

HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 19.00
at Houghton Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors: A Young (Chairman), L Adams (Vice Chairman), J Coombes, A Dougall,
P Chant.
County Cllr D Drew.
Planning Consultant Steve Lees.

Members of the Public: 8

Minutes: Mrs C L Cotterell (Parish Clerk)

The meeting started at 19.00

Item Minute

1. Chairman's Welcome and Public Participation

Cllr Young welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Parish Cllr Middleton.

3. Declarations of Interest

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

4. Borough and County Cllrs

To receive reports.

Cllr Drew's report included the following (full report published on PC website):

- Future services consultation – Cllr Drew highlighted some of the services at risk including Waste Recycling Centres.
- 9 out of 10 Year 6 pupils offered 1st choice secondary school.
- County Council receive assurances from Southern Water.
- Trading standards welcome prosecution of fraudulent roofing trader. Website available to check traders www.buywithconfidence@gov.uk
- HCC Council tax 4.99% increase for 24-25.
- Hampshire young people being asked to make their mark through consultation.
- A new transport plan to be considered by HCC.

Cllr Drew confirmed potholes should still be reported using the HCC portal but offered to receive information from the PC about potholes in the village.

5. Flooding/Drains

To receive an update – It was noted that due to recent heavy rain there has been major flooding with properties at risk. HCC have sent out a tanker to pump out. The lengthsman will be able to clear the silt ditch when empty of water. After discussion it was agreed to look into setting up a resilience plan and/or tapping into TVBC resilience plan. HPC to contact the Community Engagement Officer at TVBC for advice and help with this and look at obtaining funding. Cllrs agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting soon.

6. SSEN/HCC Roadworks

To consider any action required – Cllr Dougall proposed that HPC send a letter to SSEN and copy in HCC Highways expressing concern about access problems for residents caused by the roadworks and asking for better communication and signage – **Resolved** to send the letter to SSEN and copy to HCC Highways and County Cllr Drew – Proposed Cllr Dougall, seconded Cllr Chant.

7. River Pollution Working Group

- a) To receive an update on the Pan Parish Group – Cllr Dougall gave an update on the Pan Parish group and had circulated the minutes from the first meeting held on 27th February – the minutes will be published on the PC website, along with a press release when available. The next meeting of the Pan Parish group will be held on 9th April at the village hall.

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A resident asked if the Pan Parish group will raise a question with TVBC Planning about whether the infrastructure of drainage systems, provided by Southern Water, are adequate with new housing developments.

- b) To receive an update on the water monitoring equipment – it was noted that the equipment is on order.

8. TVBC Local Plan 2040 Regulation 18 Stage 2 Public Consultation

To consider a response to the consultation – Planning Consultant Steve Lees shared his report on the consultation and suggested responses the Parish Council could make – Cllrs agreed to submit a response to the consultation based on the consultant's report – Cllr Dougall agreed to draft the response.

9. NPPF Changes

To receive an update – Cllrs agreed no comment to the changes.

10. HCC Future Services Consultation

To consider a response to the consultation – Cllrs agreed to submit a response to include some of the services highlighted by Cllr Drew as being at risk – Cllr Dougall agreed to draft a response for the PC.

11. Planning

- a) 24/00355/VARS - Variation of Condition 1 (Approved plans) of 21/03141/FULLS (Construction of an agricultural/horticultural storage and propagation building (Part retrospective) to allow for increase in ridge height and windows to side elevations - Home Spring, Houghton Road, North Houghton – **Resolved to object** on the grounds of the roof height, already constructed to increased dimensions without planning approval, increased side glazing potentially spilling artificial lighting on neighbouring properties and the fitting of new joists on already damaged timbers. Proposed Cllr Adams, seconded Cllr Dougall, voted 4 for, 1 abstention. Proposal carried.
- b) To consider a response to any other applications received – **None received.**

12. Minutes and Updates

- a) To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings held on:
- i) Full Council - 9th January 2024
 - ii) Extraordinary Meeting - 23rd January 2024
 - iii) Extraordinary Meeting - 13th February 2024
- Resolved** - Proposed Cllr Adams, seconded Cllr Chant.
- b) To receive any updates – **None.**

13. Play Area

To receive an update – Cllr Coombes gave an update of a proposed design provided from a company free of charge, a detailed specification will follow, once received and reviewed by Cllrs, funding will be investigated and feedback on the proposed design will be invited from residents.

