

MINUTES OF 1062ND MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 20TH FEBRUARY 2012 AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS BOTO AMD MURPHY AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR M. DEVANEY

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

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

2. COUNCILLOR Ms URRY:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) informed the Parish Council of the illness of Councillor Ms Urry

The Parish Council wished her a speedy recovery.

3. COUNCILLOR PROCTOR:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) informed the Parish Council that Councillor Proctor had been re-admitted to hospital.

The Parish Council wished Councillor Proctor a speedy recovery.

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 16th January 2012 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. 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.

7 POLICE REPORT:

PCSOs Bottom and Murphy reported that there had been one incident of crime in Houghton during January 2012 and reported on the current situation regarding the introduction of Rural Watch.

The Clerk also reported that Chorley Council was looking into the deployment of a SplD in the Parish.

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Copies of the Air Support Unit Winter Newsletter were circulated together with February edition of the Chorley Rural East Police Newsletter.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) and Councillor Sharratt reported on the Police Air Support Unit PACT meeting held on Thursday 9th February 2012. Councillor Sharratt was impressed with the police presentation on how they stopped suspect vehicles.

The Police also circulated details of scams which had been reported by The Trading Standards Officer. These included email scams, Bogus Callers and Cold Calling Incidents. The Clerk would circulate details to all Members.

The Police PACT meeting for this area was held on 7th February 2012.

The current PACT priority was the theft of lead and stone from private and business premises. None had been reported stolen in Hoghton during January but it was a national problem that was also affecting the rural area around Chorley, with several thefts of lead, stone flags and electrical cable reported during January.

The police were also concerned with the number of vehicles, homes and business premises that were being entered and stolen from, having been left insecure by their owners, and they were trying to pass on appropriate advice regarding securing property.

8. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current newsletter

The Clerk presented a report on the current situation concerning the appointment of a Parish Council Representative on the Chorley Three Tier Forum following the meeting of Chorley Parishes on Wednesday, 18th January 2012. The Area Secretary had asked that any items for the next Forum meeting on 20th March 2012 should be sent to the Parish Councils` representative on the Forum.

He also reported that NALC working jointly with the CPRE had produced a guide on Neighbourhood Planning.

At the last meeting Councillor Peter suggested that the De Hoghton Estate be informed of the Jubilee Beacons Scheme. The Clerk had forwarded the information to Sir Bernard De Hoghton. He had replied that the Tower would be involved in the Beacon Scheme and the Clerk had notified the appropriate authority.

It was reported that there was to be a councillor briefing session on the replacement Parish Charter on Monday 26th March 2012 from 1.00. to 2.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at County Hall. Councillor Sharratt would attend.

9. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). COMMUNITY PAYBACK:

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) reported that Community Payback had carried out work to the footpath on Hoghton Lane and by the Parish Church.

Community Payback felt that the surface of the footpath at the Parish Church needed attention and suggested the laying of a membrane and stone chippings. It was also reported that he stile need attention.

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This was a public footpath and details would be reported to the County Council by County Councillor Devaney who would discuss the proposed suggestion made by Community Payback with the Footpaths Officer.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) also reported that the farmer adjoining the Hoghton Lane had requested the removal of rubbish which they had dumped in his field because it was a danger to livestock. The Clerk had acquired some rubbish sacks and Community Payback had been back to the footpath but the debris has been removed.

He submitted an account for £9.84 and this was agreed and a cheque signed.

(B). MUD - PRIVATE ROAD:

The Clerk contacted County Council and County Councillor Devaney regarding mud being deposited on the road and the Highways Inspector had investigated the matter and arranged for the road to be swept.

(C) ROAD SURFACE – QUAKER BROOK LANE:

At the last meeting Councillor Sharratt expressed concern regarding the condition of the carriageway. The foundation seemed to be loose causing the road surface to shift.

The Clerk had informed the Highways Inspectorate and this was being investigated.

(D). HOGHTON LANE – TRAFFIC SPEEDS:

Chorley Council had been asked to deploy its Spid device.

