

Little Houghton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7 pm on Monday, September 13th, 2021. This meeting was held at Sandhill Golf Club.

Present: Mr Vince Keating
Mrs Diana Young

In Attendance:

Local Residents

Carol Tomlinson

Sandra Ford

Cheryl Hanson

Harry Hanson

Alan Caylor

Leslie Sowerby

Gaele Levy

Jill Harris

Katie Colbeck

Michaela Broadhead

Councillor Kevin Osborne

Darfield Ward Councillor

Ms Caroline Donovan

Clerk to the Council

1. Questions from Parishioners

A resident raised concerns that the roundabout at the bottom of Middlecliffe, which was sponsored by XPO logistics was covered in weeds and the black and white chevrons were dirty. Councillor Osborne said he would raise this with Highways and enquire what the sponsorship money is paying for. He will ask if this is to pay for shrub control and weed removal, and why has not this been completed. He will then feedback to the next Parish Council meeting.

A resident raised concerns about fire and chemical smells coming from the allotments at the bottom of Little Houghton at the rear of XPO Logistics. Councillor Osborne said that a fire in this area been reported to Environmental Services, and the had served the owner with a prohibition order not to burn any more rubbish. It was noted that if residents had any further concerns about burning at the allotments that there is a link on the Barnsley MBC website to report noxious smells.

A resident asked when the hedges are going to be cut back near the roundabouts as they were very dangerous and overhanging on to the footpaths. Also, there were some blackberry bushes overhanging Springvale Road which were growing on to the footpaths. The Chair replied that Barnsley MBC were trying to catch up with their scheduled work. A resident raised concerns with regard to one hedge which was overhanging the path on a travel to school route. Councillor Osborne said he would personally contact the landowner and ask him to cut it back.

Several residents raised their significant concerns with regard to the anti-social behaviour of some of the tenants who were rented rooms at Middlecliffe Mews which is being managed by My Space. They had been asked to keep a diary of events, and they were aware that somebody had been arrested. Councillor Osborne said that he has written to My Space informing them that the anti-social behaviour in the area has returned with open fighting in the streets and tenants openly smoking cannabis. He said when he first heard about this, he had contacted Mhairi, who was an Enforcement Officer at Barnsley MBC, and as the case includes minors the Safeguarding Team would have to be contacted. Mhairi has asked if residents in the area could keep diary sheets of any anti-social behaviour which could be completed anonymously. Councillor Osborne said he would deliver the diary sheets to local residents. A resident also said that he had telephoned the Police and was told it would take over an hour to talk to a Police Officer. Councillor Osborne said he felt that this was not acceptable and would contact the Police Commissioner. Councillor Osborne said the Barnsley MBC do have the power to shut down a property where they believe criminal offences are taking place, and that he would continue to raise this matter with Barnsley MBC.

The residents noted that the Parish Council would contact Fiona Tennyson, who is the Community Safety Team Leader for the area with regard to this matter.

A resident reported a streetlight that has not been working since February at the rear of Rotherham Road. It was pitch black in this area and she requested that it be repaired as soon as possible.

A resident asked with regard to the weeds being sprayed and the drains cleaned is this on a schedule, and what is the schedule please. Mr Colin Ward said he would look into this and report back.

A discussion took place with regard to the problems of litter in the Parish and why a caretaker was no longer employed to litter pick the area. The Chair explained that the responsibility for the maintenance, and health and safety requirements of the play area used to be carried out by Parks Services as a good will gesture. However due to various circumstances this was no longer possible, and the Parish Council had to take over this responsibility, which has incurred significant costs for the maintenance of the area. In addition, as this is a public open space, several health and safety inspections have to be carried out which include weekly health and safety checks which are required to satisfy the public liability insurance, regular 2 monthly inspection reports are required from Park Services, and an independent annual playground inspection is also required. The Chair explained that the play equipment has to be kept in a safe and good state of repair or it would have to be removed.

A resident said she knew people who would be willing to cut the grass which would help to cut the costs. It was also noted that volunteers could contact the South Area Team if they would like to help with litter picking. The person to contact is LisaLyon@barnsley.gov.uk, and they will be given support with regard to litter pickers and equipment.

A resident asked for more `no dog fouling stickers` to be put upon the lamp posts.

A resident asked if a notice board could be installed near the old post office as this would help to keep local people informed. Mr Colin Ward said he would ask the Cricket Club if they still used the notice board that they had, and if they did not use it perhaps it could be positioned in this area.

A resident said the parking outside the village shop was causing a problem with regard to cars trying to turn right at the end of Middlecliffe Lane, and would it be possible to have some parking bays put in to help this situation.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Gary Oldfield and Lisa Oldfield

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on July 26th, 2021

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on July 26th, 2021, were agreed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising

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

5. Co-options

It was noted that Mr Jeff Greasley had expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor but due to family illness would not be able to fulfil these duties at the moment.

It was noted that Mr Colin Ward had expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor and as he lives in the Parish is qualified to do so. As no other applications had been received it was agreed in principle, that Mr Colin Ward should become a co-opted Parish Councillor, and as the meeting was not quorate this would be included as an agenda item at the next meeting

6. Register of Interests forms

The Clerk requested that the Register of Interests forms be completed and returned to her as soon as possible. The Clerk will then forward them on to Governance Services.

7. Correspondence

The Parish Councillors noted the following correspondence:

- Amanda McGrath – A preserving nature document with regard to the land at the side of 169. Middlecliffe Lane, Little Houghton.
- Jo Birch, Barnsley MBC Parks Officer.
Parks Services have kindly put a link on the chain walkway. She has suggested that the Parish Council consider looking at any funding opportunities for the future maintenance of the play equipment.
- Virgin Money will charge the Parish Council a monthly service fee of £6.50 if more than 10 transactions are made in a month.

8. Finance**8.1 Bank Reconciliation**

The Parish Councillors noted that the bank reconciliation as per the bank statement as follows:

Current Account brought forward	£9,269.36
Paid In	0.00
Paid Out	
Bacs Grounds maintenance	£139.37
Bacs Parks maintenance	£489.14
Total	£628.51
Total cash in hand	£8,640.85

6.2 Accounts due for Payment

Please note these payments were agreed in principle only as the meeting was not quorate and will be deferred to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Clerk Qu 2	269.97
HMRC	67.60
Mr Laughton	70.00

9. Parish Council Web Site

It was agreed that the Clerk should progress matters with regard to the Parish Council web site.

7. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

8 Date and time of next meeting

Monday, November 29th at 7.00 pm at the Sandhill Golf Club

To:

Mr V Keating
Mrs D Young
Mr G Oldfield
Mrs L Oldfield

c.c.

Councillors Trevor Smith, Pauline Markham, Kevin Osborne
Peter Clark, Barnsley MBC, Governance Services