

HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL- 17TH SEPTEMBER 2012
MINUTES OF 1069TH MEETING OF
HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 17TH SEPTEMBER 2012
AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER M. JONES,

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors J. Proctor and Ms M. Urry.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) informed the Parish Council of the health of Councillor Proctor.

2. 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.

3. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th July 2012 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. 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.

5 POLICE REPORT:

(A) IN THE KNOW NEWSLETTER:

Police Community Support Officer Jones circulated a copy of the August local newsletter. There were two incidents to report.

Councillor Peter referred to the recent break in at a property on The Straits.

He also asked the police to monitor the situation relating to Travellers within the Parish.

(B) TRAFFIC SPEEDS:

At the last meeting it was reported that a resident in Gib Lane had complained about an increase in the speed of traffic using Gib Lane. The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) had confirmed this.

HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2012

Similarly at the last meeting Councillor Proctor and Ms Urry referred to the effect the recent changes to the speed limit in the South Ribble section of Houghton Lane had had on the stretch of road immediately within Houghton when drivers entered the 50 mph zone. The RPU (road policing unit) was asked to target these areas. Unfortunately they could not advise when they would do this as they covered very large areas and could not commit to one area at a time.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) commented on the speed of traffic using Chapel Lane. The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) advised that enforcement on this stretch was difficult as it was a No Through Road.

PCSO Jones informed the Parish Council of an initiative to target rural crime commencing on 1st October 2012 and this would include monitoring of traffic speeds in the area.

(C) REVIEW:

At the last meeting The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reminded the Parish Council that when the new traffic system was introduced on the A657 the County Council agreed to review it after three years. As it was over three years since the scheme was implemented he felt that the County Council should be asked to undertake this review.

The Clerk asked the County Council to do so with the suggestion that the speed limit should be reduced to 40mph.

The County Council had confirmed they would organise a review of the speed limit on this section of Blackburn Old Road. This would include a review of the accidents on the road since 2008 and a traffic count to establish current speeds.

They would also ask the police for comments as they had to give consideration to their views. They would notify the Parish Council as these investigations progressed.

Following this, in August two residents of Riley Green had expressed their concerns about the speed of traffic following collisions at the junction of Bolton Road and Blackburn Old Road.

The Clerk had contacted the County Council to ask that their review should be extended to include Riley Green and this had been agreed.

(D) POLICE AIR SUPPORT SUMMER NEWSLETTER:

The Clerk circulated a copy of the Police Support Unit Summer newsletter and reported that the next PACT Meeting would be held on Thursday 27th September 2012 at the Black Horse Hotel Gregson Lane.

Councillor Sharratt indicated he would not be able to attend, The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) would be able to go.

(E) CONSUMER ALERTS – TRADING STANDARDS:

The Clerk circulated copies of the latest consumer alerts from the County Council's Trading Standards Officer.

HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL- 17TH SEPTEMBER 2012

(F) RURAL WATCH::

The Clerk reported that the Police would be holding a Rural Crime Workshop on Friday 12th October at Myerscough College between 10-5pm – Parish Councillors were invited to drop in and speak to companies like Datatag & Smartwater and more to discuss farm security and to speak to a local Police Officer to express concerns on Rural Crimes. There would be set talks throughout the day from Datatag, Lancashire Constabulary's Serious and Organised Crime Unit along with the Constabulary's Wildlife Officer and many others.

(G) PACT MEETING:

It was reported that the Police Community Beat Manager had resigned from the police to become a train driver. An appointment to fill his position as Community Beat Manager would be made shortly.

It was reported that relocation of staff from Wheelton to Clayton Brook would take place on 24th September 2012. The Wheelton premises would then be sold off as two houses.

6. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current newsletter and the LALC Annual Accounts. He also confirmed the attendance of the Chairman(Councillor Dickinson) and Councillor Ms Urry at the Lancashire Parish Councils Annual Conference and the LALC AGM on 10th November 2012.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported on resolutions which had been submitted to LALC for consideration at the AGM.

He also reported on the appointment of a new secretary to the Chorley Area Committee at the AGM in July 2012 .

7. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). FOOTPATH – PARISH CHURCH:

The footpath upgrade had been completed and Community Payback had been praised for their work . The Clerk had sent a letter of thanks to them.