14. CCTV Update and annual review of honorariums

- a) To receive an update from the CCTV Working Group – The CCTV Working Group update was circulated and **noted**. (Attached as appendix).
- b) To review and approve annual honorariums – **Resolved** to pay an honorarium of £60.00 per householder for 23-24 – Proposed Cllr Adams, seconded Cllr Chant.
- c) To consider CCTV reinstatement/relocation works – **Resolved** to approve the reinstatement/relocation works at £584.00 + VAT, it was noted that a donation may be forthcoming to cover this expenditure – Proposed Cllr Chant, seconded Cllr Coombes.

Thanks were given to Dennis Stephens for his work with the CCTV working group.

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15. Finances

- a) To propose acceptance of the financial statement for the period 1st January – 29th February 2024 – **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Dougall, seconded Cllr Adams.
- b) To approve the following Schedule of Payments – **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Dougall, seconded Cllr Coombes.

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Payroll/HMRC	£1170.00	Clerks/office expenses	£75.60
HugoFox website DD 2x months	£23.98	Absolute Security CCTV Main	£584.00+VAT
CCTV Honorariums	£180.00	TVBC Dog bin emptying	£133.94
Steve Lees Planning Consultant	£500.00	Watr – Monitoring Equipment	£5898.00

Bank balance as at 29th February 2024 - £65,167.36

16. Next Meetings

- Extraordinary Meeting – Resilience Plan – **Tuesday 19th March 2024 at 19.00**
- Annual Parish Assembly – **Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 19.00** – **Resolved** to approve cost of refreshments up to £60.00 – Proposed Cllr Dougall, seconded Cllr Coombes.
- Annual Council Meeting – **Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 19.00**

Meeting closed at 21.06

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Appendix

CCTV update

The Houghton CCTV Scheme has been in operation now for fast approaching 2 years. The introduction of the cameras sought to provide some reassurance to residents that, should crimes be committed within our area, then there is at least some opportunity to provide evidence of suspect vehicles and/or persons.

The scheme now runs in tandem with two 'WhatsApp' groups - one locally for the village and the second being a wider area and surrounding villages. This information sharing has proved invaluable for early warning of suspects, physical support in live scenarios and the ability to focus on times and dates - which makes reviewing the camera images more efficient.

During the latest period the Police have been provided with good evidence which has resulted in the detention of several individuals and the seizure of vehicles. A total of 6 suspects have been detained in different incidents and evidence seized. Two recent cases of note:

1. A recently stolen 'online delivery' vehicle from Stockbridge was driven to Houghton by the suspects, delivery parcels were then unloaded into the thieves vehicle and driven from the village. CCTV images were provided to the Police - investigations continue.
2. Following an afternoon burglary in Houghton the WhatsApp group supported by the CCTV team moved into action. The subsequent 999 call from the village was able to provide detailed information from one of the cameras resulting in the arrest of a local man and a vehicle used in the crime seized as evidence.

Further to this the Police have recently contacted the CCTV Team regarding a serious offence requesting access to camera footage for relevant evidence.

Ongoing assistance is being provided to the Police regarding a burglary and theft of expensive plant and vehicles on the 18th January from the electrical engineers temporary compound in Houghton. The newly formed compound has been established to hold vehicles, heavy plant and buildings whilst electric cable is updated through the village.

It would be wrong to suggest that there have not been challenges along the way with the necessity to move one of the cameras earlier in the year, but in general all 3 cameras continue to provide good images. The quality, times and dates are regularly checked - this process is logged and undertaken in order to maintain the integrity of the scheme.

A review is currently being undertaken regarding the position of the cameras and protection afforded. One camera was recently damaged, it appears to have been a vindictive act and an attempt to affect the overall effectiveness of the scheme.

In terms of policy there have been some high level meetings with Hampshire Police looking at response and investigations. Also, and at a very early stage - how the law works with disclosing owner/driver details, particularly when vehicles are used in crime.

Houghton CCTV Team