*Hougham Without Parish Council*

13th November 2018

Minutes of the Meeting.

Present:

Cllr Finnis - Chairman AF

Cllr Jodie Lamb - Vice-Chairman JL

Cllr Barry Barton BB

Cllr Don Taylor DT

Cathy Finnis - Clerk and RFO *(who composed these minutes)*

Apologies:

Cllr Chris Bryan - on holiday

KCC Cllr Geoff Lymer - at another meeting.

Parishioners present: 5

**18/63 Public Open Forum to discuss the Village Green and the complaints the council has had about the dog mess regularly found in the green.**

Cllr Finnis outlined the previous concerns raised by parishioners and there was a discussion about people’s experiences and the possible options.

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**18/64 To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies received from Cllr Chris Bryan, KCC Cllr Geoff Lymer.

**18/65 To identify any member’s interests.**

There were no member’s interests identified.

**18/66 To hear questions from the public.**

There were no further questions from the public.

**18/67 To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 11th September 2018.**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes were a true and representative account of the meeting and signed as such by Cllr Finnis.

**18/68 To consider matters arising from the minutes in item 5.**

* 18/56d - skip site - no further update as yet.*Action: AF to write to Environment Agency for update.*
* 18/59 - new noticeboard still being investigated.

**18/69 To review councilor’s reports: -**

1. **County Councillor and District Councillor reports**

**Geoff Lymer (KCC Councillor - report in writing)**

Following the recent budget the government will be providing an additional £650 million throughout the country to cover the additional costs of adult social care. This will come in two elements £240 million for year 2017/18 and £410 million for 2018/19.

The apportionment of the above for Kent has been confirmed around £12 million.

The government has promised £420 million nationally for road repairs. However, I am skeptical here for the government states it is a one off national roads repair payment.

In my view this implies much of the funding could go to Highways England nationally, to cover repairs to dual carriageways and motorways, leaving a greatly depleted amount for the county councils. However, if we are fortunate, we could see an additional one off payment hopefully around half a million pounds to top up KCC Highways annual Highways budget of £3 million.

Schools have not really faired too well, there will be just a £10,000 one off boost typically for a primary school and £50,000 for a typical secondary school.

There will be a third discount on business rates for smaller retail properties for 2019/20 those with a ratable value under £51 thousand. Hopefully the local authorities will be compensated for loss of business rates income and also help to regenerate High Streets.

**(b) Financial report**

Scribe computer package has been trialed and agreed and is being loaded onto Clerk’s computer in the next week.

**(c) Village Green: –**

**Play Inspection Annual Report**: discussed. Most of the work can be done by the councillors and all is low risk - lead Cllr Andrew Finnis.

**Weekly Inspection reports**: received from S. Withey.

**(d) Phone Box – Possible fixing of defibrillators for both villages.**

There was a brief discussion regarding the possibilities.

**18/70 To review the council’s five-year budget plan to assist in setting the parish precept for 2018/19 at the next January meeting.**

Figures prepared by Cllr Finnis were shared. Attention was drawn to discretionary items already agreed and paid.

**18/71 To consider grant applications from:**

1. Village Hall Trust

(a) Cleaning costs £1560

(b) Legal costs an additional £396.00 to previous grant of £300.

It was RESOLVED to grant both of these amounts to VH Trust.

1. Kent Air Ambulance, It was RESOLVED to grant £250.
2. Dover/Deal Citizens Advice. It was RESOLVED to grant £100.

**18/72 To agree action on planning applications received.**

There were no planning applications.

**18/73 To Receive and Distribute Council’s correspondence.** None recieved.

**18/74 To agree payments: -**

Clerk’s wages and office allowance as advised

County Taxis – Sep £60 & Oct £48 £108.00

Payroll Masters – Oct £5.99

Village Green Inspection Sep/Oct S.Withey £80.00

Capel Groundworks VG Plinths and Tarmac clean £1,980.00

Scribe Finance Software Package £154.80

Hougham Village Hall Trust £1560+£396 £1980.00

Kent Air Ambulance £250.00

Dover Deal Citizens Advice £100.00

*The next scheduled meeting of Hougham Parish Council is due on Tuesday 8th January 2019 at Hougham Village Hall, and will be confirmed during the week before.*