HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 19.00
at Houghton Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors: A Young (Chairman), L Adams (Vice Chairman), A Dougall, P Chant, J Broomfield, J Coombes.
County Cllr D Drew.

Members of the Public: 2
Minutes**:** Mrs C L Cotterell (Parish Clerk)

The meeting started at 19.00

Item Minute

1. Chairman's Welcome and Public Participation
Chairman welcomed all to the meeting – A resident reported some flooding and blocked drains in the village.

2. Apologies for Absence
Apologies were received from Borough Cllr Macdonald. Parish Cllr Chant was absent.

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 meetings held on:
a) 28th January 2025 – Full Council Meeting.
b) 25th February 2025 – Extraordinary Meeting.
Resolved to approve – Proposed Cllr Adams, seconded Cllr Dougall.

Item 8a brought forward at the discretion of the Chairman:
8a - To receive an update on the Play Area Refurbishment Project - Cllr Coombes gave an update on the grant funding applications for the project.
Some grant applications have had to be resubmitted and other applications are still being completed but all are progressing.

Cllr Coombes left the meeting at 19.07

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

County Cllr Drew gave his report including updates on:
- HCC Council Tax increase to be 4.995%
- Devolution – HCC Consultation runs from 17 February to 13 April 2025. Mayor elections to take place in May 2026.
- School places – over 90% pupils offered first choice of secondary school.

Update on flooding:
- Test Valley Borough Council will do a sweep.
- Cllr Drew spoke to local landowner about mud on the road.
- It was confirmed by residents that the drains are already blocked – Cllr Drew asked for photographs of blocked drains and locations to be sent to him to follow up with HCC.

Cllr Young will contact HCC to ask them to clear drains again.

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

HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 19.00
at Houghton Village Hall

6. Planning

To propose a response to be submitted to TVBC in relation to planning applications:

a) 25/00427/TREES - G1 - 4 x Lime - Remove second stem (as per marked sketch plan), crown reduction by 2m and crown lift of 6m. T2 - Lime - Crown lift 8m, removing the first 3 branches back to source, and small eastern stem. T3 - Lime - Crown lift 6m, crown reduce top canopy back to pre-existing cuts (2m growth), reduce remaining crown by 1.5m – 11 Houghton Farm Close, Houghton – **Resolved** - **No Objection** – Proposed Cllr Adams, seconded Cllr Dougall, voted 3 for, 1 against – Proposal carried.

b) Any other planning applications recently received.
The notification of application 25/00491/CLPS for a lawful development certificate was **noted**.

7. Finance

a) To propose acceptance of the financial statements for the period 1st January to 28th February 2025 – **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Adams, seconded Cllr Broomfield.
b) To review and approve annual honorariums for CCTV camera hosts – **Resolved** an honorarium of £60.00 for each householder hosting a camera – Proposed Cllr Dougall, seconded Cllr Broomfield.
c) To approve the following Schedule of Payments – **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Adams, seconded Cllr Dougall.

Payee	Amount	Payee	Amount
Payroll/HMRC (Mar)	£675.57	CCTV Honorarium payments	180.00
Clerks/Office expenses	£83.68	Clerk training course	£144.00

Closing bank balance as at 28th February 2025 - £65,418.58

8. Updates and review

a) To receive an update on the Play Area Refurbishment Project - see above Item 8a.
b) To receive an update on Flooding/HCC – see above under County Cllr report.
c) To receive an update on Pan Parish Forum – Cllr Dougall gave an update:
- the next meeting is on 29th April
- river is currently running clear
- there is good dialogue with Southern Water and making progress with new monitors.
- Environment Agency are putting their monitor next to the PC one.
- Independent water commission is set up by the government asking for evidence – a Pan Parish Forum draft is to be submitted.

Minutes of Pan Parish meetings are published on the Pan Parish website: https://www.hugofox.com/community/pan-parish-river-pollution-forum-20614/home/

9. Next Meeting

Parish assembly – Tuesday 8th April 2025 at 19.00 at Houghton Village Hall
Agreed to allow up to £60.00 for refreshments.

Annual Council Meeting – 20th May 2025 at 19.00 at Houghton Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 19.44

These minutes were approved and signed at the meeting held on Tuesday 20th May 2025