

Great Houghton Parish Council

Great Houghton Parish Council - Ordinary Meeting

Those present :

Chairman : Councillor LD Higginbottom JP

Councillors : Councillor A Gothard, Councillor T Neale, Councillor D L Parkin- Coates

3187 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Cllr Y Hargreaves, Cllr J Bembridge, Cllr D Hanson, Cllr D Pickett

3188 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr D P Coates and seconded by Cllr L D Higginbottom that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 29th November 2018 be accepted as correct.

3189 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3190 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that he had received letters and e-mails from:

- Barnsley MBC regarding the adoption of the Local Development Plan on the 3rd January 2019.

- The Fitwilliam Estates regarding renewing the leases for Church Street play area and the Allotments on Stonebridge and Thurnscoe Lane.

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr A Gothard and seconded by Cllr T Neale that the leases be re-newed

- Barnsley Police regarding arrangements for the Speed Awareness Initiative that is still in the discussion stage. NOTED

- Barnsley MBC Public Rights of Way regarding Hedge Laying courses being run in January, February and March. NOTED

It was agreed that this information be displayed on the public notice boards

- Barnsley MBC Play Ground Inspectors reports relating to Church Street and Pleasant Avenue. Noted

- Barnsley MBC regarding booking the Village Hall for the elections in May.-NOTED

- A resident regarding the arrangements for the storage and use of the road chippings on Park Lane - NOTED

The Chair explained the situation to those present

3191 Allotments

There was only one issue raised by a tenant regarding the gates on Thurnscoe Lane being left open - NOTED

3192 Planning

The Clerk informed members that there were no Planning Applications to be considered.

3193 Member's Recommendations

Cllr D P Coates - asked if the Probation Service could be contacted with a view to them painting the railings around the village hall. - The Clerk to pursue.

Cllr A Gothard - informed members that

a) the road sign on Woodland View had not yet been replaced. The clerk to pursue.

b) Dog fouling on Thurnscoe Lane and Byron Street was still a problem. The Clerk to pursue

The Chair - asked that

a) arrangements be made to take down the external Christmas lights.

The Clerk informed members that subject to assistance being available this would be done in house.

b) The relief cleaner be paid extra for the additional work she had undertaken

It was proposed by Cllr D P Coates and seconded by Cllr T Neale for an additional one weeks wage to be paid to her.

c) A letter of thanks be sent to Mr Calvert for assisting the Parish Council.

3194 Parochial Matters

Cllr D P Coates explained to the residents present how it was intended to promote the reading room as a place where the over fifties can meet to read the papers and socialise over refreshments. It is expected the scheme will start in February. NOTED

3195 Clerk's Financial Statement

The Clerk presented the accounts for November and December 2018 and informed members that he had transferred £5k from the reserve account into the business account. due to additional expenditure being incurred.

It was proposed by Cllr A Goddard and seconded by Cllr T Neale that the Clerks actions and the accounts be approved and accepted as correct.

The Clerk raised the following financial issues which needed to be addressed prior to the new financial year.

a) Fees and Charges

Following discussion it was agreed that

-The allotment rents be increased by £1 to £33.50

-The hire charges for the Village Hall and football field to remain the same.

-The garage site rental be increased by £1 to £51/yr

Proposed Cllr A Goddard seconded Cllr D P Coates.

b) Annual Precept

The clerk informed members that the precept needed to be set before February 2019.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Parish Precept be increased by £1k to £27k

Proposed by Cllr D P Coates seconded by Cllr A Goddard.

c) Internal Auditor

The Clerk asked members to confirm that Upton & Co be retained as the Internal Auditor for the forthcoming financial year

Proposed by Cllr T Neale seconded by Cllr D P Coates

3196 Any Other Business

Residents present made members aware:-

a) that they had problems with the local GP practice, stating the lack of privacy in the reception area, the inability to make appointments and having to travel to neighbouring surgeries on occasions if they can.

Cllr D P Coates, having spoken to the Practice Manager about such issues, explained how the surgery operated on a different system compared to other surgeries within the general practice.

The Chair informed the residents that the surgery had a complaints form and that they should complete and submit it every time they had cause to.

b) There was a problem with a sheep and other animals roving on open land around the bus terminus. NOTED

3197 Date and Time of Future Meetings

Future meetings will be held at 7:00 pm in the Village Hall as follows:

- Wednesday 6th March 2019
- Wednesday 3rd April 2019