Mr. Peet had also removed the rubbish from the Parish Church Car Park.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) also thanked Councillor Peter for organising the supply of materials and for strimming the path before work commenced.

(B) QUAKER BROOK LANE:

(I) RESURFACING:

It was reported that there had been no progress on the suggested resurfacing of Quaker Brook Lane.

Councillor Sharratt reported that another large hole had appeared, he had not reported this as he expected resurfacing work to begin. The Clerk would contact County Councillor Devaney about the resurfacing work and the Environment Directorate about the pothole.

(ii) 20 MPH ZONE:

HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2012

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) had expressed his concerns about traffic speeds on Quaker Brook Lane and had suggested that a 20mph limit should be introduced. The Clerk had contacted the County Council.

They had replied that all new requests for 20mph speed limits were currently being compiled and would be considered in Autumn 2012. Quaker Brook Lane would be added to this list and given due consideration. The County Council would inform the Parish Council of the outcome.

The Clerk also circulated a copy of the correspondence from the Environment Director at the County Council and the Assistant Chief Constable regarding police enforcement of 20mph zones.

(iii) SPEEDING TRACTORS:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported that he had received a number of complaints about the speed of tractors using Quaker Brook Lane as a through route to an Agricultural Company at Samlesbury.

The police had been asked to monitor the situation.

(iv). SEWER WORK:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) also reported that sewer work was carried out at the end of August and this had caused disruption to traffic. The County Highways Department had been asked to look into this and the work had now been completed.

Concern was expressed that the Parish Council had not been notified about this work prior to its commencement.

The Clerk would write to the County Council about the lack of consultation.

(C) ROAD MARKINGS A675 BLACKBURN OLD ROAD:

The Clerk reported that some work had occurred during June but it was not known whether this was the complete job. The Clerk had contacted the County Council about the lack of progress and they had indicated that they were having problems getting white lining projects finished with work ordered in March 2012 still not completed but the problems were being addressed.

The County Council would also look road surface at the entrance to the Village Hall Car Park again and would also ask the traffic section to look at it and consider any improvements.

(D) PRIVATE ROAD:

County Councillor Devaney had undertaken a site inspection with the Woodlands Officer regarding the tree which was leaning across the road and was in danger of falling down. A survey report was awaited.

Councillor Sharratt reported that high winds had broken a big branch off a tree in Private Road. The branch, on the west side of the road about 100yds north of St Joseph's church hall, was not broken off completely; but it was hanging down over the road and while cars and other low vehicles could pass without difficulty he considered that it may prove a hazard to high-sided vehicles.

The Clerk had notified the County Council and Councillor Baldwin confirmed that the tree branch had been removed.

HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL- 17TH SEPTEMBER 2012

(E). OVERGROWN HEDGE – CHAPEL LANE:

At a previous meeting the Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported that he had received a complaint from a local resident that the hedge on Chapel Lane was overgrown causing pedestrians to walk in the road. The Clerk had notified the Highways Inspectorate but no work had been done.

The County Council had now delegated responsibility for hedges to Chorley Council and the Clerk had asked them to take any action required.

The Clerk would ascertain the current position.

(F) GULLEY - CHAPEL LANE:

Councillor Peter reported problems with the gulley near the entrance to Chapel Lane. This was a three hundred year old gulley and the County Council had not maintained it properly.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) confirmed that there had been severe flooding in this area because of the gulley.

The Clerk would ask the Environment Directorate to take appropriate action following consultation with Councillor Peter.

(G) POTHoles - CHAPEL LANE:

At a previous meeting the Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) had reported that there were large potholes on Chapel Lane near the former Methodist Chapel. The Clerk had notified the Highways Inspectorate. The work had still not been done. County Councillor Devaney had advised that there was a backlog of road works which the Environment Directorate was attempting to reduce.

The Clerk would ascertain the current position.

(H) SIGNS – WEASEL LANE:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported on the current situation regarding the signs to be erected by Chorley Council.

The Clerk would contact Chorley regarding the erection the signs.

