

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES OF 998TH MEETING**  
**OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON 20TH FEBRUARY 2006**  
**AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT: -**

**COUNCILLOR D. DICKINSON (CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLOR T. GREENWOOD (VICE CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLORS J. BALDWIN, E. MILLER-CROOK J. PROCTOR T.SHARRATT, AND Ms M. URRY AND MR. T HARKNESS (CLERK).**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Pc C.EVANS (POLICE COMMUNITY BEAT MANAGER) AND ONE MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC.**

**195. COMMUNITY BEAT MANAGER:**

The Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council welcomed Pc Chris Evans the newly appointed Community Beat Manager for the area who was attending his first meeting.

**196. 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.

**197. MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th January 2006 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**THERE THEN FOLLOWED AN ADJOURNMENT TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO RAISE ISSUES AND QUESTION THE PARISH COUNCIL REGARDING MATTERS DEALT WITH. THE MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT RAISED THE FOLLOWING MATTER: -**

**198. TRAFFIC SPEEDS – HOGHTON LANE:**

The Clerk circulated the traffic management scheme for the A675 through Houghton which had been prepared by the Environment Directorate at Lancashire County Council

Observations had been requested on the scheme which was to be considered for inclusion in the Local Safety Schemes Programme 2006/07 the Parish Council would be consulted again when the detailed design work had been completed.

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Members commented on the proposals and recommended that a uniform speed the speed limit of 40 mph should be imposed on the A675 from Riley Green to the South Ribble Borough boundary.

The Parish Council accepted the scheme in principle subject to the speed limit from Riley Green to the South Ribble Borough boundary being 40mph and the Clerk would inform the Environment Director of the comments made. He would ask that the scheme be included in the Local Safety Schemes Programme 2006/07 and given the highest priority possible.

**199. POLICING REPORT:**

The Community Beat Manager reported on policing in the parish during January 2006 and gave a comparison with January 2005. He also reported that he would be liaising with the Community Beat Manager based at Coupe Green to co-ordinate their activities so far as the Parish was concerned. He distributed material regarding the role of neighbourhood police officers.

**200. LAPTIC REPORT:**

The Clerk submitted the current Newsletter of the Association which included advance notice of the Annual Conference at Park Hall from Friday 12th to Sunday 14th May. The cost of attending on a daily basis was £35.00.

Downholland Parish Council had asked all Parish Councils to support its concerns regarding the continued erosion of public transport services in rural areas and suggested the provision of an additional subsidy where the service provided the sole or main access to key public services for those without access to private transport. These measures to be included as part of the Lancashire Transport Plan.

The Association also wanted to know if the Parish Council wished to nominate the Chairman to go to one of the Royal Garden Parties.

The Chairman was authorised to attend the Saturday session of the LAPTIC Annual Conference and the fee of £35.00 was agreed.

The Parish Council supported the concerns of Downholland Parish Council about rural transport.

It was also agreed that the Chairman be nominated to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 18th July 2006

**201. OVERGROWN FOOTWAYS GIB LANE:**

The Lancashire Highways Partnership (Area County Surveyor) had visited the area and felt that no further clearing work to Gib Lane was required. It had been suggested that the footway could be swept and the Chairman had asked Chorley Borough Council to do this.

The Parish Council agreed to await further developments.

**202. GRASS VERGE BY BUS SHELTER – BOARS HEAD:**

The Lancashire Highways Partnership had informed the Clerk that although the delivery company did not accept responsibility for damaging the highway verge outside the "Boars Head" they had instructed their drivers take care to ensure they did not drive onto the verge in future. Arrangements had been made to reinstate the damaged areas when labour was available, but due to more urgent commitments it was likely to be some time before this work was carried out. It was hoped that this

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would resolve the problem and that it would not be necessary to install verge marker posts at this location.

Councillor Miller Crook reported further incursions and felt that the situation remained unchanged and required solving quickly.

The Clerk would urge the Lancashire Highways Partnership (Area County Surveyor) to resolve this situation as quickly as possible.

**203. FOOTWAY BETWEEN RAILWAY BRIDGE AND BOARS HEAD CAR PARK:**

The Lancashire Highways Partnership (Area County Surveyor) had confirmed he would inspect the north footway of Hoghton Lane from the Railway Bridge to Gib Lane and appropriate action regarding any overhanging branches would be taken.

**204. 40 MPH SIGN - RILEY GREEN:**

The Environment Director at Lancashire County Council had asked the Area Surveyor to look into the matter.

**205. SPEEDING TRAFFIC – CHAPEL LANE:**

The Environment Director at the County Council had commented on the suggestion that `SLOW` should be painted on the road. He did not think it would be appropriate because they were normally used to warn drivers of the imminent presence of a hazard in the road ahead. This could take the form of a bend, dip in the road, brow of a hill, etc that restrict a drivers forward visibility He stated drivers quickly disrespect slow road markings if they could see no obvious hazard in the road ahead to slow down for. He also stated that Chapel Lane was a no through road and that most drivers were likely to be local and familiar with the bend in question. He also pointed out that it had street lighting and a 30mph speed limit.

**206. SIGNS - BRINDLE BAR:**

Councillor Miller Crook reported that the brown information sign relating to Hoghton Tower and Witton Country Park on the A675 was leaning and had been defaced. He also reported that Mr Seddon had informed him that the Sandy Lane nameplate at Brindle Bar was missing and the plywood backing was rotten and required repair.

