the council after tonight's meeting, but we already have one volunteer from Hough who may be co-opted at the May meeting. This will leave one vacancy.

The planning application to build a 10-turbine wind farm on Fulbeck Airfield was refused at the end of last March. And the operator of the bulk straw storage on the airfield has not been willing to comply with the planning conditions and so has announced that the operation will close.

The County Council has agreed to impose a 40mph speed limit on the C001 through Brandon and we expect the signs to be changed later this year. An improved broadband service for Brandon is now expected by the end of September this year.

The Parish Council are supporting a VETS (Voluntary Emergency Telephone System) to augment the defibrillators in each village and this system is now operational.

5(j) Straw - SKDC/LCC. Straw company has been using the C001 to Marston. This road is severely damaged with pot holes. Do we have the option to bill them for this damage?

5(k) Felled Tree.

I am so angry every time I come through Hough on the Hill these days. Not only did we have to lose that beautiful tree on the corner, but the new 'avenue' of Italian Cypresses is so totally inappropriate to the character of the Conservation Area that I was moved to check out our Neighbourhood Plan (remember that?). Our Policy HoH10 does say 'Where new trees are proposed these should, wherever possible, be appropriate disease-resistant native species". Whilst the policy relates to new development, it should surely stand for any replacement trees planted in such a prominent position?

I don't know if anyone else has complained, but I know a lot of people really hate what's been done and feel the planting is totally out of character, jars, and ruins the historic setting of this important corner of the village.

One person has even suggested that the area is in fact owned by Highways and that any replanting there should be their responsibility?

7(a) HGV Sign. RK & PM (as Brandon residents) have consulted and agree on the proposed siting.

7(b) 40mph limit. Consultation starting soon.

[R] – Ask/confirm that 'Brandon' sign is moved to edges of blue area.



7(c) Street furniture

Wide verge, little warning.

[R] Request Highways to approve installation of 1 or 2 signs for C001 approaches.

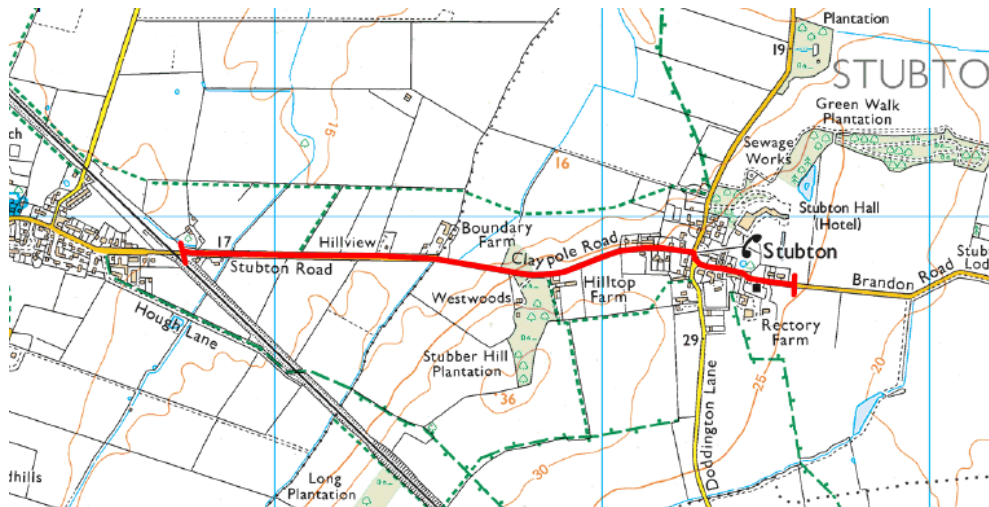
[R] Authorise clerk to request match funding from reVOLT (PM to draft)

[R] Authorise RK to liaise with Highways re supply, installation and inclusion of village sign.

[R] Authorise payment of up to £..... (assuming match funding)



7(g) Carriageway Maintenance Stubton



Road closure in Stubton from the 19th March for 9 days. Planned for 5 days but may take up to 9. No access other than for residents. The major work is Claypole Road and at the crossroads by the shelter.

8(a) FP8.

