



Loveden Hill

ON Side Hough ON the Hill Brand ON Gelston ON

ON Side is the occasional publication by Hough on the Hill Parish Council. For contributions and queries please contact any Parish Councillor or email houghpc@gmail.com
The Council operates for you; do get in touch.

A Parish Council : what's it for?

A Parish Council exists "To provide services for, manage and maintain the assets of the villages, with the resources provided by the annual precept and other incomes, taking into account the wishes of the residents and obtaining value for money". [National Association of Local Councils]

But in plain speak:



Your Parish Councillors are your neighbours and we live in the community we represent. Our role is to talk to you and find out what your priorities are.

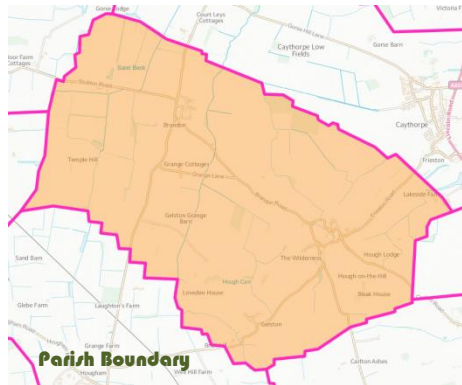


The Parish Council raises money from the 'precept', collected with Council Tax; currently it is around 21p (yes pence) per person per week. Income can also come from grants or charges for services and of course donations. Unlike other taxes though – it all gets spent here in our Parish.



We need to ensure the 'assets' owned by the Parish are looked after for the benefit of everyone; such as the play and recreation area in Hough (top right), the village green in Gelston (right) and the open space by Brandon church (below right).

- Do they have the facilities you would like?
- Would you consider a higher precept, to pay for improvements?



...it's for you: to represent your wishes for your community.

Your councillors:



Roger Kingscott – Chairman
Brandon resident for 11 years, experienced councillor and local historian. Assumed the Chair in 2014.



Paul Ram:den – Vice-Chair
Paul became a Councillor in 2013. Vice-Chair from 2014. He is an author and academic who has lived in Hough for four years.



Sue Morgan – Councillor
Sue's home overlooks Gelston green. As the Council Chair for 10 years, Sue has steered the sympathetic development of our region.



Penny Milne – Councillor
Penny stood as resident member of the Neighbourhood Plan development committee and joined the Council in 2014.



Paul Miley – Councillor
Paul moved to Brandon to restore a property in 2000. Active as a community first responder, he took up a vacant seat in 2014.



Vacancy – Councillor
It could be you – the Council is keen to hear from any resident with ideas, energy and a wish to contribute to their community. Come and talk to any one of us or email houghparishclerk@gmail.com

Your PC's Powers:

The Parish Council is a legal entity with powers granted by Parliament; it has a **duty** to appoint a Chair, have audited accounts, hold at least 4 meetings a year and operate to a code of conduct. Anyone can attend the meetings to observe and raise questions.

The **powers** (from various acts of Parliament) are wide ranging and not always what you expect:

- Environment
- Allotments
- Markets
- Planning
- Ponds
- Tourism
- By-Laws
- Clocks
- Highways
- Community Centres
- Arts
- Public WCs
- Webistes
- Crime Prevention
- Commons
- Cemeteries
- Bus shelters

More detail on **Planning** is in this issue; but consider that amongst the 9000 English local councils, there are some:

- Running community transport
- Organising festivals
- Providing equipment for activity groups
- Operating local services such as a shop
- Clearing common ground
- Employing a handyman for the benefit of residents

You get the picture; your PC has a great deal of freedom to implement activity for the benefit of those living in the area. But of course most things require people and/or additional costs. So before we do anything, we need to hear your views.

The request for contact details is to allow us to hear from you.

Your Parish Clerk:

The Clerk is employed by the Council and is the officer concerned with much of the work between meetings. As an employee, the Clerk therefore need not seek election.

Lesley Frances - Clerk
We would like to welcome Lesley as our new Clerk, taking over for the first meeting in 2015. She has considerable experience with other local Councils.

Fly Tipping : 01476 406080
Potholes : 01522 782070

Planning Applications :
www.southkesteven.gov.uk/planningsearch

Parish Council Website: www.parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/houghonthehill
Hough Neighbourhood Plan: www.loveden.org.uk/np

Where does the money go?

