

MINUTES OF 1052ND MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 21ST MARCH 2011 AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT: - COUNCILLOR D. DICKINSON (CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLOR T. GREENWOOD (VICE CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLORS J. BALDWIN, N.PETER J. PROCTOR, T.SHARRATT, AND Ms M. URRY AND MR. T HARKNESS (CLERK).

1. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST:

The Clerk reminded Members of their responsibility to declare any personal interest in respect of matters on the agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct. No one made a declaration at this stage.

2. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21st February 2011 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. ADJOURNMENT:

THERE THEN FOLLOWED AN ADJOURNMENT TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO RAISE ISSUES AND QUESTION THE PARISH COUNCIL REGARDING MATTERS DEALT WITH. AS THERE WERE NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT THE PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED WITH THE BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA.

4. POLICE REPORT:

The Clerk circulated the latest police newsletter which indicated that there had been two reported incidents of crime during February 2011.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported that funding for Police Community Support Officers for the next two years had been confirmed.

It was also reported that the cricket club storage areas had been broken into, no equipment was taken and the offender only got away with the padlocks for the lock ups.

The Police suggested that the village hall car park should have a barrier installed with combination lock, (similar to the church).

They asked the Parish Council to look into the idea.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) reminded the Parish Council that this idea had been debated many times in the past and it had been concluded that the suggestion was not viable. The Clerk would inform the police of the Parish Council's views.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported that there was a suggestion that the cells at Leyland Police Station would be closed. Councillor Baldwin felt that this could lead to increased costs.

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The Clerk submitted a letter from the local MP. requesting the Parish Council's support in resisting proposed cuts in the number of frontline police officers in Lancashire.

Councillor Sharratt supported the views expressed by the MP and hoped that any proposed reduction in numbers would not lead to the use of unpaid volunteers.

Councillor Ms Urry was opposed to the cuts in police numbers.

The Parish Council agreed to send a letter of support to the MP.

5. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current newsletter. He referred to the Big Tree Plant Campaign which was design to encourage parish councils to plant more trees, he also reported on the Tidy Britain Campaign to reduce chewing gum litter, the Big Lunch Appeal, an executive summary of the Localism Bill and information on becoming a parish councillor.

Councillor Sharratt expressed reservations about some elements of the Localism Bill particularly in regard to the power to call referendums. He felt that there was a question of funding for these which he considered would have to be met by Parish Councils.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported that the Chorley Area Committee meeting would be held on 24th March 2011 when the Chorley representative on the Three Tier Forum would be selected.

6. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). GIB LANE:

The County Council confirmed that the order for the SLOW markings had been confirmed but it was not known when the work would be done.

(B). HEDGES – STATION ROAD:

There had not been any progress on the cutting back of the hedges on the footpath at Station Road.

(C). SWEEPING – HOGHTON LANE;

Chorley Council had swept the pavements and verges running from the Post Office to Wise Mary's Farm on both sides.

(D). WINTER SERVICE BULLETINS:

The Clerk circulated the weekly bulletin from the County Council regarding the gritting of roads in the Parish.

(F). FOOTPATH SIGN - LANE SIDE FARM:

The Footpaths Inspector had visited the footpath and indicated that it was at a standard that was acceptable for safe use by the public.

Councillor Sharratt reported that the state of the footpath was not the problem it was that the footpath sign needed re-erecting.

Councillor Peter informed the Parish Council that following his discussions with the farmer the sign had been re-erected.

(G). FOOTPATH – FINNINGTON:

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The Clerk reported that no action had been taken regarding the report by Councillor Ms Urry that the footpath along the canal from Finnington towards Withnell was obstructed and part of it had been closed off.

The Clerk would contact the Footpaths Officer again regarding the matter.

Councillor Sharratt reported that he had still not had a response from British Waterways regarding the collapsed wall on the canal towpath near Finnington Moorings. He reminded the Parish Council that this was located outside the Parish boundary. He had however, mentioned this to County Councillor Devaney. The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) would speak to him about this when they next met.

(H). FLOODING - QUAKER BROOK LANE:

At the last meeting Councillor Sharratt reported on his investigations into the flooding on Quaker Brook Lane. Councillor Peter reported that it appeared that the flooding was caused by a blocked drain on his land he discussed this with Mr. Peet the Neighbourhood Officer and officers from the County Council had visited the site. He had now carried out the drainage work.

Councillor Sharratt indicated he had reported the blocked drain to the County Council.

(I) PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY:

Following the adoption by the County Council of a protocol designed to give powers to Parish Councils to do certain things under the Highways Act. The County Council was to establish three pilot schemes for the upkeep of public rights of way and possibly other things such as maintenance of grass verges.