(E) ROAD MARKINGS A675 BLACKBURN OLD ROAD:

The Clerk had asked the Highways Inspectorate to carry out further investigations into the condition of the road.

(F) POTHoles – HOGHTON LANE:

Councillor Sharratt reported that he had informed the Highways Inspectorate of the large potholes on the A675 Hoghton Lane and repair work had been undertaken.

(G) DUMPING OF ROADSIDE MATERIAL –VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK:

The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) reported that he had been informed by a local resident that what appeared to be waste road side material had been dumped on the Village Hall Car Park. It was claimed that the people dumping the rubbish were Chorley Council employees.

The Clerk had asked the Neighbourhood Officer to investigate this claim and he had indicated that it was not Chorley Council. The Clerk had then contacted Lancashire County Council and they had also denied dumping rubbish.

The Vice Chairman had discussed this again with the complainant who was adamant the dumping was done by Council workmen.

(H) ROAD SIGNS – WEASEL LANE:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported that County Councillor Devaney had met him to discuss the erection of a HGV sign on Weasel Lane.

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The County Council had agreed to the erection of a sign and as this was a private road in the ownership of the de Hoghton Estate permission was currently being sought for it to be put up. Councillor Peter would raise this when he met the Estate representatives

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) referred to the condition of Weasel Lane but as this was a private road the maintenance of it was the responsibility of the landowner.

(I) GENERAL HIGHWAYS ISSUES:

County Councillor Devaney reported that the County Council was to undertake a Review of the operation of Speed Cameras throughout the County. The results of the review would be published later in the year.

He also reported that improvements would be made to the signing and road markings on Bolton Road Abbey Village to try to prevent speeding along the road from the Motorway junction.

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10 CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported that a special meeting of Chorley Council would be held on 28th February 2012 to confirm the level of the Council Tax for 2012/13.

11. PLANNING REPORT:

(A) DECISIONS.

No decisions affecting the Parish had been taken since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

(B). APPLICATIONS:

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.

Details were published locally and several residents and Councillor Peter raised objections.

The Clerk indicated that he had objected on behalf of the Parish Council as an adjoining Council for the following reasons:-

1. The proposals were in Green Belt.
2. It was an overdevelopment of the site.
3. If approved there would be increased traffic on Quaker Brook Lane (being the shortest route to the nearest shops, fuel etc) increase of traffic on Roach Road/Gib Lane by residents' vehicles, utility & service vehicles etc.
4. The overall visual appearance of the development

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The Clerk had also commented that as this was such a large scale development on the boundary of the Parish, the Parish Council felt that it would have been a courtesy for it to be notified of the application rather than find out about it as a result of notices posted on Quaker Brook Lane.

A copy of the letter was sent to Councillor Mullineaux the Ward Councillor for the area.

The Clerk reported that a public meeting had been arranged at Samlesbury War Memorial Hall Cuerdale Lane on 28th February 2012 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) Councillors Peter and Sharratt would attend.

(C). HELICOPTER FLIGHTS – BEESTON MANOR

The Clerk circulated a copy of the planning permission issued by South Ribble Borough Council relating to Helicopter Pads at the restaurant.

He had also spoken to the Clerk to Samlesbury and Cuerdale Parish Council about the issues with helicopter flights from Beeston Manor and he had reported there had been no problems.

Councillor Peter felt that there had been less activity recently and suggested that the matter be not pursued for the time being.

(D) PLANNING WORKSHOP:

Councillor Peter reported on the workshop for Councillors on Monday 23 January 2012

The Parish Council thanked him for his attendance.

(E). COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY – CONSULTATION:

The Clerk submitted a consultation document dealing with the new way in which developers could be required to fund infrastructure projects. The levy would partly replace and partly be in addition to developer contributions under Section 106 of the Town and Country planning Act 1990.

A Consultation Event would be held at Chorley Town Hall on 29th February 2012.

(F) BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN BOROUGH COUNCIL – SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT:

The Clerk submitted a consultation document dealing with the introduction of new guidance for houses in multiple occupation. conversion of building to dwellings, and the sub division of dwellings. The guidance had been issue by Blackburn with Darwen Council to assist in the planning process.

