



**Hough & Chorlton  
Parish Council**

**12 FEBRUARY 2018, HOUGH VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Anne Broome (Chairman), Cllr Graham Bennion (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Amanda Copnall, Cllr Richard Dodd, Cllr Helen Hamlin, Cllr Debbie Hewitt, Cllr Grenville Vale and Cllr Andrew Welch

**17.84 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Virginia McFarlane and Borough Cllr Janet Clowes

**17.85 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Hewitt had previously declared an interest in Planning Application 17/5886N and took no part in any discussion thereon.

**17.86 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 08 JANUARY 2018**

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

**17.87 POLICE MATTERS**

**17.87.1 Cluster Meeting**

Cllr Vale gave feedback from the Cluster meeting held in January 2018. It was noted that the PCSO's were still being trained in the use of the hand-held enforceable speed guns and, once completed, would be used throughout the area. There had only been a couple of minor incidents reported to the police in Hough. The next meeting was to be held on 16 April 2018, to which Cllr Vale would be attending.

In order to enable a detailed discussion on local policing matters, the Clerk was asked to invite police representatives to a future meeting of the Council.

**17.87.2 Speed Indicator Devices (SID)**

Councillors considered the SIDs report for January and the analysis of the information for the six months of the SID in its current location. During this period, the report showed an average of 32% of vehicles travelled over the speed limit. It was suggested that this was one of the items for discussion when the police attend a Parish Council meeting.

**17.88 HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

**17.88.1 Street Lighting**

With regards to the project to install LED street lighting in the area, it was noted that there was still one light in Buck Lane that had not been replaced. The Clerk was asked to report this to the Borough Council.

**17.88.2 Crewe Green Roundabout**

Although outside the area, Councillors noted the disruption caused by these roadworks on this major thoroughfare, which was scheduled to continue to November 2018.

**17.88.3 Hough Footpath No.8**

This had been referred to the Borough Council's Planning Enforcement Team and feedback was awaited. It was reported that the further deterioration to the site had occurred.

#### **17.88.4 Waybutt Lane**

Borough Cllr Clowes had submitted information regarding major earthworks taking place off Waybutt Lane, although the majority of this was outside the Cheshire East boundary. There was concern about damage to Waybutt Lane and this would be monitored by the Borough Council.

### **17.89 ENVIRONMENT MATTERS**

#### **17.89.1 Noticeboard**

Cllr Bennion provided an update on the provision of the noticeboard whereby Councillors had indicated their design preference. Three prices had been obtained and Noticeboards Online had provided the best quote for an 18-sheet display on a smaller footprint.

RESOLVED – that the Council orders the 18-sheet display Noticeboard from Noticeboards Online at a cost of £2,104 (+VAT)

#### **17.89.2 Lengthsman**

The Council was reminded that following the retirement of the former Lengthsman, it was agreed that a pilot be undertaken utilising a company to provide the service. At the last meeting, a quote had been received from Streetscape and a pilot visit arranged for earlier on the day of this meeting. Cllr Bennion would be reviewing their performance the next day and reporting back to Councillors via e-mail.

Councillors suggested that a completed list of works should be provided by the company to enable the review of performance. It was noted that a comparative quote had been requested from ANSA but this was still awaited.

#### **17.89.3 Best Kept Village Competition**

Cheshire Community Action had arranged the Best Kept Village Competition 2018. The cost of entry was £50. Previously, the Council entered the competition each year, although there had not been one in 2017.

RESOLVED – that the Council enters the Best Kept Village Competition and authorises the sum of £50 be spent as the cost of the application.

#### **17.89.4 The Common**

Cllr Bennion referred to the works required on The Common and the quote received for this work. There was £1,150 in this year's budget for works to The Common. No further quotes had been sought yet, however, as two of the five elements to the works were now considered urgent, it would be necessary to undertake these as a matter of emergency. These were works to the trees and repairs to the fence as the condition of both was a concern. The other works would be considered following the receipt of further quotes.

RESOLVED:-

- i) that in order to undertake the urgent safety works, Standing Order 3.21.2 be suspended and Clause 11.1a of Financial Regulations relating to emergency works be utilised;
- ii) the quote from T. W. Heler for the works to trees and fences be accepted and the works proceed as a matter of urgency; and
- iii) further quotes be sought for the other elements of work agreed for The Common.

