

## Great Houghton Parish Council

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 15 May 2019

Those present :

Chairman : Councillor LD Higginbottom JP

Vice Chairman : Councillor J Bembridge

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

### **3209 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from:- Cllr G Frame, Cllr D Pickett, and Cllr J Pickett

### **3210 Appointment of Chairperson for the Current Financial Year**

It was proposed by Cllr T Neale and seconded by Cllr J Bembridge that Cllr L D Higginbottom be nominated as Chairperson for the financial year 2019/20. There were no other nominations therefore Cllr L D Higginbottom was duly elected.

### **3211 Appointment of Deputy Chairperson for the Current Financial Year**

It was proposed by Cllr D C Coates and seconded by Cllr T Neale that Cllr J Bembridge be nominated as Deputy Chairperson for the financial year 2019/20. There were no other nominations therefore Cllr J Bembridge was duly elected.

### **3212 Annual Governance Statements**

The Clerk presented the following Governance Statements for consideration and approval:

Annual Audit Governance Statement  
Financial Risk Statement  
General Risk Statement

It was agreed they be approved

Proposed Cllr A Goddard seconded Cllr T Neale

### **3213 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Subject to minute No 3204 referring to John Street and not George Street as stated, it was proposed by Cllr T Neale and seconded by Cllr J Bembridge that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as correct.

### **3214 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

**Minute No 3147** -The Clerk informed members that the Speed Watch Initiative had taken place on the 5th April. As a result of the initiative 19 motorists were spoken to over their speed passing Lister Row (15), and on Thurnscoe Lane (4). Concern was expressed by those having shown interest in the scheme at the short notice given as to when it was taking place. As a result of this another initiative is to be arranged in due course.

**Minute No 3200** The Clerk informed members that the Community Payback organisation had started painting the railings. **Noted**

**Minute No 3204** The Clerk informed the members that the meeting with himself, the Chair and Barnsley MBC's Cemeteries' and Crematorium Manager had taken place regarding future improvement / maintenance works that included widening the main path and creating a small car park. **Noted**

**Cllr J Bembridge** informed members that the problem with regard to the tree on the highway outside No 8 High Street had not yet been resolved. **Noted**

**Cllr D P Coates** updated members on the reading room project which is doing well. **Noted**

### **3215 Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that he had received the following letters / e-mails from.

a) Brian Upton Accountants - informing members that he was no longer able to carry out an independent examination of the Annual Accounts. The Clerk, after consulting with the Chair and Vice Chair engaged another company Kingfisher Ltd to undertake the task. **Noted** and agreed that Kingfisher Ltd be retained for the foreseeable future.

Proposed Cllr T Neale seconded Cllr D P Coates.

b) The Yorkshire Miners Welfare donating £400 towards the reading room project. **Noted and a letter of thanks be sent**

c) The Mayors secretary inviting members to the Mayors Civic Service on Thursday 13th June 2019 at 6:30pm at St Mary's Parish Church. **Noted**

d) A letter from a hirer of the Welfare Hall querying the hire rates. The clerk had responded explaining that it was Council policy to charge double for Commercial /Business users where personal gain was the motive **Noted**

e) - Barnsley MBC's Play Area Officer regarding the inspection reports for Chapel Lane and Pleasant Avenue play area's. **Noted**  
- Notification that the inspection contract was due for renewal. **Noted and agreed**

Proposed Cllr D P Coates seconded Cllr A Goddard.

### **3216 Allotments**

The Clerk informed that members of the outstanding rents and plot vacancies - **Noted**

#### **Members raised the following issues:**

a) Reports that pigs were now being kept on one particular plot.

b) Reports that another was being used to scrap cars.

c) Children / youths were gaining access to the Stonebridge Lane allotments by squeezing between the gate and hedge.

d) Another caravan had been placed on another plot.

Following discussion it was agreed - That the clerk investigate the above and take

appropriate action were necessary.

- That the gate be locked preventing vehicular access to the Thurnscoe Lane site. Vehicular access would then be by arrangement

### **3217 Planning**

The Clerk informed members that Barnsley MBC's Planning Department had forwarded only one Planning Application for their consideration and asked that they confirm they had no issues with the application as previously stated.

a) Residential development of 4 No bungalows on land adjacent 137 High Street

Proposed Cllr T Neale seconded Cllr D Hanson.

**Cllr P Gregg** raised his concerns over Barnsley MBC's Planning Department's approval of the proposed extension of the Renewable Energy Farm on Park Spring Road. He stated that the village and local community would be affected by increased traffic and pollution.

The Chair informed him that the Parish Council had objected to the proposals citing those particular issues.

### **3218 Member's Recommendations**

**Cllr D P Coates** - asked if the window above the entrance to the Welfare Hall could be painted. The Clerk to investigate the options available.

- asked if the Caretakers could be given some Health and Safety / facilities management training. The Clerk to investigate options available.

- asked members to consider increasing the hourly rate of the senior caretaker due to her position and the work she undertakes.

Following discussion it was agreed that the rate be increased in line with Barnsley MBC's minimum standard.

Proposed Cllr D P Coates seconded Cllr P Gregg

- raised an issue regarding the upkeep of the welfare hall and the need for someone to regularly inspect the premises from a maintenance and Health & Safety perspective.

Following discussion Cllr P Gregg accepted this role.

**Cllr P Gregg** - raised the issue of regularly updating the website - **Noted.**

### **3219 Clerk's Financial Statement**

The Clerk presented the final accounts for the year end 31st March 2019 on an income and expenditure basis and the reconciliation reports for March and April 2019.

It was proposed by Cllr J Bembridge and seconded by Cllr A Goddard that the accounts for both the year ending 31st March 2019 and the months of April and May be approved.

The Chair signed the accounts as being correct.

### **3220 Parochial Matters**

There were no Parochial Matters raised.

### **3221 Any Other Business**

**Cllr P Gregg** - raised the issue regarding Stagecoach's proposed changes to the bus routes which will effect the village.

The chair informed him that she had met with Stephanie Peacock MP about the problem and toured the area with her. She had also written to the Passenger Transport Executive Officer objecting to the proposals.

- Raised the issue of the Annual Fun Day and the possibility of involving local businesses through sponserhip etc.

The suggestion was welcome and would be considered by the Welfare Hall Committee who were responsible for organising the event and not the Parish Council.

**Cllr J Bembridge** - Raised an issue with regard to a tree needing to be removed on an allotment.

The Clerk to contact Fitzwilliam Estates as it is their responsibility

Cllr D P Coates updated the new member on the activities of the Youth Club and proposals to develop it and how, subject to grant aid, it is supported financially by the Parish Council.

**The Chair** - raised an issue regarding a tree on Pleasant Avenue playing fields that would have to be removed following an accident with a young boy. There were also other trees that were beginning to effect the boundary.

The clerk to seek reports /quotes from respective tree surgeons

- asked members to consider increasing the Clerk's wages to maintain the differential between him and the other employees.

In the Clerks absence it was agreed that it be increased accordingly.

Proposed Cllr D Higginbottom seconded Cllr D P Coates.

### **3222 Date and Time of Future Meetings**

Future meetings will be held as follows

Wednesday 10th July 2019

Wednesday 4th September 2019

Wednesday 30th October 2019

Wednesday 27th November 2019

All meetings will commence at 6:30pm and take place in the Welfare Hall

Signed.....(Chairperson)

15 May 2019