I had a meeting with one of the landowners in order to outline the required reinstatement works. The residents at Windwards were not in when I called. I have therefore asked them to contact me at their earliest convenience to arrange a meeting to discuss the matter. I am hopeful that the reinstatement works will be completed during the summer months after the lambing season has drawn to a close.

8(b) Footpaths in Brandon. Not PC. PM report. Nothing further to report.

8(c) Dog Stiles. *I suspect that this is a particular issue in Hough as the majority of farmers keep sheep and stiles have been installed in conjunction with **stock fencing** which prevents larger older dogs from climbing over the stiles. Stiles are the **responsibility of the landowner** but the landowner **does not have to make stiles suitable** for dogs. LCC has not historically provided or installed such dog friendly structures on public rights of way. However, it may be possible to install dog stiles on public footpaths **if the parish council provide the funding**. However, I must stress that there would still be a number of major obstacles to overcome in order to enable dog stiles to be installed. Initially the **landowners permission** would be required and the County Council may struggle to incorporate these works into the **work schedule** as we now only have one works team to cover South Kesteven and South Holland. In addition, we would need to establish who would be responsible for the **future maintenance** of the dog stiles as I suspect they would require a fair bit of maintenance in order to keep them in a useable condition. I am nevertheless more than happy to discuss this issue with the parish council and hopefully identify an acceptable solution.*

8(d) Dog Bins

1. Ongoing issue in Brandon & Hough
2. Not urgent, except for deadline for reVOLT funding.
3. Don't want to discuss locations, emptying, colour etc
4. Identify numbers required – estimate total cost – apply for funding – get ring-fenced
5. Final decision on everything else, including purchase in May
6. 6 x 25L waste bins as depicted, plus three post mounts and three banding kits (to mount to an existing post) = £760.38. Allow for total project cost £900 (£150 per bin)
7. 2 for Brandon.....

[R] Authorise clerk to apply for reVOLT match funding of up to £450 (PM to draft request).

11. See request from PCC via Rosamond Robb to relay the slabs.

- £1000s of repairs, including path
- Slabs on village hall site, liable to be broken or stolen

[R] Authorise PCC to use the slabs on PC land to rebuild church path, providing area is made good.

12. VETS

- Live in Dec. Advertised in Onside
- Lack of integration with EMAS
- Nov invoice for the set up cost and the cost of VETS in the 3 villages: £324 + VAT (£388.80). Now working so we should pay this. It is the one Penny was querying at the last meeting and is to be paid from the funds held for donations made.
- 4th March = annual maintenance/support for each defib (3 x £126 + Vat £453.60). Same as last year and is what the PC has agreed should be paid by the PC itself.

?? same as 15? [R] Authorise clerk to pay maintenance bill £378 +VAT

13. Police Liaison – Meeting with Police & Crime Commissioner (Marc Jones)

- 40% of call-outs involve mental health
- 1000s of missing people
- Many full-time PC involved with serious crime – back office jobs
- Most beat work = PCSOs (regular hours). Recruiting more PCSOs & Specials.
- Many traffic officers firearms trained/equipped. Work with other East Midlands forces so there's always an armed response and they can flow to reinforce.
- Hare coursing – tied in with organised betting/crime - 2000 events pa (down 25%) – 4x4s, drones, NVGs, binoculars
- Roads – more miles than Notts & Leics combined. 550 killed pa
- Community Speedwatch – Hi-vis & cheap speedgun. No powers but police will send warning letters and back up.
- Parking on yellow lines = traffic warden. Dangerous parking = police (low priority)
- Medical support. LIVES 22,000 pa (25% of EMAS). EMAS worse problem than Grantham A&E. Didn't respond to 31/31 police call-outs.

14(b) Onside. Dec was good. Next issue after May PC. Possible draft if seems appropriate.

14(c) Nextdoor

- 120 households (42%) – encourage more
- Useful in snow etc
- Moderation (Sarah Calveley / Wayne Dunsford)
- See Social Media Policy – e.g. avoid debates about council's work.
- Not PC asset but we can use it as 'electronic noticeboard' for agendas etc – **clerk/chair**.
- Roadworks, closures, weather warnings etc from other organisations - **Anyone**
- Crime/suspicious activity – 2 way with Police – **POC?**
- Consider update to social media policy at AGM. Please review other procedures.