

DRAFT MINUTES OF 1027TH MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 20TH OCTOBER 2008 AT THE VILLAGE HALL

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

96. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:

An apology for absence was submitted from the Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood).

97. 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 declared an interest at this stage.

98. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 15th September 2008 have been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

99. ADJOURNMENT:

AS THERE WERE NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT THE PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED WITH THE BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA.

100. POLICE REPORT:

Copies of In Touch the local police newsletter for September and October 2008 were circulated.

The Chairman reported on the final meeting of the Police and Community Meeting held on 6th October 2008.

Councillor Ms Urry stated that she attended the Police/NHS Community Equality Conference and also the local PACT meeting. She had agreed to become an associate member of their advisory group. She also considered that there should be more Community involvement in the PACT meetings.

Councillor Sharratt felt that the newsletter was the best way of keeping people informed of policing but suggested that it should have a different title to avoid confusion with another organisation's newsletter. Councillor Ms Urry suggested that the newsletter could be publicised more widely if the Police sought volunteers to distribute it locally.

The Clerk would write to the Divisional Commander suggesting this and asking her to consider a different name for it.

101. LALC REPORT:

The current Newsletter included details of the new requirement for Parish Councils to publish what information was available from the Parish Council under the model publication scheme. A copy of the schedule of information was circulated.

He also reported on the Real Lancashire Campaign and the proposed Lancashire Day on 27th November 2008.

Councillor Sharratt declared an interest in the matter as he was a Member of the Real Lancashire Organisation.

Mawdesley Parish Council was campaigning to persuade the government to ban single use polymers.

Details of the LALC AGM were reported and a discussion regarding the County Council's views on the removal of Ragwort from roads side verges took place.

102. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). TRAFFIC SCHEME – HOGHTON LANE:

Councillor Sharratt had notified the Clerk of the Statutory Notice in the Chorley Guardian on 24th September 2008 indicating that the Traffic Regulation Order would be in force from 26th September 2008. However, speeding traffic continued to be a problem

Councillor Ms Urry reported that the scheme was incomplete the Slow markings had not been done, and the specific road markings at The Straits had not been provided. She also remarked on the problems of making a right turn into the Village Hall Car Park.

The Police would be asked to enforce the speed limit and the Environment Director would be asked about the completion of the scheme.

(B). LAND ADJACENT TO THE BOARS HEAD:

The Chairman had spoken to the Landlord and further discussions would now be held with the Brewery.

(C). GIB LANE - POTHoles:

Following a further inspection of Gib Lane the Area County Surveyor had decided that the stretch from the Boars Head to the railway bridge should be completely resurfaced. The drainage problem would be looked into before the resurfacing work took place. It was expected that the work would take place in November once a temporary road closure had been agreed.

(D) FINGER POST SIGN – BOARS HEAD:

The Chairman explained the delay in re-erecting the sign and it had now been agreed that Chorley Council would re-erect them as soon as possible.

(E) FOOTPATH – BRINDLE LODGE:

The recent deterioration in the condition of the footpath had been reported again to the Footpaths Officer.

(F) INFORMATION SIGNS - RILEY GREEN:

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In view of the lack of response from Blackburn with Darwen Council. The Clerk would discuss this contact the Publicity Officer at the Tower to see what progress could be made.

(G) BUS SHELTER - THE STRAITS:

The bus helter had been slightly relocated on the footway, sides erected and it had been painted. A letter of thanks should be sent to the appropriate Officer at Chorley Council.

(H) STREET LIGHT THE STRAITS:

The Chairman reported that the street light had been fixed.

(I) GRASS VERGES – WAR MEMORIAL:

The Area County Surveyor had not explained why the verges had not been cut. The Clerk would contact him again about this. In the meantime Mr Ormerod would be asked to cut the grass as part of the tidy up of the Memorial for Remembrance Day. He would also be reminded to complete the repainting of the benches at the Boars Head and outside the Village Hall.

(J) LANCASHIRE LOCAL – HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT;

The Clerk reported that Lancashire Local had not approved the Highways Scheme at Finnington Lane.

(K) REPAINTING OF LANE MARKINGS – HOGHTON LANE:

The Area County Surveyor felt that the lane markings were in a reasonable condition, however, an inspection would take place and if thought necessary a scheme would be included in the line renewal programme.

(L) FLOODING DOVER LANE:

Following the investigation by the Area County Surveyor the culverts in Dover Lane were being repaired whilst Untied Utilities were doing undergrounding of the electricity cables. Councillor Peter recommended that the local farmer be consulted about the culverts.

The Clerk would contact the Area County Surveyor.

(M) PRIVATE ROAD:

Councillor Ms Urry reported that the road surface on Private Road needed attention particularly at the passing places. They were also overgrown. The Area County Surveyor would be informed.

(N) OVERGROWN HEDGES:

It was reported that the hedge by the end cottage on the Straits was overgrown causing pedestrians to step into the road. The hedge on the junction of Quaker Brook Lane and the Straits also required attention. These would be reported to the Area County Surveyor.

(O) FLY TIPPING:

Councillor Sharratt referred to fly tipping at Duxon Hill Brindle and asked the Parish Council to be vigilant to prevent this occurring in the Parish.