#### **17.89.5 Dog Fouling**

Owing to an increase in the incidence of dog fouling, appropriate signs would be displayed around the parish.

#### **17.89.6 Trees on Cobbs Lane, Hough**

Cllr Vale gave details of two problems with trees along Cobbs Lane. One related to a damaged tree which required removal and the other related to overgrown trees

adversely affecting visibility at the junction with Westgate Park. The Clerk would refer these to the Borough Council.

**17.90 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr Hewitt provided an update on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan. Parishes had been asked to submit details of approved housing developments between 2010-2017. The Clerk had circulated this list with a view to Councillors checking that it was complete. Councillors noted the Habitat Distinctiveness Maps.

**17.91 WW1 COMMEMORATIVE PROJECT**

The Chairman reminded Councillors that the Council still had £542 remaining from the grant received in 2015. There was a discussion as to a suitable event to commemorate the end of WW1 and suggestions included a Fete and a Ceilidh. The Council supported the organisation of a commemorative event and a Sub-Committee be established to consider and arrange this. Membership to be Cllrs Vale (Chairman), Bennion, Copnall, Dodd, Hamlin, Hewitt and McFarlane.

**17.92 VILLAGE HALL**

**17.92.1 Working Party**

Cllr Dodd gave an update on the work of the Village Hall Working Party. It was becoming increasingly challenging to maintain the fabric of the Hall therefore it had been suggested that redevelopment be considered which would also enhance the range of events that could be accommodated. Councillors discussed suggestions for the re-modelling which included a stage, separate meeting room and play area outside. It was important to engage with residents to get their support for any such redevelopment.

The Council gave its strong support to the principle of redevelopment and the suggested elements for the re-modelling. The next step would be to hold a joint meeting between the Parish Council and Village Hall Management Committee to prepare to take the project forward.

**17.92.2 Support**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from the Management Committee for additional support, particularly towards the cost of utilities. It was noted that in the 2018/19 budget, the Council had included the sum of £2,000 for support for the Village Hall, in addition to £200 towards the watering of baskets and other planters.

**17.92.3 Events Update**

The Chairman gave details of the following events at the Village Hall –

- The next bingo date was Wednesday 14 February 2018 and will be in aid of a local charity. Doors would open at 6.30pm, with an opportunity to participate in the Tombola;
- There would be a pastel art workshop at the Village Hall on Friday 23 March from 9.30am to 12.30pm, in aid of the Village Hall; and
- There will be a Spring Fair at the Village Hall on Saturday 14 April from 10am to 12.30pm, with a variety of craft stalls and refreshments.

**17.93 PLANNING MATTERS**

**17.93.1 Planning Applications for Consideration**

18/0162N	Dovehouse Farm, Cobbs Lane, Hough	Proposed new agricultural cattle building <i>No comments</i>
18/0412N	4, Chidlow Close, Hough	Ground Floor Side Extension <i>No comments</i>

18/0334W	Hough Mill Quarry, Back Lane, Walgherton	Variation of Condition to extend time to complete restoration works  <i>No comments</i>
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### 17.93.2 Update on Planning Applications

17/6335N	Hollies Boarding Kennels, Birch Lane, Hough	Outline application for the demolition of kennels and associated buildings and the erection of 3 no. detached dwellings and ancillary works.  <i>No decision to date (target decision date 12 March 2018 – delegated authority)</i>
17/5781N	The Coppice, Birch Lane	Erection of four-bedroom dwelling house (amendment to approved application 14/3632N)  <i>Refused – much larger than original dwelling</i>
17/5886N	Hough Hall, Hough	Listed Building Consent for the reordering of two existing bathrooms into one larger bathroom and a small scale en-suite.  <i>Approved with Conditions</i>
17/3846N	Basford Old Creamery, Newcastle Road, Chorlton	Variation of condition 4 on application 15/4224N - Demolition of existing buildings and erection of replacement detached single storey industrial unit for B1, B2 and B8 classifications. Erection of acoustic walling to boundaries.  <i>No decision to date (further noise assessments had been sought)</i>
17/3850N	Basford Old Creamery, Newcastle Road, Chorlton	Removal of condition 9 on application 16/1987N - New industrial building replacing existing buildings, retaining B1, B2 and B8 classifications.  <i>No decision to date (further noise assessments had been sought)</i>
16/3829W	Casey Lane Stables, Casey Lane, Basford	Improvement of land via removal of previously deposited ash/clinker, and restoration to agricultural and equestrian after use via importation and placement of inert and soil-forming material (including ancillary works)  <i>Committee Date: 28 March 2018</i>