(I) RESURFACING OF STATION ROAD AND RILEY GREEN:

County Councillor Devaney reported that he had included the resurfacing of Station Road and the A675 at Riley Green Road, in his list of road improvement schemes . He had had a preliminary meeting with the Highways Section and the final list would be drawn up in the Autumn. He requested the Parish Council to indicate which of these two schemes should have the higher priority.

The Parish Council felt that Riley Green should be done first.

(J) HEDGE - STATION ROAD:

At a previous meeting Councillor Baldwin requested early action regarding the cutting back of the hedge.

The County Council had delegated the cutting of hedges to Chorley Council and the Clerk had requested them to take action.

HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2012

(K) FOOTPATH 19 RILEY GREEN:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported that he had been informed by a local resident this footpath was overgrown and required attention. The Clerk had asked the Footpaths Officer to investigate this and he had replied that the matter was with the volunteer network officers and he hoped it would be resolved as soon as possible.

(L). FINGER POST SIGNS:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported that he had asked Chorley Council about the replacement of the finger post sign at the Boars Head.

He understood that a finger post sign had been ordered and that once erected it would need painting. He also reported that the Hoghton boundary sign on Hoghton Lane needed painting.

The Clerk would ascertain the current position regarding the finger post sign and when erected arrange for it to be painted as well as the Hoghton Boundary Sign.

(M) TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF STATION ROAD LEVEL CROSSING:

The Clerk circulated details of the proposed closure of the level crossing on the weekends of 15th and 16th and 22nd and 23rd September for maintenance work to be carried out.

(N) PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY MAINTENANCE:

The Clerk reported that in May 2012 he had submitted details of an offer from the Environment Directorate of the County Council regarding the delegation of Public Rights of Way Maintenance to Parish Councils. The Parish Council had agreed to register its interest in participating in the scheme jointly with Brindle Parish Council.

The two Parish Councils had now been accepted on the scheme and would receive funds to carry out work to footpaths.

(O) FINNINGTON LANE:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported on the recent spate of accidents on Finnington Lane. Despite this the police had advised him that the existing speed limit would remain.

(P) GIB LANE:

Councillor Sharratt reported that water was continually seeping out onto the carriageway near the railway bridge on Gib Lane. This had been repaired in the past but was a problem again and it was not known what damage was being caused underneath the carriageway.

The Clerk would contact United Utilities about this.

8 CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported on the recent meeting of Chorley Council.

9. PLANNING REPORT:

(A) DECISIONS.

The Clerk reported that following planning applications had been granted since the last meeting of the Parish Council:-

HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL- 17TH SEPTEMBER 2012

1. To demolish the existing conservatory and porch, erection of new porch and part two storey part first floor extensions and a new roof including raising the ridge, together with a detached out building incorporating a four cart garage and garden store Braemar Cripple Gate Lane (App no 12/00601/FUL) Applicant Mr. Bradley.

2. Diversification of one and a half unused greenhouses into rural outdoor educational facility Ricroft Nursery Quaker Brook Lane (App No 12/00378/FUL) Applicants Mr and Mrs. Peter.

Councillor Peter declared a financial interest in this application.

(B). APPLICATIONS:

The following applications had been submitted since the last meeting of the Parish Council:-

(1) Erection of part single, part two storey side extension and a single storey front extension 3 Bell Villas Gib Lane (App no 12/00789/FUL) Applicant Ms Oracz.

(2) Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a new rear conservatory The Bungalow Station Road (App no 12/00710/FUL) Applicant Mr. Archer.

Details were circulated to all Members on both applications and no observations were made. The Clerk had notified Chorley Council.

A further application was submitted at the meeting for the erection of a single storey rear extension and detached garage Sunnymeade Gib Lane (App no 12/00858/FUL) Applicant Mr Peacock.

Details were circulated to all Members and no observations were made. The Clerk would notify Chorley Council.

(C). STANLEY GRANGE:

It was reported that South Ribble Borough Council on 22nd November 2012 would be considering the outline application for the demolition of Stanley Grange and redevelopment to include 70 over 55 retirement dwellings and community centre with a proportion of units to provide for existing self unlimited customers for their ongoing supported living requirements with all matters reserved apart from access layout and scale following demolition of existing care home (App no 078/2011/10834/OUT Adjoining Local Planning Authority Application – South Ribble Borough Council) Applicant CARE Fund/Self Unlimited.

