

MINUTES OF 1084TH MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 17TH FEBRUARY 2014 AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

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

PRIOR TO THE MEETING REPRESENTATIVES FROM NETWORK RAIL GAVE A PRESENTATION ON UNMANNED LEVEL CROSSINGS.

1. COUNILLOR D.DICKINSON - CHAIRMAN:

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) on behalf of the Parish Council welcomed back the Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) following his recent illness.

2. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:

An apology for absence was submitted from Councillor M. Watson.

3. 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.

4. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 20th January 2014 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. 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.

6. POLICE REPORT:

(A) NEWSLETTERS:

As the police were not in attendance no report was presented.

Councillors Sharratt and Ms Urry reported on the Police Air Support PACT meeting held on 6th February 2014.

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Councillor Sharratt reported that Police Air Support was now a National Service and commented on the assistance it received from other organisations.

Councillor Ms Urry reported that a presentation was given by the Coastguard Service.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) referred to the closure of coastguard stations.

Councillor Ms Urry also reported that the next PACT meeting would be held in June and there would also be one other after that which would be the final one as PC Jeffrey retired in December.

She suggested that a letter of support for the Air Support PACT Meeting should be sent to the Chief Constable and that PC Jeffrey be thanked for her valuable contribution to the PACT Meetings.

The Clerk would write to the Lancashire Constabulary on these lines.

(B). CONSUMER ALERTS – TRADING STANDARDS:

The Clerk circulated copies of the latest consumer alerts from the County Council's Trading Standards Officer including an urgent report on fake shopping coupons.

7. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk reported details of the current newsletter.

He also reported that the LALC Chorley Area Committee meeting was held on 13th February 2014.

8. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). FOOTPATH NO 5 - BRINDLE LODGE:

The Clerk reported that there had been no further progress on this matter despite further representations to the County Council and the publication of details of the problems in the newsletters.

It was agreed that no further action should be taken on this matter at the present time.

(B). BUS SHELTERS AT BOARS HEAD BLACKBURN OLD ROAD A675:

The Clerk reported that Community Payback had been asked to repaint the benches the benches and clear up the litter in the bus shelters.

(C). STATION ROAD:

It was reported that Station Road and Blackburn Old Road near Holy Trinity Church had been swept.

(D). FLOODING:

The blocked drains at Quaker Brook Lane near lamppost 16 on Blackburn Old Road and near Barracks Farm on Chapel Lane had been reported to the County Council for attention.

Councillor Sharratt indicated that he had not noticed any further flooding on Blackburn Old Road since the last meeting but was concerned that it was a traffic hazard if the flooding should occur again.

Councillor Peter reported on the problems associated with the drain near Barracks Farm Chapel Lane.

Councillor Baldwin reported that the flooding at Quaker Brook Lane had been resolved.

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(E). OVERGROWN FOOTWAY - GIB LANE :

The Clerk had notified the Neighbourhood Officer about the condition of the road and pavement and asked for action to be taken.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) reported that the pavement had been swept and was now passable but the debris had been heaped by the hedge.

The Clerk would ask the Neighbourhood Officer to remove the debris.

(F). RESURFACING A675 BLACKBURN OLD ROAD:

At a previous meeting Councillor Ms Urry had asked whether any resurfacing work was proposed to Blackburn Old Road. The road surface was particularly bad from The Straits to Riley Green.

It was noted that white markings had been painted round areas of the road although the potholes on the railway bridge had been left untouched.

The Clerk would ask the County Council what was the current situation regarding work to the A675 Blackburn Old Road and mention the potholes by the bridge.

(G). BROKEN STILE:

The Footpaths Officer had been informed of the broken stile and condition of the surface and had notified the Clerk that the repair had been placed on a list and would be dealt with in order of priority. The Clerk would notify the Footpaths Officer.

(H). RIGHTS OF WAY:

The Clerk circulated for the information of the Parish Council a legal note on Rights of Way.

9. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Clerk reported that the next meeting of Chorley Council would be on 25th February 2014.

10. PLANNING REPORT:

(A). DECISIONS.

The Clerk reported that the application for a proposed single storey rear extension 19 Bell Villas Gib Lane (App no 13/001184/POE) Applicant L. Thompson had been approved since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

(B). APPLICATIONS:

The Clerk reported that no applications had been received since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

(C). BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN PLANNING POLICY:

The Clerk submitted details of the the next stage in the publication of this local plan.

11. ACCOUNT FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following account for payment

*1. Douglas Tonks Ltd.	Payroll Administration	£554.59
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* Payment by Direct Debit.

12. CHORLEY COUNCIL BUDGET 2014/2015 - CONSULTATION :

The Clerk submitted the consultation documents issued by Chorley Council dealing with its proposals for the Budget in 2014/2015. The council tax would be frozen for the coming financial year.

13. WAR MEMORIAL:

Councillor Ms Urry reported that she had contacted the War Memorials Trust to give details of the War Memorial including photographs.

The Clerk reported on the publicity given to the appeal for volunteers to assist in the project.

14. CRIPPLEGATE LANE:

The Clerk reported that there had been no further progress regarding the laying of stone chippings at Cripplegate Lane.

The Clerk would discuss the matter with the County Council.

15. NETWORK RAIL CLOSURE OF UNMANNED LEVEL CROSSINGS:

Following a presentation by Network Rail earlier the Parish Council discussed the proposals.

Network Rail were thanked for the presentation, and that further information on the crossings in Hoghton be awaited including the the census data, and that they be asked to provide an Ordnance Survey Map showing the location of the crossings.

16. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2012:

The Clerk submitted details of this year's Competition together with the Judges Report on the Parish entry in 2013.

Members commented on the matter.

Councillor Sharratt suggested that the Parish Council should enter the Competition in 2014. It was decided not to accept this suggestion and the Parish Council agreed that it would not enter the Best Kept Village Competition in 2014.

17. EQUALITY FORUM:

The Clerk reported that the meeting was held on 23rd January 2014.

18. COMMEMORATION OF START OF WORLD WAR ONE:

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) reported on the current situation regarding the Government's scheme to commemorate the start of World War One by planting poppy seeds.

Councillor Peter had agreed to plant seeds at the War Memorial and Councillor Watson would plant them at Holy Trinity Church.

The Clerk would make arrangements for the acquisition of the seeds.

19. FOOD FESTIVAL - SIRLOIN:

The Parish Council reviewed the operation of this Festival held on 31st January to 2nd February 2014.

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20. REVIEW OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING:

The Clerk reported that following a review and it had been decided to create a new Eastern Parishes Neighbourhood Area which would include the Parishes of Angelzarke, Brindle Heapey, Hoghton Wheelton and Withnell. The first meeting of this Neighbourhood Committee was held on 5 February 2014.

21. RURAL BROADBAND:

The Clerk reported that he had been informed by County Councillor Devaney that the County Council had notified him that the Hoghton exchange was in the plans for the rollout of fibre under the Superfast Lancashire project. Work would start in this area towards the end of summer this year.

22. NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

The Clerk reported that the annual interest had been paid on the Council's National Saving Account this amounted to £5.78 and the Account now stood at £776.41.

23. SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES - LCC BUDGET PROPOSALS:

The Clerk reported that the County Council was not implementing the proposed cuts to rural bus services.

24. REDEVELOPMENT OF VILLAGE HALL:

Councillor Peter informed the Parish Council of comments made by residents that cost of the redevelopment should be included in the Parish Council's Annual precept.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) reported that the HRDC group had folded and the Village Hall Management Committee had taken over the redevelopment of the Village Hall and was suggesting that a smaller development should take place by building a sports annex.

25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 17th March 2014 at 7.45.pm at the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.45.
p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

17TH MARCH 2014