## 17.94 FINANCIAL MATTERS

### 17.94.1 Finance Report

The Council considered the Finance report submitted by the Responsible Financial Officer. The reported provided a bank reconciliation, update on spending against budget and projected end of year forecast. The Council's financial position as at 30 January 2018 totalled £20,789.75, whilst there was a further £5,703 remaining in the Neighbourhood Plan budget.

### 17.94.2 Payments

RESOLVED – that the following payments be approved:

Method	No.	Payee	Reason	Total	VAT
Cheque	34	Noticeboards Online	Noticeboard	£2,529.60	£421.60
Cheque	35	Laptops Direct	Laptop, Mouse & software	£649.53	£108.25
Cheque	36	Mark Robinson	Printer and Ink	£220.69	£36.78
Cheque	36	Mark Robinson	Email address	£21.53	£3.59
Cheque	36	Mark Robinson	Expenses inc. telephone	£55.20	
Cheque	37	ChALC	Training x 3	£205.00	
Cheque	38	Shire Pay Services	PAYE Mth 10	£14.50	
S/O		Jeff Rance	Grass cutting	£460.00	
S/O		Mark Robinson	Salary February	£244.32	
S/O		Mike Webster	Landscaping February	£380.00	£63.33
			Total	£4,780.37	£633.55

### 17.94.3 Bank Accounts

RESOLVED – that:-

- i) the Council closes the Yorkshire Bank savings account; and
- ii) the Council applies to the Natwest Bank for online access to view the account.

## 17.95 CLERK'S REPORT

### 17.95.1 Town and Parish Council Conference

The Conference would be held on 20 February and the Chairman would be in attendance. Cllr Copnall advised that she also wished to attend.

### 17.95.2 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Clerk provided an update on the requirements of the GDPR, although it was noted that the full implications had yet to be determined as the legislation was still to be finalised. It was agreed that the financial implications would be considered at the next meeting.

### 17.95.3 Website

The Clerk asked Councillors to review the website and make suggestions as to how it could be improved. It was noted that the Clerk had the access and skills to undertake any such improvements.

## 17.96 PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- Cllr Vale advised that he had reported incidents of fly tipping on Casey Lane and broken branches on Newcastle Road;
- With regards to the police using the Village Hall as an office, this would be considered at the next meeting; and
- Cllr Welch commented on the problems with the brook at the rear of his property and this would be referred to the Borough Council.

## 17.97 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were present.

## 17.98 DATES OF MEETINGS 2018

It was noted that Borough Cllr Clowes could not attend meetings on the second Monday of the month, therefore, it was agreed to change the dates of meetings for 2018

RESOLVED – that the following dates be agreed –

05 March, 09 April (including Annual Parish meeting), 14 May (Annual Meeting), 04 June, 02 July, 03 September, 01 October and 12 November 2018

**17.99 CONTRACTS**

The Council reviewed the quotes from the current grass cutting and landscaping contractors. The requirements of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were noted together with guidance from Chalc and SLCC. Councillors commented on the quality and reliability of the existing contractors compared to their predecessors. However, in order to proceed to accept these quotes without obtaining further quotes would require the suspension of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. Councillors reviewed the risks however as these were the extension to existing contracts and with only small uplifts on the current year's prices, then the quality and reliability offered by these contractors provided Councillors with the assurance that the decision provided both value for money and quality of service.

RESOLVED – that:-

- i) the Council suspends Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to enable the following decision;
- ii) owing to the quality and reliability of the service and ensured continuation, the contracts from Jeff Rance and M W Webster be extended for a year on the prices as quoted;
- iii) the Council considers its contract award process in good time for the 2019/20 contracts to enable the award of a longer contract if appropriate and obtaining more quotes.

The meeting, which commenced at 7.30pm, closed at 09.30pm