

# Great Houghton Parish Council

## Great Houghton Parish Council - Ordinary Meeting

Those present :

Chairman : Councillor LD Higginbottom JP

Vice Chairman : Councillor J Bembridge

Councillors : Councillor G Frame, Councillor A Gothard, Councillor P Gregg, Councillor D Hanson, Councillor T Neale, Councillor T Neale, Councillor D L Parkin- Coates, Councillor J Pickett, Councillor D Pickett

### 3368 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from - Cllr J Bembridge, Cllr J Pickett.

### 3369

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chair welcomed Sarah Ford, Barnsley MBC's Public Rights of Way Officer, who was asked to attend and discuss issues relating to PRW within the village.

Cllr P Gregg commented on : - the lack of signs, the closure / obstruction and disappearance of some tracks, plus the creation and reinstatement of others. These issues focused mainly on Park Lane, the track from School Street to Spryer Lane, Hodster Lane, and the area around the Wind Farm.

The officer addressed the issues raised whilst informing members of Barnsley MBC's legal responsibilities regarding PRW's and the problems she encounters.

Cllr P Gregg was advised (following consultation with any other interested parties) to submit any proposals / options for re-directing or creating new paths, to her for consideration.

### 3370 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr P Gregg and seconded by Cllr T Neale that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 29th September 2021 be accepted as a true record.

### 3371 Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Clerk informed members that :

Minute 3358 - The problem of the grazing pony on Lister Row was now being addressed by Barnsley MBC's Regulatory Services. **Noted.**

Minute 3364 - The Environmental Health Department had been informed of the slurry problem but had not contacted Cllr P Gregg as agreed. **Noted.**

Minute 3365 - Following the break-in, the Loss Adjuster had visited the Welfare Hall, but had yet to inform the Council of the outcome of the claim. **Noted**

Minute 3365 - A quote had been received for additional security cameras inside the Welfare Hall. **Noted** but agreed no further action be taken at this time, pending further investigation into other options.

### 3372 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that he had received the following letters and e-mails =

- a) The Village Caretaker tendering his resignation. **Noted** and a letter of appreciation thanking him for his service be sent to him.
- b) Cllr's J & D Pickett tendering their resignation. Cllr J Pickett with immediate effect and Cllr D Pickett from 8th December. **Noted** and letters of appreciation thanking them for their service be sent to them.
- c) Cllr S Joyce tendering her resignation with immediate effect. **Noted**. and a letter of appreciation thanking her for her service be sent to her.
- d) Barnsley's Environmental Health Department advising the council on the actions to take in controlling the spread of the Covid Virus when the Welfare Hall is in use. **Noted**.
- e) Barnsley MBC's Parks Services Playground Inspection Report. **Noted**
- f) A resident of Edward Street regarding an unsafe wall.  
This matter was reported to Barnsley MBC's Highways Department by the Chair, and the Clerk had informed the resident to contact Barnsley MBC's Estates department to determine its ownership, as the Parish Council were not responsible for its maintenance.

### 3373 Allotments

There were no allotment issues raised.

### 3374 Planning

The clerk asked members to confirm their response to the proposed High Street development, following previous telephone consultation. **Agreed**

Proposed Cllr P Gregg                      seconded Cllr D P Coates.

### 3375 Member's Recommendations

**Cllr D P Coates** asked if SYPT executive could paint the bus stop on Rotherham Road and replace the shelter on Lister Row.- **Noted** The Clerk to enquire if this was possible.

- Informed members that Sandhill Primary School choir were not available to sing at the Christmas Light switch on, however another Choir may be available, but would require a £100 fee. Members were asked to confirm their agreement to this. **Agreed**

Proposed Cllr P Gregg                      seconded Cllr T Neale

**Cllr T Neale** asked if a letter of thanks could be sent to Sandhill Primary School following their involvement in Remembrance Day. **Agreed**

**The Chair** informed members of the correspondence she had had, with The SYPT executive over the reduced service affecting the village. **Noted**.

### 3376 Clerk's Financial Statement

The Clerk presented the accounts for September and October 2021

It was proposed by Cllr P Gregg and seconded by Cllr T Neale that the accounts be approved and accepted as correct and signed accordingly.

Members discussed the need for the Parish Council to have a Credit card in order that any future purchases made, where cheques are not accepted, would ensure that VAT can still be claimed back.

Agreed with a limit of £1.5k

Proposed Cllr G Frame                      seconded Cllr A Goddard

Following discussion the following hire charges for the Welfare Hall (from 1st April 2022 ) were proposed and agreed.

Main Hall £12:50/hr (village residents) - £15/hr (non residents)

Main Hall + Kitchen £15/hr (village residents) - £17:50/hr (non residents)

Commercial Hires are negotiable (£20/hr minimum)

Proposed Cllr D P Coates                      seconded Cllr G Frame

### **3377 Parochial Matters**

Members discussed the on going issues regarding the former caretaker and her request to present (or allow her husband) to present her complaints /grievances at the current council meeting.

Following discussion it was proposed and agreed that the caretaker be asked to put their complaints / grievances in writing and submit them to the Clerk before the next meeting, which both her and her husband could attend.

The Clerk immediately contacted her husband (by phone) and informed him of the decision, which was to be confirmed in writing.

Proposed Cllr P Gregg    seconded Cllr G Frame

### **3378 Any Other Business**

**Cllr P Gregg** informed members that the village cafe was closing and that the village club had already closed. He suggested that in view previous development issues it may be appropriate to investigate the need to apply for the club premises to be classed as an Asset of Community Value. **Noted** Cllr P Gregg to pursue.

#### **Note**

Prior to the Parochial Matters issue being discussed in private, as per standing orders. The Village Caretaker asked that the matter in hand be resolved amicably as he respected both parties.

He also expressed to members how much he had enjoyed being employed by them and thanked them for their support over the years. **Noted**

### **3379 Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting(s) will be held in the Welfare Hall on

Wednesday 8th December 2021

Wednesday 19th January 2021

All meetings will start at 7:00pm