HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 19.00
at All Saints Church, Houghton

Present: Parish Councillors: A Young (Chairman), A Dougall (Vice Chairman), P Chant, J Broomfield, P Page.

Members of the Public: 7
Minutes**:** Mrs C L Cotterell (Parish Clerk/RFO)

Representatives from the Sainsbury family, who have purchased Queenwood Farm, were present and gave an overview of their plans and operating ethos, including biodiversity, woodland management and compost making. There are plans to hold a community meeting in the village hall once the refurbishment of the hall is complete.

The meeting started at 19.00

Item Minute

1. Chairman's Welcome and Public Participation
The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and asked if there were any comments or questions from members of the public present.

2. Apologies for Absence – Apologies were received from Parish Cllrs Ellwood and Coombes.

3. Declarations of Interest
To declare an interest in any items of business on this agenda – **None**.

4. To agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2026
Resolved – Proposed Cllr Dougall, seconded Cllr Chant.

5. Borough and County Councillor Reports
To receive Borough and County Cllr reports.

Borough Cllr Johnston's report included:

- TVBC Cllr elections will take place next year as there are no unitary elections for Local Government Reorganisation.
- There is a new plan making system for the Local Plan.
- There is no update yet on Houghton House planning application.
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) changes mean Cllrs will not be able to call application to Planning Committee.
- Houghton village hall has received more money from TVBC climate change grant.

County Cllr Drew's report included:

- Planning info has been circulated.
- Information about battery/vape recycling.
- £15m programme to improve Hampshire roads.
- TV grant for Chilbolton shop.
- Fines for fly tipping.
- GCSE exam results.
- Hampshire foster carers.
- Funding available for organisations.

Borough and County Cllr reports are published and available to view on the website: https://www.houghton-pc.gov.uk/community/houghton-parish-council-13622/borough--county-reports/

6. Planning
To propose a response to be submitted to TVBC in relation to any planning applications – **None received**.

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7. Neighbourhood Plan Review

To discuss 5 year review.
Tim Goodridge from TVBC had sent an offer to help with the 5 year review of Houghton's Neighbourhood Plan. After discussion Cllrs agreed to accept the offer.
Action: Cllr Young to arrange a meeting with Tim Goodridge.

8. Eveley Solar Farm

To discuss collaboration with Broughton PC for approach to Busk Estate. Cllrs agreed that it was a good idea to collaborate with Broughton for a joint approach as a 15 year extension has been granted. It was agreed to locate details of the original communications between all parties. Action: Cllr Young to approach previous Parish Cllrs for records.

9. Social Housing Policy

For discussion.

A resident had asked the Parish Council to consider supporting a change to TVBC Housing Department's current regulation restricting an applicant for social housing to that within the confines of the parish where they live. After discussion Cllrs **resolved** to support change to the TVBC regulation (as below) – Proposed Cllr Dougall, seconded Cllr Page.
(Houghton Parish Council resolved unanimously that this regulation is unfair and can cause distress to the elderly and people in need, and deprive people in need of social housing from their ability to access it. The regulation should be replaced by one that takes into consideration the wider community to which the applicant belongs and has contributed to, and ensure that people living in a neighbouring parish but who have strong links to a parish offering social housing should be eligible to apply for social housing in that parish.)

10. Finance

a) To propose acceptance of the financial statements for the periods 1st July to 31st August 2026 - **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Dougall, seconded Cllr Broomfield.
b) To approve the following Schedule of Payments - **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Dougall, seconded Cllr Chant.

Payee	Amount	Payee	Amount
Payroll/HMRC	£575.36	Clerks/Office expenses	£71.36

Closing bank balance as at 31st August 2026 - £77,325.13

11. Play Area Working Group

To receive an update on the play area regeneration project.

Cllr Broomfield updated that lots of feedback was received at the recent consultation meeting held at The Boot. A second consultation will be held on 26th September, then funding routes will be investigated and the start of the tender process.

12. Recreation Ground

For discussion. Cllrs noted that a search of land registry to confirm ownership of the recreation ground was necessary and agreed the cost of £36/£37 for the search.

13. Updates

a) To receive an update on Flooding/HCC – **None**.
b) To receive an update on Pan Parish River Pollution Forum – Cllr Dougall updated the next meeting to be held on 12th October. Pan Parish group are awaiting to hear from Houghton Fishing Club regarding covering a share of the cost of the calibration tool. Cllr Dougall was approached by Southern Water to take part in a Water UK survey and to sign a NDA, Cllr Dougall said he would not take part if signing a NDA was a requirement.
c) To receive an update from the CCTV Working Group. Cllr Chant updated that a meeting was held for Cllrs to see the operation of the system. CCTV working group will meet regarding possible new cameras.

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A member of the public updated that the village hall refurbishment is going well.

Cllr Young updated that a resident has cut back foliage around a street light.

Cllr Broomfield updated that the project to repair Sheepbridge is awaiting a FRA.

14. Next Meeting

Full Council Meeting – Tuesday 3rd November 2026 at 19.00 – Venue All Saints Church, Houghton.

Meeting closed at 20.20

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