

HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 4th October 2022 at 19.00
at Houghton Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors: A Young (Chairman), L Adams (Vice Chairman), A Dougall, J Coombes, P Chant, L Middleton.
Borough Cllr A Johnston, County Cllr D Drew.

Members of the Public: 14
Minutes: Mrs C L Cotterell (Clerk)
The meeting started at 19.00

Item Minute

1. Chairman's Welcome and Public Participation

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. Two residents wished to speak on items 5d) and 6.
A resident advised that an appeal has been lodged for a property in North Houghton, TVBC will notify when an inspector is appointed and comments can be submitted.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Parish Cllr Battey.

3. Declarations of Interest

To declare an interest in any items of business on this agenda – None.

4. Minutes

To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings held on:

- a) 5th July 2022 – Full Council Meeting - **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Dougall, seconded Cllr Adams.
- b) 1st August 2022 – Extraordinary Meeting – **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Adams, seconded Cllr Middleton.
- c) 9th August 2022 – Extraordinary Meeting - **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Middleton, seconded Cllr Adams.

5. Planning – To propose a response to the following Planning Applications

- a) 22/02266/VARS - Variation of condition 11 of 21/03673/VARS (Variation of condition 10 of 19/01615/FULLS (Two storey extension, garage conversion erection of new garage; construction of detached dwelling including package treatment plant) to allow enlarged footprint of dwelling and dormer to rear) to replace the proposed 'Bio-bubble' treatment plant with the existing Biotec P6 treatment plant to continue to serve the existing dwelling and to install a Klargest Bioficient treatment plant to serve the new dwelling - Martins, Horsebridge Road, Houghton – **Resolved** - No Comment – Proposed Cllr Chant, seconded Cllr Coombes.
- b) 22/02290/FULLS - Demolition of outbuilding, erection of cartshed with home office over - Whitewalls, Houghton Road, North Houghton – **Resolved** – Support, with comment that any deciduous trees removed will be replaced – Proposed Cllr Middleton, seconded Cllr Coombes.
- c) 22/02310/FULLS - Formation of tennis court - Whitewalls, Houghton Road, North Houghton – **Resolved** - Support, with comment that any deciduous trees removed will be replaced – Proposed Cllr Middleton, seconded Cllr Adams.
- d) 22/02325/FULLS - Construction of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic farm with ancillary infrastructure - Gander Down Solar Farm, (Adjacent to Eveley Solar Farm), Stevens Drove, Houghton – **Resolved** – Objection - Houghton Parish Council support renewable energy production but agree that solar panels should go on buildings and not farmland. Therefore, the Council object to this application for a solar farm on the grounds of loss of good farmland, damage to the topsoil, altering the soil microclimate, effect on water and flooding, biodiversity and effect on nature – Proposed Cllr Dougall, seconded Cllr Adams.

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County and Borough Cllrs Reports

Cllr Drew reported:

Cllr Drew spoke about the late Queen Elizabeth II and had attended the proclamation of King Charles III.
HCC are increasing payments for hosting Ukraine guests.
HCC are currently testing gritting equipment and routes.
Drivers skills scheme for older drivers is available.
HCC team has been shortlisted in Social Services Worker of the Year awards.

Cllr Johnston reported:

Cllr Johnston is now a member of the TVBC Planning Committee.
TVBC Grants are available - contact Cllr Johnston to apply.

6. TVBC Planning Enforcement Case 21/0507/REG – Oaklands, Chapel Close

To receive an update and agree any action required.

The enforcement officer has reported he is investigating a complaint alleging a material change of use for the outbuilding.

Cllr Dougall reported he attended a conference workshop on planning enforcement and informed that an enforcement officer will be happy to meet with Cllrs to explain the enforcement process.

7. Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments

To consider the options for external audit for the period 2022-23 to 2026-27 – Cllrs **resolved** to opt in to the central scheme – Proposed Cllr Dougall, seconded Cllr Adams.

8. Finance

a) To propose acceptance of the financial statement for the periods 1st July – 31st August 2022 and 1st – 30th September 2022 – **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Adams, seconded Cllr Coombes.

b) To approve the following Schedule of Payments – **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Coombes, seconded JC LM

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Payroll/HMRC PAYE	£1033.60	Clerks/Office Expenses	£76.68
PKF Littlejohn LLP (ex audit)	£360.00	D Robins (Grass cutting 2022)	£960.00
Imperative Training (defib battery)	£256.80		

c) To consider grass cutting quotation for 2023 at £992.00 – **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Young, seconded Cllr Dougall, all agreed.

Bank balance as at 30 September 2022 - £60,095.24

9. Correspondence

Correspondence received regarding traffic and parking on Stevens Drove.

Cllrs noted the resident's correspondence and agreed to forward the letter to Cllr David Drew, Cllr Drew will investigate highways options available and report back.

Cllrs discussed the overgrown laurel hedge in Stevens Drove and agreed that the Chairman to speak to resident first. It was noted that the fence alongside the footpath to church is falling over.

10. Houghton Allotments

To discuss.

The appeal has been withdrawn and the owner wishes to discuss options informally with the Parish Council. The community asset team at TVBC have advised that informal discussion can take place. It was noted that any discussion should involve the trustees of the land. Cllrs agreed to obtain a ball park valuation figure at no cost. Cllr Middleton agreed to take on chairmanship of Allotments Association and Mr Page was thanked for his efforts as Allotments Chairman.

11. Community Engagement

To discuss formats for community engagement for CIL money expenditure and playground refurbishment. It was agreed to draft a community engagement questionnaire to be circulated with the Village News.

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12. CCTV

- a) To receive an update – all cameras working fine, reminder that footage can only be used when reported to NHW or Police. 2 incidents have been captured by cameras but were not followed up by police.
- b) Third Party Certification – **Resolved** to pay the 1st step of Third Party Certification at a cost of £371.00 + VAT – Proposed Cllr Adams, seconded Cllr Young.
- c) To consider an extra honorarium to resident – Cllrs **resolved** to pay a further £16.00 to a resident hosting one of the cameras – Proposed Cllr Adams, seconded Cllr Young.

13. Stevens Drove BOAT

To receive an update on the hedges and tracks –

The Chairman reported a very positive response to the condition of the BOAT, since work carried out by Bossington Estate. Cllrs agreed a vote of thanks to Bossington Estate, the Chairman will send an email of thanks.

14. Next Meeting

Full Council Meeting – Tuesday 8th November 2022 at 19.00

Meeting closed at 20.32

These minutes were approved at the meeting held on Tuesday 8th November 2022