

**MINUTES OF 1108TH MEETING OF
HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 18TH APRIL 2016
AT THE HOLY TRINITY
PARISH CHURCH HALL.**

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: TWO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were submitted from County Councillor M. Devaney.

2. COUNCILLORS D. DICKINSON AND M. URRY:

The Chairman of the Meeting (Councillor T. Greenwood) welcomed back Councillors Dickinson and Urry following their recent illnesses.

3. RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLORS:

Councillor Dickinson reported that he had been advised not to continue as a Parish Councillor on health grounds and would not be seeking re-election to the Parish Council in May.

Councillor Watson had also reported that he would not be able to continue as a Parish Councillor for personal reasons and would not be seeking re- election .

The Parish Council placed on record its appreciation of the work of Councillor Dickinson on behalf of the Parish over the past forty years. Thirty two of them as Chairman.

They also thanked Councillor Watson for his contribution since 2013.

4. 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.

5. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21st March 2016 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting (Councillor T. Greenwood).

HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 18TH APRIL 2016

6. ADJOURNMENT:

THERE THEN FOLLOWED AN ADJOURNMENT TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO RAISE ISSUES AND QUESTION THE PARISH COUNCIL REGARDING MATTERS DEALT WITH. THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT DID NOT WISH TO RAISE ANY ISSUES AND THE PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED WITH THE BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA.

7. POLICE REPORT:

(A). NEWSLETTERS:

As the police were not present no report was presented.

The next PACT meeting would be held on 3rd May 2016 at the Brinscall Sports and Social Club.

(B). CONSUMER ALERTS – TRADING STANDARDS:

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

8. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk reported details of the current newsletter and submitted details of the Annual Conference to be held at the Leyland Hotel on 14th May 2016.

The Clerk also submitted an invoice for the Association's Subscription Fees for 2016/17 amounting to £153.29 compared with the figure for 2015/16 of £155.13.

The Parish Council agreed to continue its membership of the Lancashire Association of Local Councils, to the payment of the Annual Subscription fees in the sum of £153.29 and a cheque was signed.

9. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). FLOODING - CHAPEL LANE :

The Chairman of the meeting (Councillor T. Greenwood) reported there had been no progress on this matter.

County Councillor Devaney had requested the County Council to expedite the matter in view of the time this issue had remained unresolved. He had been informed that the reasons for the delay were being investigated and he would receive a response in the next two weeks. The Clerk would be kept informed of developments.

(B). SPEEDING TRAFFIC - CHAPEL LANE:

The Clerk reported that there had been no further developments regarding this matter or in connection with the potential hazardous conditions for motorists on Chapel Lane from the top of the hill to Hoghton Bottoms.

County Councillor Devaney had contacted the County Council regarding the matter and had been informed that the issue had been passed to the traffic section at the Highways Department and they would conduct a site visit.

HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL - 18TH APRIL 2016.

A Member of the Public indicated that the residents were seeking the introduction of traffic calming measures and traffic signs. It was also suggested that information leaflets should be sent to local residents.

The other Member of the Public had requested the police to go and speak to residents about the problems.

Councillor Sharratt suggested that the Parish Council write to the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the problems on Chapel Lane.

Councillor Dickinson reported on the proposals regarding the parking of cars on pavements.

The Clerk would contact the County Council again regarding the request for a site visit in connection with the hazardous conditions for motorists on Chapel Lane from the top of the hill to Hoghton Bottoms.

(C). SPEEDING TRAFFIC - GIB LANE:

It was reported that the County Council was still to arrange for a vehicle/traffic speed count on Gib Lane near Bell Villas. The Clerk had contacted the County Council and the police about this. He would ask County Councillor Devaney to expedite the speed count.

(D). HOGHTON LANE TRAFFIC SPEEDS:

The Parish Council was awaiting the outcome of the traffic monitoring exercises on Hoghton Lane.

(E). PUBLIC FOOTPATH SIGN:

The Clerk reported that the County Council was investigating the re-erection of the sign by the stile on the west side of Sandy Lane (B5256) and Blackburn Old Road (A657). Councillor Sharratt reported that the sign had still not been re-erected.

The Clerk would notify County Councillor Devaney.

(F). ROAD WORKS HOGHTON LANE:

Councillor Ms Urry requested information regarding the proposed road works on Hoghton Lane which had been due to begin on 4th April 2016 but to date had not started. The Parish Council had not been notified of the proposals.

