

**HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF 1008TH MEETING
HELD ON 19TH FEBRUARY 2007
AT THE VILLAGE HALL
PRESENT: -**

COUNCILLOR D. DICKINSON (CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLOR T. GREENWOOD (VICE CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLORS J.BALDWIN, T. SHARRATT AND Ms M. URRY AND MR. T HARKNESS (CLERK).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: TWO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

188 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors E. Miller-Crook and J Proctor.

189. COUNCILLOR E. MILLER-CROOK:

It was reported that Councillor Miller-Crook had been re-admitted to hospital for further surgery.

The Parish Council wished him a speedy recovery.

190. 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.

191. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 15th January 2007 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 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT RAISED THE FOLLOWING MATTER: -

192. PLANNING APPLICATION – RICROFT NURSERIES QUAKER BROOK LANE:

The applicant attended the meeting of the Parish Council to see if the Parish Council had been informed of any further developments. He was informed the Parish Council had not made any comments on the application and had notified Chorley Council. Further developments were awaited.

THERE WERE NO FURTHER MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THE PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED WITH THE BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA.

193. POLICING REPORT:

The Chairman reported that he had discussed the question of police reporting to Parish Councils with the Divisional Commander. At the recent Pact meeting, it had been agreed that the monthly crime statistics would be emailed to Parish Clerks as soon as they were available.

The Chairman also reported on the meeting of the Police and Community meeting held Monday 5th February 2007 at Coppull Community Centre.

A new Community Support Officer (PC A. Crow) had been appointed as assistant to the Community Beat Manager PC Crow's contact details would be sent to all Members.

The Divisional Commander had sent a letter to Parish Councils asking them to consider joining together to buy a vehicle for use by the Police she was asking for between £1000 and £2000 from each Parish.

Councillor Sharratt felt the request was unacceptable, he considered that any funding required for such initiatives should be the responsibility of the Police Authority or the Home Office.

It was agreed to write on these lines to the Divisional Commander.

194. LAPTIC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current Newsletter of the Association which included references to various government bills and the consultation exercise on the future of post offices.

Brindle Parish Council had agreed to support this Parish Council in any campaign against the closure of rural post offices.

195. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). TRAFFIC SCHEME – HOGHTON LANE:

The Clerk submitted the consultation plans for the local safety scheme for the A675 indicating the signs, road markings and proposed speed limit reduction. Comments were required by 30th March 2007.

It was agreed that the County Council should be informed that the Parish Council considers that the overall speed limit for the whole length of the A675 through Hoghton to the junction at Chorley Road corner should be 40.mph. In addition "Slow" markings should be painted on the road and directional signs provided at the junction of the A675 and A 6061 at Riley Green.

The Clerk would also seek further details of the suggested consultation with the public.

(B) GIB LANE:

The Clerk reported that, the Area County Surveyor had stated that the only work outstanding to Gib Lane was the siding back of the footpath and this would be undertaken as soon as the necessary labour was available, with the present backlog of work it could be some time before it was completed.

(HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 19TH FEBRUARY 2007)

(C). BUS STOPS:

The Clerk had written to Chorley Borough Council about the bus stops but no reply had been received.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's enquiry into the provision of Bus Shelter on the Blackburn side of the Straits and had been referred to Chorley Council.

(D). REVIEW OF BUS SHELTERS:

The Clerk reported that the County Council was undertaking a review on the provision and maintenance of bus shelters in Lancashire.

The Parish Council would consider the provision of bus shelters at the next meeting.

(E). FOOTWAY – COTTAGES ON HOGHTON LANE:

Councillor Baldwin reported that the footway was in poor condition following work by United Utilities and the manhole cover near Park View had been raised and was hazardous.

The Clerk would contact the Area County Surveyor and United Utilities about this.

(F) LAND ADJACENT TO THE RAILWAY BRIDGE HOGHTON LANE:

The County Council had agreed to investigate the ownership question again.

(G) RURAL SPEED LIMITS:

Following circulation of newspaper articles relating to proposed Rural Speed Limits by Councillor Sharratt the Parish Council discussed the proposals.

The Parish Council supported any reduction in speeds limits on rural roads and asked that LAPTIC consider submitting this proposal to the Annual General Meeting.

196. CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman reported on issues affecting the Parish Council.

197. PLANNING REPORT:

A. DECISIONS

The Clerk reported that the following applications had been granted.

1. Two storey rear extension and single storey side extension to form link between house and indoor pool and single storey extension to pool to form gym Woodland Manor Private Road. Applicant: Mr P. Chesworth. (App no 06/1320/FUL).

2. Crown lift and remove trees covered by TPO 10 (Hoghton) 1991 The Old Orchard Quaker Brook Lane. Applicant Beardwood Tree Services (App no 06/01261/TPO)

B. APPLICATIONS:

An application for an extension to rear ground floor family room with additional 2 bedroom extension above existing double garage and family room Oakdene Gib Lane Applicant Mr S. Callum (App no 07/0070/FUL) had been submitted to Chorley Council since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council had no comments on this application.

198. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

There were no accounts for payment.

199. COMMUNITY FORUMS:

The Clerk reported that it was the intention of Chorley Council to extend the Community Forum Scheme Borough Wide with immediate effect. Hoghton had been included in the East Community Forum. The first meeting would be held on Wednesday 14th March 2007 at 7.00p.m at St. John's Primary School School Lane Brinscall.

The Parish Council had been asked to appoint a representative to the Forum and determine any issues to be raised at the Forum.

Councillor Ms M. Urry was appointed the Parish Council's representative on the Chorley Community Forum East and that Chorley Council be informed that the Parish Council feels that the Forum Membership is unwieldy.

200. LIAISON MEETING BOROUGH/PARISH COUNCIL:

The Chairman and Councillor Ms Urry reported on the meeting held on Wednesday 17th January 2007.

201. POST BOX – GIB LANE:

The post box had now been replaced.

202. ENGAGING WITH NEIGHBOURHOODS IN LANCASHIRE:

The County Council proposed to establish consultation arrangements designed to give local people an opportunity to shape and influence the activities of the County Council.

The document commented on the levels of engagement, what was meant by neighbourhood the arrangements to facilitate engagement and how the County Council proposed to listen and respond to neighbourhoods.

This raised the question for Parish Councils of the Parish Council Charter. The Parish Council had commented on this and their views were being taken into account and a revised draft would be circulated to all Parish Councils and be subject of a conference in the summer.

The information was noted.

203. HOME START CHORLEY AND SOUTH RIBBLE:

The Clerk submitted an application for financial assistance towards the running costs of this organisation.

Regrettably the Parish Council was not in a position to make a contribution to this organisation.

204. NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

The Clerk reported that the interest on this account for 2006 amounted to £21.26 and the total invested amounted to £712.05.

205. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION.

(HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 19TH FEBRUARY 2007)

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.

206. CHORLEY PARTNERSHIP:

The initial meeting of the Sub Group had been held and the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 20th February 2007 at 5.30 p.m.

The information was noted.

207. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BILL:

The Clerk submitted a letter from Lindsay Hoyle M.P. regarding the action he had taken in support of the Bill.

The information was noted.

208. DOG CONTROL ORDERS:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council of the intention of Chorley Council to increase the fixed penalty for dog fouling and had asked the Parish Council for comments.

The Parish Council welcomed the measure in principle.

209. WORKING TOGETHER ON BIG PLANNING ISSUES:

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting the Parish Council had agreed to support the initiative made by Chorley Preston and South Ribble Planning Departments to consider the planning issues affecting the area up to 2021 entitled Central Lancashire City. The proposed work shop would be held on Monday 19th March 2007 at 2.00 p.m. at the Lancashire Football Association Headquarters Thurston Road Leyland.

In addition the three councils had arranged a series of public forums on Tuesdays 6th March at the Town Hall Chorley 13th March at the United Reformed Church Hough Lane Leyland and 21st March at the Town Hall Preston for public debate on their involvement in the planning process.

210. CHORLEY OLD PEOPLE'S FORUM:

The Forum would meet on Wednesday 28th February 2007 at 1-30 p.m. at the United Reformed Church Railway Road Adlington when the topic for discussion would be Transport and Mobility.

211. CODE OF CONDUCT:

The Clerk submitted a briefing note issued by Chorley Council on the draft revised Code of Conduct.

Councillor Sharratt indicated that under the present Code there was no provision for evidence to be provided by a complainant against a Member of the Council. He considered the Code should be amended to specify that if a complainant did not provide evidence within a period of three months then the complaint should be made void.

- **(HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 19TH FEBRUARY 2007)**

The Clerk inform Chorley Council's Monitoring Officer of this and write to the Department for Communities and Local Government to ask them to include this in their comments to the Government on the revisions to the Code of Conduct.

212. LANCASHIRE LOCAL CHORLEY:

A report on the Lancashire Local meeting held on 6th February 2007 was presented.

213. BLACKPOOL AIRPORT EXPANSION:

The Parish Council was informed of the situation in relation to the flights over Hoghton arising from the possible expansion of the airport.

214. GRANTS BY COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Councillor Sharratt informed the Parish Council that under the scheme allowing each local County Councillor to grant aid local organisations, the Girl Guides had received a grant of £350.00 from County Councillor Mrs Livesey and he made a contribution to Gregson Lane Cricket Club and a separate award to the local organiser of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

215. ROCK GARDENS:

The Chairman reported that he had been approached by a resident of Rock Gardens regarding the making up of the road in this locality. However, as this was a private road the cost of doing this would fall on the residents.

216. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 19th March 2007 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall

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