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(P) DOG FOULING – RILEY GEEN:

It was reported that dog fouling was taking place in the bus shelter at Riley Green.

The Clerk would report this to the Dog Warden at Chorley.

103. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman reported on issues affecting the Parish Council and in particular referred to the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 17th October to consider the financial position and investments made by Chorley Council.

Chorley Council had issued a progress report on the introduction of Neighbourhood Working and a copy was circulated. The Neighbourhoods Co-ordinator had also suggested that an information exchange session should be arranged to see how best Chorley Council and the Parish Council could work together.

The Clerk had replied to the suggestion and arrangements would be made for such a meeting. The Chairman and Councillor Ms Urry would attend.

104. PLANNING REPORT:

The Clerk reported that there were no decisions or planning applications to consider.

105. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

There were no accounts for payment

106. CHEQUE SIGNATURES:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the form was to be presented to the bank and their agreement would be awaited.

107. HALF YEARLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

The Clerk submitted a half-yearly financial statement (circulated) to 30th September 2008 indicating deposits of £6719.61 and expenditure of £4681.01 leaving a balance of £2038.60. A forward projection of expenditure the year-end amounted to £6003.59 and an estimated balance of £738.98. The financial statement was accepted referred to the Independent Internal Auditor and the Accounts Book was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

108. WREATH LAYING CEREMONY SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2008:

The Parish Council had received an invitation from the Churchwardens of Holy Trinity Church for the Parish Council to attend the Remembrance Day Service. The arrangements for the wreath laying ceremony were as in previous years. The party would assemble on the car park of Holy Trinity Church leaving at 9.50 a.m. to walk in procession down to the cenotaph for a short service. After the Act of Remembrance the party would return to the church for the service at 10 30 a.m. The Chairman of the Parish Council would read a lesson during the service. The Clerk would arrange for the wreath. The Clerk had contacted Mr Ormerod to ask him to tidy up the War Memorial before the Remembrance Day Service and asked Chorley Council to arrange for the road to be swept. The Police had also been asked to control the event.

Councillor Proctor reported that there was a new Parish Priest at St. Joseph's.

109. BOROUGH/PARISH LIAISON COMMITTEE:

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Councillor Ms Urry reported on the meeting of the Liaison Committee held on 15th October 2008. Particular reference was made to the report on the use of moneys received from developers by Chorley Council in respect of Planning Act Section 106 payments.

Chorley Council would be asked for a list of such payments how much had been allocated for schemes and what amount was left for other projects.

110. PINFOLD:

The Chairman reported the current position regarding the status of the Pinfold.

111. DEVELOPMENT OF LANCASHIRE LOCALS;

The Leader of Lancashire County Council had informed the Parish Council of the intention to review the role of Lancashire Locals. A copy of the draft constitution was submitted and a consultation paper highlighting the changes.

The proposals included developing and strengthening the power of Lancashire Locals including how much they could spend and on what. The County Council also wanted to expand their role to include links with the Local Strategic Partnership and the Community Partnership.

Councillor Sharratt felt that the Locals were a good idea as they involved local people and countered the idea of the County Council as being remote. However, he felt they needed to be publicised more. Councillor Ms Urry felt they should be more friendly and less formal.

The Clerk would inform the Leader of Lancashire County Council that the Parish Council fully supports the proposals to give more power to the Lancashire Locals, subject to greater publicity for meetings that they should be more user friendly and there should be more involvement in them by Parish Councils.

112. STANDARD:

The Clerk submitted the September newsletter of the Standards Board.

Councillor Sharratt asked for an update on the appointments to the Chorley Standards Committee.

The Clerk would find out the current situation and inform Councillor Sharratt.

113. MAKING AND ENFORCEMENT OF BYELAWS –CONSULTATION:

The Clerk submitted a consultation document issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government on the proposed new procedure which would enable Councils to make certain byelaws without the need for scrutiny by the Secretary of State and about proposals for a new enforcement regime for byelaws.

Comments had been invited by 20th November 2008.

The Clerk would inform the Department of Communities and Local Government that subject to Parish Councils being given the right to be consulted the new procedure was accepted.

114. BRINDLE AND HOGHTON PALS:

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Mr. S. Williams donated a copy of his book Brindle and Hoghton Pals to the Parish Council in recognition of the contributions made by them He also asked that it be kept with the Parish Records for Brindle and Hoghton.

Mr. Williams was thanked for his donation.

115. STREETSCENE – INQUIRY:

Chorley Overview and Scrutiny Task Group were investigating the work of the Streetscene Section. This service included street cleaning and the emptying of litter bins. They had asked for views on the services.

The Parish Council felt that the litter bin collection service was adequate but the general level of street sweeping when it occurred was unacceptable.

116. CENTRAL LANCASHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:

The Clerk circulated the preferred core strategy options. The options were noted.

117. LANCASHIRE CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD

Councillor Sharratt reported he would be attending the annual question and answer session on the work of the Board on Tuesday 21st October 2008 at 6.00 p.m. and would be asking a question regarding the identity of Local Magistrates. He also referred to a letter he had sent to the Times about the secrecy surrounding this.

Councillor Ms Urry referred to the criteria relating to the Independent Member appointments to Police Committees.

118. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 17th November 2008 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25. p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

17TH NOVEMBER 2008