The Clerk would seek further information from the County Council.

10. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

Councillor Dickinson reported that major improvements were being made to Chorley Town Centre.

He also referred to the closure of the Accident and Emergency Unit at Chorley Hospital and suggested sending a protest letter to the NHS Trust objecting to the closure.

The Clerk would write to the Chief Executive of the Hospital Trust objecting to this development and send a copy to the Local MP.

HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 18TH APRIL 2016

11. PLANNING REPORT:

(A). DECISIONS.

The Clerk reported no decisions had been made since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

(B). APPLICATIONS:

The Clerk reported that the following application had been received since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

Proposed single rear storey extension 5 Green Lane (App no 16/00312/PDE)
Applicant Ms S. Jones.

Details had been circulated to all Members and no observations were made.

The Clerk would notify Chorley Council.

12. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following accounts for payment

1.	T. Harkness	Clerk Salary and Expenses January - March 2016.	£670.82.
2.	HMRC	Tax on Clerks Salary and Expenses	105.00

13. WAR MEMORIAL:

The Clerk reported that Chorley Council was investigating the issues raised at the last meeting.

Councillor Peter felt that a possible cause of the ponding at the front of the War Memorial could be the result of one of the stone channels subsiding. It needed resetting. The Clerk would inform the project officer at Chorley.

Details of the registration documents relating to the Parish Council ownership of the War Memorial had been placed on the Parish Council website.

Further information regarding the joint project with Abbey Village were awaited.

14. CHORLEY LIAISON MEETING :

The Clerk submitted the minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2016.

Councillor Ms Urry commented on the operation of the revised time table for bus services and the lack of printed copies of the timetable.

Councillor Sharratt referred to the availability of copies at Preston Bus Station.

15. De HOGHTON ESTATE - FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN:

At the last meeting the Clerk had submitted a draft forest management plan for the de Houghton Estate which affected parts of the Parish. The Plan proposed a schedule of felling and restocking of trees across the estate over a ten year period.

Councillor Sharratt referred to the paragraph in the plan concerning the eradication of Himalayan Balsam.

HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL - 18TH APRIL 2016.

The Clerk had contacted the authors of the report for further information on this.

They had replied that with regard to the Himalayan balsam mentioned within the plan, it was focused in the wetter areas of the estate woodland and along the river. There were no current grants available for managing the balsam and the focus for the estate was to make the woodlands sustainable. Therefore the estate would consider management as and when, it had any surplus funds from the programmed felling operations.

16. AUDIT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the Audit for 2015/16 would take place on 27th June 2015.

The Independent Internal Auditor had examined the Parish Council's Accounts and procedures, confirmed that they were in order, agreed the Audit Report and submitted it to the Parish Council for approval.

The Clerk also reported that under the procedure it was necessary for the Parish Council to approve a statement of governance that the accounts had been undertaken in accordance with prescribed regulations. A copy of the Annual Return Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and the Independent Auditors Report was circulated to each Member.

Under the new regulations copies of the Annual Return would be posted on the Parish Council's website for 30 working days from 23rd June 2016.

The Parish Council acknowledged its responsibility for the preparation of the accounts and confirmed, to the best of its knowledge and belief that the Council's accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016 were true and correct and that they had considered the statement of governance in connection with those accounts.

The Chairman of the meeting (Councillor T. Greenwood) then signed the Annual Return where appropriate.

(B). NEW ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR LANCASHIRE:

In January the Clerk had submitted the draft recommendations of the Boundary Commission on future electoral arrangements for Lancashire. The recommendation for the Brindle and Hoghton ward would mean an increase in the area to take in parts of Wheelton and Clayton Brook.

Brindle Parish Council considered that whilst parts of Wheelton should be included in the Brindle and Hoghton Ward the parts of Clayton Brook should not be included as the natural boundary of the ward was the Leeds Liverpool Canal.

The Boundary Commission was informed of Brindle Parish Council's views. The Parish Council supported these views.

The Boundary Commission had now published its proposals for Lancashire and their original recommendations for the Brindle and Hoghton Ward had not been changed.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 16th May 2016 the Annual General Meeting followed by the Parish Council meeting at 7.30. p.m. at Holy Trinity Parish Church Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman of the meeting (Councillor T. Greenwood) declared the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 18TH APRIL 2016

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

16TH MAY 2016.