

HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 26th September 2017
at Houghton Village Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Parish Councillors: P Page (Chairman), I Burt (Vice Chairman),
P Kennesion, L Adams.

Members of the Public: 6

Minutes: Mrs Clare Cotterell - Parish Clerk

The meeting started at 7.30pm

1	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Parish Cllrs Scougall and Young and Borough Cllr Boulton.	Noted
2	Declaration of Interest Cllr Kennesion declared an interest in Item 4a and stated he would not comment or vote.	Noted
3	Public Participation - <i>This item will be limited to 15 minutes, unless directed otherwise by the Chairman.</i> This item was moved to after Planning. A resident requested that updates on the Community Benefit Fund were added as an agenda item for future meetings and minuted. Cllr Burt confirmed that it had been minuted frequently in previous meetings and an update on the progress of the charitable status will be an agenda item at the next meeting in November.	Ag Item
4	Planning Cllrs to propose a response to be submitted to TVBC in relation to the following applications: a) 17/02302/FULLS – Single garage and store on land opposite - 2 Manor Farm Cottages, Houghton – Resolved to Support – Proposed Cllr Page, seconded Cllr Burt, all agreed. b) 17/02356/FULLS - Installation of package treatment plant in front garden – Langdale, Chapel Close, Houghton – Resolved No Objection – Proposed Cllr Page, seconded Cllr Burt, all agreed. c) 17/02017/FULLS - Demolition of existing buildings on site and construction of detached dwelling to include package treatment plant, new access and entrance gates – Land adjacent to Meadow View, Houghton – There was an extended discussion and concerns were raised regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the size of the proposed property within a small plot • the fact that TVBC have placed a Woodland Preservation Order on the copse and that several trees already have Preservation Orders on them • the removal of a valuable woodland site and wildlife habitat in the last remaining copse in the village • additional traffic and poor site lines from the proposed access • Houghton has had several housing developments approved already at the southern end of the village. <p>It was noted that several residents present at the meeting will be submitting their own objections to this application. Resolved to Object –“The proposed development site comprises a woodland copse. The last such copse in the village. TVBC have recently inspected the copse and deemed it of such note to apply a Woodland Preservation Order on the whole site following an application to undertake tree works prior to the submission of this planning application and we respectfully suggest the Case Officers report in respect of the Woodland Preservation Order be specifically referred to in connection with this application. It was noted that there are a number of good healthy trees on the site that support a Rookery and wildlife is abundant in the copse, supporting considerable bio-diversity. There has already been a significant loss of similar wildlife abundant sites to development in close vicinity to the proposed site and another 13 houses have been approved for development just opposite. This has had a detrimental impact on bird life in the area, particularly to the owl population including The Little and Barn Owls which until recently have been prevalent in the area using the water meadows and fields which extend east of the site for foraging. This copse is also essential for the first return of Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps to the village in Spring.</p> <p>The copse is the last remaining piece of woodland in the heart of the village. The Houghton and Bossington Conservation document adopted in 1990 marked the copse as containing 'important trees and groups of trees'. It lies directly on part of the</p>	

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	<p>historic Clarendon Way where this passes through the village, used by walkers and parishioners. It forms a significant part of the rural character to the southern end of the village which is gradually being eroded by development. The village has had a 20% increase in house building over the past 10 years and the Council believe that there is no necessity for such a significantly large house to be built on the sole remaining and environmentally valuable village copse." – Proposed Cllr Page, seconded Cllr Burt, all agreed.</p>	
5	<p>Audited Annual Return</p> <p>a) Cllrs to accept the external auditors' opinion and approve the Annual Return and Certificate (if received) and propose an action plan for any actions required – Cllrs agreed to accept the external auditors' opinion and reviewed the matters raised:</p> <p>i) Internal auditor's recommendations – Agreed to review the recommendations at the next meeting in November.</p> <p>ii) Lack of employment contract – This has already been resolved. Proposed Cllr Burt, seconded Cllr Page, all agreed.</p> <p>b) Cllrs to approve the payment of the external audit invoice (if received) – Cllrs approved the payment to the external auditors of £1,300.00 + VAT - Proposed Cllr Page, seconded Cllr Adams, all agreed.</p>	Ag Item
6	Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 7th November 2017 at 7.30pm.	

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

These minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman at the Council meeting held on 7th November 2017