

**DRAFT MINUTES OF 1019TH MEETING
OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 18TH FEBRUARY 2008
AT THE VILLAGE HALL
PRESENT: -**

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – POLICE COMMUNITY BEAT MANAGER (C. EVANS.) AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER ANDY CROW.

208. 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.

209. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21st January 2008 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

210. POLICING REPORT:

The Police Community Support Team gave a report on policing for January and February 2008, during which time there had been three reported incidents. He also informed the Parish Council of other police activities such as speed enforcement in Gib Lane and at Riley Green. Councillor Proctor referred to the noise from a motor bike at weekends.

The Chairman reported on the Police and Community Meeting held on 4th February 2008.

211. LAPTC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current Newsletter.

212. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). LAND ADJACENT TO THE BOARS HEAD:

There had been no progress on this matter. The Chairman agreed to speak to the tenant regarding this.

(B) FOOTPATH REAR OF HOGHTON LANE:

The Footpaths Officer was looking into the issues raised at the last meeting.

(C) LANE MARKINGS M65 ROUNDABOUT:

The Environment Directorate was investigating the problem and would respond in due course.

(D) CRIPPLEGATE LANE:

The Vice Chairman reported that because of satellite navigation large vehicles were going down Cripplegate Lane and getting stuck in some cases preventing residents from leaving their properties.

It was agreed to ask for ask the County Council to erect a no vehicular access sign or similar on Cripplegate Lane.

Reference was also made to elderly residents taking litter bins to the entrance to the lane. The Waste Collections Manager at Chorley would be asked to make arrangements for the bins to be collected from and returned to the properties concerned by the Collection Service.

(E). MOULDEN BROW:

The Chairman reported that an area of land owned by the De Hoghton Estate was overgrown and unsightly. The Clerk would write to the Estate to ask for it to be tidied up.

213. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman reported on issues affecting the Parish Council.

214. PLANNING REPORT:

The Clerk reported that the following applications had been approved:-

1. Conversion of former Methodist Chapel building to residential property Hoghton Methodist Chapel Chapel Lane. (App no 07/01384/FUL) Applicants The Methodist Property Office.
2. Listed Building Consent for conversion of former Methodist Chapel building to residential property Hoghton Methodist Chapel Chapel Lane. (App no 07/01385/LBC) Applicants The Methodist Property Office.
3. Conversion of former Sunday School Building to residential property Hoghton Methodist Chapel Chapel Lane. (App no 07/01386/FUL) Applicants The Methodist Property Office.
4. Listed Building Consent for conversion of former Sunday School Building to residential property Hoghton Methodist Chapel Chapel Lane. (App no 07/01387/LBC) Applicants The Methodist Property Office.

(B) PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

The Clerk reported on the revised procedure for the standardisation of planning applications.

(C) HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN GARDEN CURTILAGES:

Chorley Council had issued an advice note outlining the key national and local policies that are used when assessing applications for new residential development in gardens.

215. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The following account was submitted for payment

1 S.Ormerod	Clearing - Pinfold *Payment approved by the Chairman	£76.00
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The account was agreed and a cheque signed.

216. BENCH – POST OFFICE:

The Chairman reported that the bench had been placed at the site and a letter of thanks sent to Chorley. The Council's Insurers had also been informed.

With regard to the dedication of the bench to Arthur Miller Crook and Eric Miller Crook it was suggested that a more appropriate location would be the bench at Chapel Lane.

It was agreed to put the plaque on this bench and that the wording should be "Dedicated to Arthur Miller Crook and Eric Miller Crook in recognition of their service to the Parish. The Clerk would arrange for the plaque to be attached to the bench.

Reference was also made to the programme of Post Office Closures. There were no plans to close Houghton Post Office.

217. PROVISION OF DOG FOULING BINS HOGHTON BOTTOMS:

The Chairman would again contact the landowner for his written permission and notify Chorley Council.

218. WAR MEMORIAL:

The Chairman reported on the current situation regarding the responsibility for the maintenance of the War Memorial.

219. CHORLEY EAST COMMUNITY FORUM:

The Clerk reported that in response to the question as to what would replace Community Forums, Chorley Council had indicated that it was still very much committed to community engagement and was currently evaluating proposals for neighbourhood working. As soon as there was an agreed way forward the Council would be in touch with all Parish Councils, partner organisations and members of the public who attended the Forums.

220. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS:

The Audit Commission had re-appointed BDO Stoy Hayward as the Council's auditor for the next five years and had confirmed the type of audit and scale of fees payable. The basic cost was £50 plus VAT.

221. LANCASHIRE LOCAL:

A report was presented on the meeting of the Lancashire Local on 6th February 2008 and one of the topics was a future programme of small highways projects. Councillor Ms Urry referred to the Houghton Lane Improvement Scheme and in particular the lack of information regarding the repainting of the Slow Road Marking and signage on part of Houghton Lane.

The Clerk would consult the Environment Director about this.

222. CHORLEY SMILE CAMPAIGN:

The Clerk reported on the promotion of this scheme by Chorley Council.

223. LITTER.

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Councillor Proctor referred to the proposed investment in clean up teams to tackle fly tipping and litter. He hoped that he scheme would extend to Hoghton and the Clerk had contacted Chorley Council for their views. They had replied that the comments of the Parish Council would be taken account of when the programme of work for the clean up teams was arranged.

224. PARISH CHARTER:

The Clerk reported details of a proposed seminar on the charter on 12th April 2008.

The Chairman and Councillor Ms Urry would attend.

225. CHORLEY PARTNERSHIP:

The Clerk reported that the Chorley Partnership was seeking nominations to the Board of the organisation from April 2008.

Councillor Ms Urry was nominated.

226. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION.

It was agreed that the Parish should be entered in the Annual Best Kept Village Competition, that the entry fee of £10.00 be paid and a cheque was signed. Councillor Proctor would discuss with the Clerk any Certificate of Merit entries.

227. ELECTIONS 2008:

Councillor Ms Urry enquired about the forthcoming Parish Council Elections in May 2008. The Clerk would circulate any information as soon as it was available.

228. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

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

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50. p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

17th March 2008