

**Little Houghton Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7 pm on Monday, January 11th, 2021. This meeting was held virtually.**

**Present:** Mr Vince Keating  
Mrs Diana Young  
Mr Gary Oldfield  
Mrs Lisa Oldfield  
Mr Kevin Osborne  
Mrs V Wistow

**In Attendance:**  
Ms Caroline Donovan Clerk to the Council

**1. Questions from Parishioners**

No questions from Parishioners had been received.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence had been received.

**3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

**4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising that were not included on the agenda.

**5. Correspondence**

The Clerk updated the Parish Councillors that an e mail had been received from a local resident about some recent issues at the bus turnaround area. Concerns were raised regarding fly tipping, litter, and drug use. The resident said she had spoken to Councillor Wistow about her concerns. She was interested in either buying or renting the land and asked the Parish Councillors to consider her request.

Councillor Osborne said that the fly tipping in the area had been picked up and the contents of a grey bin had been cleared. The nitrous oxide cannisters had been reported to the Police along with some that had been found in Middlecliff. Councillor Osborne said that the supply of nitrous oxide is an offence, but the possession of it is not an offence. A Parish Councillor said that she had seen a couple in the lay by next to the Post Box that meet there five nights a week and who regularly leave litter in the area. Would it be possible to have an additional streetlight, and would this help to reduce the anti-social behaviour in the area? It was agreed that a more visible police presence would help from 5.30 until 7.00 pm, and that the Sergeant and the Tasking Officer from the Safer Neighbourhood Team should be contacted to request this. The Clerk said she would forward the contact details of the Safer Neighbourhood Team on to the Parish Councillors so they could contact them.

The Clerk updated the meeting that she had received a quote from Lightmain to repair the safety surfacing @£325 plus VAT. The Parish Councillors agreed that this work should go ahead as soon as possible,

## 6. Parish Council Asset – Wildflower Meadow

A discussion took place regarding the Wildflower Meadow. A Parish Councillor said that he had not had a response from BMBC's assets department regarding the value of renting the land for allotments or grazing land, but if the area were turned into allotments or grazing land then there would be more footfall in the area, and residents would be able to grow their own produce. This would then be using the land for the benefit of the residents. The approximate current rent for an allotment is in the region of £35 per year. Water would not need to be installed as the allotment holders could use water barrels. A Parish Councillor said she liked the idea of the allotments but thought there could be difficulties regarding managing the site as allotments, arranging tenancies, and dealing with any problems.

A Parish Councillor said if we do agree to sell the land then it needs to be sold with outline planning permission and be sold on the open market, and if houses were built on the area then it may help anti-social behaviour. A Parish Councillor said it might just move the anti-social behaviour somewhere else in the Parish. A considered and in-depth discussion followed, and it was agreed that the land was a valuable asset and that the best course of action would be not to sell the land. It was agreed that for the next twelve months to maintain it and try and address the anti-social behaviour problems. This could be done by contacting the Safer Neighbourhood Team and asking for their advice and assistance, through using covert cameras and putting up notices saying "Covert cameras are operating in this area" in the area and by improving the lighting.

## 7. Finance

### 7.1 Parish Precept

It was agreed that there would be no increase in the Parish Precept for 2021 -2022.

### 7.2 Bank Reconciliation

The Parish Councillors noted that the bank reconciliation on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 was as follows:

Current Account brought forward		<b>£9,491.41.</b>
<b>Paid Out</b>		
Clerk Qu 3	270.17	
<b>Total</b>	<b>270.17</b>	
<b>Cash in Hand</b>		<b>£9,221.24</b>
<b>Outstanding</b>		
Totty's signs	82.80	
<b>Total Cash in Hand</b>		<b>£9,138.44</b>

**7.3 Accounts due for Payment**

BMBC Play Area Inspections	£348.00
BMBC Multi Use Games Area inspections	£348.00.
Grounds Maintenance Muga	£137.32
Flowers	£25.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£8,280.12</b>

The Parish Councillors agreed the payment of the accounts listed.

**8. Any Other Business**

Councillor Osbourne updated the meeting that he has been involved in some litter picks with the South Area Tidy Team. He had also contacted the Account Director at XPO Logistics regarding the litter around their premises and within two days the litter had been removed and all the litter bins had been emptied. He thanked XPO Logistics for being good neighbours.

A Parish Councillor raised the problem of dog fouling from the Cricket Club towards the dog bin. He said that the dog bin is full and so people are persistently throwing dog poo into the hedge, he counted sixteen bags in this area the other day. It was agreed to ask Colin to put some more dog fouling stencils on the pavement.

A Parish Councillor raised the problem of people parking on the corner of Jane's shop and how this caused problems with drivers exiting the junction and turning right as they could not see the oncoming traffic. He agreed to ask Highways and the Police to look at the problem and come up with some solutions, as residents did not want to reduce people stopping to go to the shop, but they were worried about the safety to drivers and pedestrians.

Councillor Wistow said she had been into Jane's shop and noticed that they had a collection box for the Christmas Light for 2021. The Parish Councillors agreed that they would like to donate £100 towards the fund, and Councillor Wistow would inform the Clerk who the cheque should be made payable too. The Parish Councillors asked for their thanks to Jane to be recorded for continuing to support the local community.

**9 Date and time of next meeting**

To be confirmed

**To:**

Mr V Keating  
Mrs D Young  
Mr G Oldfield  
Mrs L Oldfield  
Mrs V Wistow  
Mr K Osborne

c.c.

Councillor Trevor Smith, Pauline Markham, Caroline Saunders  
Peter Clark, Barnsley MBC, Governor Services