The Precept is equivalent to around 21p per week for each person living in the Parish and amounts to around £5500 annually. It is absorbed by:

- Insurance - £550**
- Accountants - £150
- Grass Cutting - £2000**
- Playing Field - £500**
- Hall Hire (for meetings) - £100
- Clerk's Wages - £1700**
- Expenses & Printing - £450
- Memberships - £150

All Councillors volunteer their time and take no expenses from the Precept.

Neighbourhood Plan

You may well have been involved in preparing our Hough on the Hill Parish Neighbourhood Plan over the last two years.

If you were, thank you.

The plan was submitted to SKDC in Autumn 2014 and has now been approved by an independent inspector. The next step is for SKDC to organise a local referendum, but this seems to have been held up by the forthcoming national and district council elections. As soon as the date is announced we will let everyone know.

However even now, if you are planning a development within the Parish, please consult the document to be found at www.loveden.org.uk/np and ensure your proposals meet the requirements.

Planning Matters

The Planning Authority (SKDC) must consider the Parish view before deciding to approve or reject an application. Your PC will always consider the interests of local residents, including the applicant, but decisions must be based on:

- SKDC's Local Development Plan
- Our own Neighbourhood Plan
- Material Considerations

We are not planning experts, but we may be able to advise on what is (and isn't) a viable idea and also what constitutes a valid objection.



Hot Topics

Over the last year the Parish Council has tackled a wide range of topics. Some are completed, but we would welcome your input on other issues, to prioritise and guide the next stages. This newsletter gives lots of ways to get in touch:

- Completion and submission of the Neighbourhood Plan
- Road safety and speed monitoring through the villages
- Improved facilities for the Hough recreation ground
- Numerous planning applications including wind farms
- Potential use for the Parish land in Brandon
- Improving Parish notice boards
- Car parking at Brandon on Hough Lane
- Footpath up keep
- Railway crossing closures
- Police liaison
- Preserving Gelston Green
- Improved communications
- Retention and adoption of the red telephone boxes in Brandon and Gelston (for potential defibrillator installation)
- Ongoing support for the Hough community defibrillator

If there is anything else we should be considering, then:

- Contact the Clerk or any Councillor
- Come along to any Council meeting (there is a public forum at the start)
- Raise it at the Annual Parish Meeting (see below).

We look forward to hearing your views.

Communication is a Two Way Thing

What works for you?

Newsletters
Noticeboards
Emails
Facebook
Letterbox
Website

Whilst not everyone is in the electronic age, more and more have access to emails – printing and distributing leaflets around the entire Parish takes time and money. If you have an email address, please send it to us so that we can speed things up and cut costs –instructions are below.

Don't worry we will retain print updates for those that need it and will continue to put information up on notice boards and the website.

Village Noticeboards

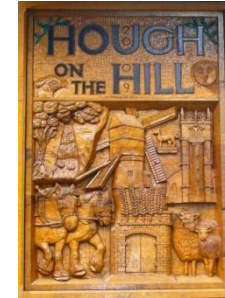
Whilst emails can have their place, we must still post official information on the village notice boards to ensure it's available for everyone. Our Council notice boards are in a poor state, but purchasing good quality replacements (for all 3 villages) comes at a cost:

Should we invest to improve the standard?

What about rules governing what is posted and what is not?

Do you run a business that would consider sponsorship?

Do you know a local craftsman who could make new notice boards?



Have your say – let us know what you would support.

The Annual Parish Meeting : Your invitation to attend

- Where :** Hough on the Hill Church
When : 19th March 2015
Why : For you - For your input - For your information

The **Annual Parish Meeting** permits the Parish Council to explain what it has been doing over the past year and enables the electors (those from the Parish on the electoral roll) to have their say on anything they consider is important to the people of the Parish. The meeting is an ideal forum to ask questions and our district and county councillors may also attend. The meeting is relatively short and will be followed by a formal Parish Council Meeting.



Please keep **On Side** by staying in touch

Please send your name/street address/house name to:

houghparishclerk@gmail.com

The small print – email addresses will only be used by Hough on the Hill Parish Council to distribute occasional updates on Parish Council matters (including future issues of ONSide), LCC Highways information on road closures and emergency notices (such as missing persons). Your email will not be passed to anyone else and will not be visible to any other recipients. You can remove your email at any time by sending an email stating your wishes to the same address.

Please help us keep **On Side** useful and relevant; feedback to any of the Councillors or direct to editor Paul Miley, contact info. above.

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