Councillor Sharratt queried the date of the meeting.

The Clerk would clarify the date and notify all Members. The meeting could be attended by the public.

10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following accounts for payment

1.M. Savage	Grass Cutting Pinfold August 2012	£35.00*

HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2012

2. M. Savage	Grass Cutting Pinfold September 2012	£35.00
3.J.P. Savage	Erection of gate to Pinfold	£550.00*
4. A.R. Peter and Sons	Supply of materials for Parish Church Footpath	£347.64*
5. CPRE.	Annual Subscription 2012/2013	£29.00

The Accounts were agreed and the cheques signed.

* Approved by Chairman (Councillor Dickinson)

Councillor Peter declared a financial interest in Account no 4.

11. PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER:

The Clerk reported that he had made arrangements for the publication of a Parish Council Newsletter to be incorporated in the Parish Church Magazine and suggested that a donation of £50.00 be made towards the publication costs.

The Parish Council agreed in principle to make a donation of £50.00.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) would also make enquiries into a similar report being included in the Brindle St Joseph`s RC Church Magazine as many of the parishioners lived in Hoghton.

12. WAR MEMORIAL:

The Clerk reported on the current position regarding repairs to the War Memorial.

He had also made arrangements for Community Payback to tidy up the site.

13. PINFOLD:

The Clerk reported on the arrangements for the completion of the storyboard.

Councillor Peter referred to the Royal Oak sign on the Pinfold. The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported that discussions had taken place with the landlady regarding contributions towards the maintenance costs. However, the tenancy was due to change hands and it was felt that the issue should be left until a new landlord was appointed.

14. CODE OF CONDUCT;

The Clerk circulated the revised the Code of Conduct adopted by Chorley Council and recommended its adoption by the Parish Council.

Government guidelines were currently awaited of the Register of Interests.

The revised Code of Conduct was adopted.

15. BOROUGH/PARISH LIAISON MEETING:

The Clerk referred to the changes to the scheme for grass and hedge cutting.

16. LANCASHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY PERFORMANCE REPORT AND ACTION PLAN 2012:

HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL- 17TH SEPTEMBER 2012

The Clerk submitted this report for the information of the Parish Council which outlined the Fire Authority Performance over the past year, provided an updated risk profile and explained proposed changes to service delivery. The views of the Parish Council had been requested on expansion of day crewing system.

The Clerk would inform the Fire Authority that the Parish Council has no observations to make on the proposals.

17. REMEMBRANCE DAY - INVITATION FROM CHORLEY:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that they had been invited by the Mayor of Chorley to Remembrance Day Parade in Chorley. The Parish Council declined the invitation with thanks and regret as they would be attending their own service.

18. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2012:

The Clerk circulated results of the Best Kept Village Competition. He had asked for a copy of the judges comments on Hoghton's entry.

Councillor Sharratt suggested that the Parish Council should conduct a thorough investigation when the Inspectors Report was available.

19. HELP DIRECT:

The Clerk circulated details of the work of the the Co-ordinator of Chorley Help Direct and asked if the Parish Council wished to receive a presentation on this from the Co -ordinator.

It was agreed that no further action be taken.

20. CHORLEY ON LINE NEWSLETTER:

The Clerk circulated a copy of the first edition of intheboro – a new ezine for Town and Parish Councils, Partners and Community and Voluntary Groups. The purpose was for Chorley to keep Parishes updated on the latest developments

The information was noted and that in future the Clerk notify Members of any matters affecting them

21. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that their current external auditors BDO Partnership had been re-appointed by the Audit Commission for a further three years from 2013.

22. EQUALITY FORUM:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the date of the Forum meeting has been changed from 9th to 11th October 2012.

23. NOTICE BOARD – BOARS HEAD:

The Clerk reported that the notice board had now been repaired.

24. GRASS VERGES - BRINDLE BAR:

Councillor Peter reported that a firm of contractors had damaged the grass verges on both sides of the road at Brindle Bar. It was agreed to await further developments.

25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 15th October 2012 at 7.45.pm at the Village Hall

HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2012

there being no further business the Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) declared the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

Signed
Chairman

15th OCTOBER 2012