He produced a photograph to show the situation regarding the information sign.

The Clerk would contact the appropriate authorities about the information sign and the street nameplate.

**207. 40 MPH SIGN – BRINDLE BAR:**

Councillor Miller Crook reported that this sign was leaning and required re-erecting. He produced a photograph to show the extent of the lean.

The Clerk would contact the Lancashire Highways Partnership (Area County Surveyor).about this.

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**208. BUS SHELTER A675 RILEY GREEN:**

Councillor Miller Crook reported that the bus shelter between Brindle Bar and the Royal Oak was leaning against the hedge and the tarmac round the base supports was loose. He produced a photograph to show the condition of the bus shelter.

The Clerk would contact the Chorley Borough Council about this.

**209 CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT:**

The Chairman presented a report on issues affecting the Parish Council.

**210. PLANNING REPORT:**

The Chairman reported that the following applications had been submitted to Chorley Borough Council since the last meeting.

1. Erection of a conservatory and single storey extension to the garage block and replacement of doors on the existing house at School House Blackburn Old Road. (App no 06/0047/FUL).

2. Rear extension link to the kitchen area at 2 Gib Lane (App no 06/00123/FUL)

The Parish Council made no observations on the proposals.

**211. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:**

No accounts were submitted for payment.

**212. CONSULTATION ON CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL'S SPENDING PLANS:**

A consultation document was circulated on Chorley Borough Council's spending plans for 2006/07 and the setting of the Council Tax. He also submitted the comments of the Vice Chairman of Brindle Parish Council much of which was relevant to Hoghton.

The Clerk would inform Chorley Borough Council that the Parish Council agrees in general with the comments of Brindle Parish Council on the spending plans for 2006/07.

**213. LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – PARISH COUNCIL CHARTER:**

The Lancashire County Council consultation document on a Parish Council Charter to was circulated together with comments on the proposals.

The Parish Council endorsed the comments made and the Clerk would submit them to the County Council.

**214 CODE OF CONDUCT:**

The Clerk submitted the observations of the National Association on the proposed changes to the Members Code of Conduct.

The comments were noted.

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**215 STANDING ORDERS:**

The Clerk resubmitted a copy of draft standing orders to be adopted by the Parish Council together with a report recommending amendments to suit the Parish Council.

The Standing Orders as amended were adopted.

**216. NHS REFORMS CONSULTATION;**

The Clerk submitted a leaflet regarding the consultation on changes to Primary Care Trusts in Cumbria and Lancashire.

The Parish Council supported option 3 - the proposed merger of the Chorley, South Ribble and Preston Primary Care Trusts.

**217. POLICE AUTHORITY MEETING**

The Chairman reported on the discussions held at the Chorley Police Authority Community Meeting held on 6th February 2006. Members commented on the proposals for the amalgamation of the Lancashire and Cumbria Police Forces.

**218. CHORLEY PARISHES MEETING WITH MP:**

The Clerk reported on the action taken by the Local MP following the meeting with representatives of Parishes in Chorley on Thursday 5th January 2006 and reported the comments of the Chief Fire Officer regarding the Chorley Fire Station and the names of the Neighbourhood Beat Wardens for Hoghton.

**219. PINFOLD:**

The Clerk reported that Mr Ormerod had completed the clearance work to Pinfold and that the Lancashire Countryside Service was now making arrangements for the tree planting to be carried out by the Scouts and Members of the Parish Council would be invited to attend. Councillor Ms Urry commented on the high standard of the work completed.

**220. NOTICE BOARDS:**

The Clerk reported that because of the delay in placing the order for the notice boards Care were no longer able to do the work. He was now seeking an alternative contractor.

**221. WAR MEMORIAL:**

The war memorial was inspected on 30th January and it was agreed that the Clerk would look into grants from various sources. He investigated a scheme by English Heritage. They did not make grants for cleaning of War Memorials because of the possibility of using chemicals which could damage the Memorial. They suggested the Parish Council should contact the Conservation Officer at Chorley. The Chairman had done so and her advice was awaited.

**222. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION.**

It was agreed that the Parish should be entered in the Annual Best Kept Village Competition and that the entry fee of £10.00 be paid

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**223. BOROUGH /PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON:**

The Clerk reported the dates of future meetings which were 19th July, and 18th October 2006 and 17th January 2007.

**224. WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT ADULTS AND OLDER PEOPLE IN LANCASHIRE:**

The Parish Council had been asked to complete a survey on this.

**225. LUNCHTIME AWARENESS EVENT:**

The parish Council had been invited by the Patient and Public Involvement Forum for Chorley and South Ribble to an Awareness Event on 16th March at St. Joseph's Parish Church Centre Harpers Lane Chorley from 12 noon to 2.00p.m

**226. NORTH WEST IN BLOOM COMPETITION;**

The Clerk submitted a letter from the Head of Public Space Services at Chorley regarding an entry in the competition and was seeking the views of Parish Councils whether they would be interested in supporting such a proposal.

The Parish Council supported the idea in principle but wished to have more notice about it in the future.

**227. 1000TH MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:**

Councillor Miller Crook reminded the Parish Council that the April 2006 meeting would be the 1000th meeting.

The Parish Council agreed to consider ways of marking the event at the next meeting.

**228. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Monday 20th March 2006 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10. p.m.