12. ACCOUNT FOR PAYMENT:

The following account was submitted for payment

. T. Harkness	Clerk – Expenses September – December 2011	£119.92
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The account was agreed and a cheque signed.

13. PINFOLD:

The Clerk reported the current position regarding the work to the Pinfold.

Chorley Council had donated a bench and the Contractor had agreed to provide hardstanding for it at a cost of £230.00. The Parish Council accepted this quote and an order had been placed with the contractor.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) had discussed the question of whether planning permission was needed for a smaller gate to the Pinfold. Chorley Council was to inspect the site and issue a decision.

County Councillor Devaney indicated that he would speak to the Cabinet Member for Planning and the Environment on Chorley Council to see if the decision could be expedited.

In the meantime the Clerk had consulted the Estate as landlords of the property 29 Riley Green for their views in accordance with the request of the Planning Officer.

The Estate had replied that with regard to The Pinfold – Access Gate adjacent to the Gable End of 29 Riley Green they had no objection for the Parish Council to supply and install a larger wooden gate in the wall of the Pinfold adjacent to the gable end of No. 29 Riley Green.

This agreement was on the under-mentioned terms and conditions:-

1. The de Hoghton Estate not to bear any costs in the matter.
2. The replacement gate to be of a similar design to the existing gate.
3. The Estate's rights over the Pinfold are uninterrupted at all times.
4. The Hoghton Parish Council indemnify the de Hoghton Estate against any claims whatsoever arising from this permission.

This had been agreed.

The Estate had also sent a copy of the correspondence to Mr. Dillon of 29 Riley Green for his information.

Councillor Peter referred to the gap in the privet hedge to the rear of Green Lane. The planting time for the hedge was nearing its end and if there was not the opportunity to plant he would put up some plants so that the gap could be filled when necessary.

Councillor Peter was thanked for this.

14. BOROUGH PARISH LIAISON:

The Clerk reported on the meeting of the Borough/ Parish Liaison Committee held on Wednesday 18th January 2012. This included the discussions on the Community Infrastructure Levy and the taking over of responsibility for some street scene and environmental services by Chorley Council from the County Council. This could mean more grass cutting in the Parish.

15. HEALTH WATCH ENGLAND/LANCASHIRE LINK:

The Clerk circulated the February 2012 newsletter of the organisation.

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He also circulated a consultation document relating to the regulations for Health Watch England Membership

The Clerk was authorised to respond on behalf of the Parish Council to the consultation document.

16. QUEEN`S DIAMOND JUBILEE:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the de Hoghton Estate was to light a beacon at the Tower on 4th June 2012 to commemorate the Jubilee.

The Parish Council considered other ideas to commemorate the occasion.

Councillor Sharratt suggested that a flagpole be erected at a suitable location in the Parish to commemorate the event.

The Parish Council agreed and would consider possible suitable sites at its next meeting.

17. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2012:

The Clerk submitted details of this year's Competition.

The Parish Council agreed to enter the Annual Best Kept Village Competition.

The Clerk would approach the organisations recommended for the Certificate of Merit Class last year to see if they wished to participate this year. The matter would then be considered at the next meeting.

18. LANCASHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY PERFORMANCE REPORT AND ACTION PLAN 2011:

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that in August 2011 it had considered this report and informed the Fire Authority that the Parish Council was opposed to the withdrawal of the Aerial Ladder Platform for the Preston area and requested that this proposal be looked at again in view of the size of the area it covered

The Authority had now completed its consultation exercise and had decided that the Aerial Ladder Platform for the Preston area should be retained.

19. NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT;

Interest amounting to £1.53 has been paid on the National Savings Account which now totalled £766.51.

20. RURAL BROADBAND:

County Councillor Devaney reported that the County Council and BT had formed a joint company with the objective of rolling out improved broadband facilities in rural areas such as Hoghton by 2013.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 19th March 2012 at 8.00.pm at the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

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**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

19TH MARCH 2012