Hougham Without Parish Council

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**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Tuesday 17th March 2020**

**Present:**

Cllr Chris Bryan (CB) (Chairman)

Cllr Jodie Lamb (JL) (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Christine Peel (CP) (Member)

Cllr Don Taylor (DT) (Member)

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Cathy Finnis (CF)

**19/76 To receive apologies for absence**; Cllr Taylor due to coronavirus is self-isolating. Geoff Lymer.

**19/77 To identify any member’s interests**; there are no member’s interests.

**19/78 To hear questions from the public**; other than the business there was no other advance questions.

**19/79 Minutes of previous meeting**: it was signed as true and accurate by Cllr Bryant.

**19/80 To make reports**:

* **Chairman**: village broadband. Church Hougham fibre broadband will be installed.
* **Vice Chair:** nothing to report.
* **KCC Councillor Report:**

Kent County Council’s environment champion is calling on advertisers to insist waste carriers include their licence number in advertisements.

KCC, together with district and borough colleagues, is urging companies that sell advertising to insist it is part of the text in a bid to crack down on flytipping.

KCC Cabinet Member for Environment Susan Carey said: “There isn’t currently a legal requirement to display carrier registration numbers which means anyone can advertise their business without having to prove they’re registered.

“Some operators use their registration number as part of their advertising to prove legitimacy, but many don’t – that’s not to say they are not legitimate, but if they were made to, we could squeeze illegitimate operators out of the trade.

“I’m urging those that carry advertising to ensure all of their customers in the waste disposal trade do this.”

One of the biggest areas of concern is on social media, particularly Facebook pages and groups where anyone can advertise for free.

Mrs Carey added: “I would urge owners of Facebook pages and groups to not allow users to post advertisements for waste removal unless they can prove they’re a legitimate business.

“It might seem innocuous that a ‘man and a van’ is offering to remove people’s unwanted items for a few pounds, but it can leave a huge bill for your district or borough council or for a private landowner such as a farmer, if they turn out to be a rogue trader.

“The cost to remove the waste hits farmers hard in the pocket, not to mention the environmental impact on rivers, soil, grazing animals and wildlife. It’s unfair that rogue traders can leave legitimate businesses suffering.”

Rogue traders often target householders with cheap rates to take their rubbish away and then dump the waste, leaving the bill for removal and disposal with others.

If the waste is traced back to its original source, it can leave people with a fine of up to £400.

KCC has funded a £250,000 anti-flytipping campaign, working with Kent Police and the district councils to target criminals who damage the countryside and to raise awareness of the risks of using unlicensed waste carriers.

Flytipped waste delivered by the district and borough councils to KCC for disposal between June and November reduced by 1%, equivalent to nearly 16 tonnes, compared with the same months in the previous year.

Residents are advised to check the waste management operator they use is a registered waste carrier:

* Registration documents should available on request and should be inspected before services are rendered or money paid.
* You can check environmental permits and waste carriers’ licences online by searching the EA public registers or call 03708 506506.
* Get a written receipt/transfer note complete with contact details, a description of waste removed and details of where the waste is being taken to.
* Note down the vehicle type, colour and registration number of the vehicle that’s taking your waste away.
* Report suspected waste crime to the EA incident hotline 0800 807060 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.
* **PCSO Report:**

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| Crimes of note:**09/03/2020** – B2011 Church Hougham – RTC non-injury. **23/03/2020** – Abbey Road – Stolen ATM’s found.**30/03/2020** – B2011 Church Hougham – Criminal damage. |

**31/03/2020** – West hougham - There has been a report made of two males in a silver vehicle, looking around and into property. When the males noticed the informant, they left in the silver vehicle.

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| Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:There have been a few reports made regarding groups of people gathering despite the current guidance. Please adhere to the government guidelines that have been put in place to protect ourselves and our community. |

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| Items of good work:I have been patrolling the village and have engaged with residents. Unfortunatley due to current circumstances, I have had to cancel any upcoming surgeries, I can still be contacted via my email **Megan.Keehner@kent.police.uk**however for non emergencies, please report this via 101 or make a report on the Kent Police website. For emegencies, call 999.  |

*Action: Cllr Peel to email M. Kehner.*

**KALC –** nil of note.

**Highways –** nil of note.

**Finances –** nil of note.

**19/81 To discuss rubbish, including rubbish pick up sticks and rubbish bin(CP)**

1. 4th February site visit with Environmental Bridge on Satmar Lane going over the A20. Lots of bottles and cans. Dumped. Site was left in a mess. Cllr Peel has arranged another site visit and would like a litter bin at that location. The bin could be secured and it would be emptied DDC. Suggest litter pickers for volunteers to clear. *Action: Christine give me contact with DDC, Cathy to order bin via DDC.*
2. Area between Capel Groundworks entrance to the entrance of the little Satmar Caravan Park. Probably is part of Capel Parish Council *Action: Clerk to contact Parish Council Maureen Leppard – Clerk.*

**19/82 To discuss and decide on grants: Village Hall, Kent Air Ambulance**

* Village Hall it was **RESOLVED** to grant £1000
* Kent Air Ambulance it was **RESOLVED** to grant £300

**19/83 To discuss plan for agreeing finances and financial controls for end of year accounts (2019-2020)**

It was **RESOLVED** to put on hold subsequent to email PKF Littlejohn External Auditors.

**19/84 Waste management site ongoing issues to discuss**

* **Report from Environmental Services:**

There was a visit on 11th February 2020 by Environmental Services.

1) There is 10 times the permitted waste (40 cubic metres) currently held on the site.
2) The height of the waste is above the permitted limit.
3) All waste sorting must be undertaken in a covered area which currently blocked up.

The operators have been given specific time limits to resolve these breaches. Naturally, the PC and the community are concerned from the environmental health perspective and the other obvious issues of a non-compliant waste disposal site. We will monitor progress and chase up the Environmental Health people as appropriate, this issue has been going on for far too long.

*Action: Clerk to write to Environmental Health every 2/3 months to ask about progress and expressing concern.*

**19/85 To discuss plan for coronavirus and remote working and meetings**

It was agreed that the Zoom meeting (as tonight) worked.

**19/86 To make payments:**

Simon Withey village green upkeep (Jan/Feb 20) 100.00

Cathy Finnis office allowance and wages (Feb/March 20) 480.68

Payroll (invoices 26 and 27) 11.98

Zoom 143.88

Village Hall Grant 1000.00

Kent Air Ambulance 300.00

*The next scheduled ordinary meeting of Hougham Parish Council is due on Tuesday May 19th 2020, at 7.30pm at Hougham Village Hall (or by Zoom if still in pandemic action), and will be confirmed during the week before.*