They had asked if the Parish Council wished to make provisional application to be included in one of the pilot schemes.

The Parish Council considered that despite funding there would be additional costs involved which would make the scheme too expensive to run.

(J). HOGHTON BOTTOMS – FOOTPATH RESTORATION:

The Clerk circulated details of the final phase of willow weaving and planting to stabilise construction works planned for October.

Councillor Peter asked why this was to take place in October. He felt it would be better to allow the planting to establish itself over the Spring and Summer Periods.

The Clerk would contact the County Council about this.

7. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported on issues affecting the Parish Council.

8. PLANNING REPORT:

(A) DECISIONS.

The Clerk reported that the following planning application had been granted planning permission by Chorley Council since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

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1 Erection of external car park lighting The Boatyard Inn Bolton Road. (App no 10/01068/FUL) Applicant Enjoy Inns and Leisure Ltd.

(B). APPLICATIONS:

There were no applications to report.

9. ACCOUNT FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following account for payment

1. A. Harkness	Clerk Salary (£312.50) and Expenses (£121.66) January – March 2011	£434.16
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The account was agreed and a cheque signed.

10. HMRC EMPLOYERS PAYE REGISTRATION:

The Clerk reported that HMRC had removed the previous guidance regarding the payment of PAYE by the Clerk. The new guidance indicated that Parish Council must register as an employer with HMRC and operate PAYE on the income paid to the Clerk.

This meant that the Parish Council would now be responsible for the deducting PAYE at source.

The Clerk was arranging for the registration from 6th April 2011.

11. NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT;

Interest amounting to £1.53 has been paid on the National Savings Account which now totalled £764.98

12. PINFOLD:

The Commons Registration Authority (CRA) had confirmed that the Parish Council was recorded as owner of VG59 (The Pinfold) on the Register and whilst an ownership was not normally conclusive, in this case it was on direction of a Commons Commissioner under S8 of the 1965 Statute and the land appeared to be statutorily vested in the Parish Council.

As owner the Parish Council would not be able to do anything that interfered with the lawful recreational activities. Registered greens enjoy protection under some old Victorian statutes. Under the Inclosure Act 1857 greens were protected against injury or damage and interruption to their use as a place for exercise and recreation. Under the Commons Act 1876 it was a criminal offence to encroach or inclose a green or to interfere with its surface unless it is with the aim of improving the enjoyment of the green.

The Commons Registration Authority had advised that that the Parish Council must take its own advice about what actions it may wish to take on the land.

The Clerk had requested confirmation of the extent of the land forming VG59 to avoid any actions on land outside the area of the Pinfold.

There followed discussion regarding the access to the land.

The Clerk would inform the De Hoghton Estate on the status of the Pinfold.

13. WAR MEMORIAL:

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The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) informed the Parish Council that a surveyor had inspected the War memorial and was preparing a schedule of work required together with an estimate of cost.

14. CHORLEY STANDARDS COMMITTEE:

Councillor Sharratt reported the Chorley Council had rejected his complaint of maladministration regarding the appointment of a Parish Council Representatives on the Chorley Council Standards Committee.

As a result he had submitted a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman.

He informed the Parish Council of his subsequent discussions with the office of the Ombudsman and would keep the Parish Council informed of any progress regarding the matter.

15. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION.

The Parish Council had agreed to enter the Annual Best Kept Village Competition, and the Clerk had written to various organisations and businesses regarding entry in the Certificate of Merit Class, The Church and the Post Office had agreed to enter but no responses had been received from the Boars Head or the Royal Oak.

It was agreed that the entry fee of £12.00 be paid and a cheque was signed. The Clerk would enter the organisations mentioned in the Certificate of Merit Class.

16. FIRE AUTHORITY PERFORMANCE REPORT AND ACTION PLAN 2010:

The Clerk circulated the consultation outcome document following the exercise undertaken by the Fire Authority regarding the Action Plan.

No observations were made on the Plan.

17. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT IN BRINDLE AND HOGHTON:

The Clerk reported that at the Equality Forum and Borough Parish Liaison meetings a question was asked about what community transport is currently available in the Hoghton and Brindle areas.

The District Officer had confirmed that Central Lancashire Dial-a-Ride was the community transport operator in the area. They provided services on a request basis and did not currently provide many journeys in the area, however, the Manager of the scheme was happy to work with Brindle and Hoghton Parish Councils to look at how the service could be better publicised / utilised in the locality.

The Clerk circulated a press release regarding the operation of the Concessionary Travel Scheme in Lancashire following the transfer of the service from District Councils to the County Council with effect from 1st April 2011.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 18th April 2011 the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall to be followed by the normal meeting of the Parish Council.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00. p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

18TH APRIL 2011

- (H(HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 21ST MARCH 2011))