

MINUTES of the Hougham Parish Council meeting held at The Village Hall, Bridge Street, Marston on Thursday 22nd February 2018 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr M Barnatt Millns (in the Chair), Cllrs Forbes, Johnson, Scott and Wright, Dist Cllr Wood, Cty Cllr A Maughan, and two members of the public (one arrived at 7.50 pm).

30/17. There were no questions from the public.

31/17. There were no apologies.

32/17. There were no declarations of interest.

33/17. It was resolved unanimously to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 2017 and the Chairman signed them accordingly.

34/17. Planning matters:

S17/1383 – Mill House Farm – Cond 2 variation – approved.

S17/2315 and 2316 – Red House, Main Street – extension – approved.

S18/0094 - amendment to access at Grange Farm – pending consideration.

S17/2151 – barn conversation, Gelston Road – pending consideration

35/17. The damaged roadside at Main Street was bad again – this has been reported again. The drain outside Rose Cottage on Main Street is still blocked – Clerk had chased. Cllr Forbes provided photos of a huge pothole at Keepers Cottage – clerk to report.

36/17. Cllr Forbes presented some photographs regarding damage being caused by heavy farm vehicles. These were given to Cllr Maughan who will look into the legalities of this size of vehicle using rural roads and causing a lot of damage.

37/17. PCSO Mooney had looked at The Green where the owner of Chapel Barn Farm is turning his vehicle and trailer around. Clerk to ask PCSO Mooney to visit the owner. Clerk to get a price for a sign 2' square saying "No driving on The Green" – to go on a 2- metre high steel post.

38/17. The annual litter pick is to take place on 18th March. Cllr Forbes will be away but has already picked Church Lane and Manor Lane.

39/17. Cllr Maughan advised that the vote for the budget is to take place on 23.2.18. This is to be a 2-year budget taking them up to the end of the Government funding period. They will retain 100% of business rates and the Government grant. The revenue budget is £451,000,000. There will be a 4.95% increase on tax – 2.95% Council Tax and 2% precept. PCSO Mooney has a huge area to police and there will be a 5.8% increase in the policing budget. A & E will not re-open yet – UHT has not been honest and has changed the goalposts, and there has been no consultation.

Cllr Wood said SKDC's budget meeting is 1st March. Council tax will go up by £5 (3.5%). Their revenue budget is £17,000,000. Cinema project is capital expenditure – Savoy Cinemas are going to run it. Car parking charges are being debated – they don't want to increase them and deter people but could they go up a bit? 80p to £1 would be 25%!

40/17. Emergency Plan training will take place on 6th March in the afternoon. Venue to be agreed.

41/17. A vote was taken as to whether the Councillors want to merge with Marston PC and it was a unanimous "no".

42/17. Financial matters:

[a] It was resolved to approve and sign the Bank Reconciliation at 31.1.18.

[b] It was resolved to pay the LALC subscription of £83.62.

43/17. No correspondence had been received.

44/17. There is a vacancy on the Village Hall Committee but no Councillor wishes to put themselves forward. Clerk to write to the Countryside Access Team and copy to Cllr Maughan regarding rights of way in Hougham.

45/17. Next meeting will be on Thursday 31st May.

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm.