

**DRAFT MINUTES OF 1018TH MEETING
OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 21ST JANUARY 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).

178. COUNCILLOR E. MILLER-CROOK:

The Chairman referred to the recent death of Parish Councillor E. Miller – Crook and referred to his long service on the Parish Council. All present stood silent for a few moments as a mark of respect.

179. 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.

180. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19th November 2007 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.

181. POLICING REPORT:

The Clerk reported that he had been informed that future PACT meetings would not take place as their effectiveness was being reviewed.

182. LAPTC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current Newsletter detailing a possible change to the name of the Association to the Lancashire Association of Local Councils; He also reported details regarding the registration of village greens. It had also been agreed to hold the Annual Conference annually in the autumn.

The Chairman of the Parish Council (Councillor Dickinson) was re-appointed Chairman of the Association and there was also a programme of training which included Planning, Chairmanship and New Councillors and Clerks.

183. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). TRAFFIC SCHEME – HOGHTON LANE:

The Lancashire Local Chorley on 10th December 2007 had confirmed the 50 mph order and it had been agreed to regularly monitor traffic speeds on Houghton Lane. Work on the Scheme would start in May 2008

(B). LAND ADJACENT TO THE BOARS HEAD:

At the last meeting it was reported that the tenant of the Boars Head had made arrangements to cut the brambles at the appropriate time and the de Hoghton Estate had been notified of the present position. However, the brambles had still not been cut. The Clerk would contact the tenant regarding this.

(C) FOOTPATH NO 5:

The repaired footpath was now well used and the problems regarding the condition of the footpath after heavy rain had been reported to the County Council. The replacement gates had been erected.

(D). GIB LANE:

The Vice Chairman reported that the lamp had been repaired and the directional sign to Bell Villas erected.

(E) GRASS CUTTING:

The County Area Surveyor had not yet responded to the query regarding grass cutting.

(F). 40 MPH SIGN RILEY GREEN:

The County Area Surveyor had inspected the sign and did not consider it constituted a hazard.

(G) STATION ROAD - SIGN:

Chorley Council was arranging for the sign to be repaired.

(H) ROAD MARKINGS – MOTORWAY ROUNDABOUT:

The Highways Agency had indicated that the markings on the roundabout were now the responsibility of the County Council and the Clerk had written to them asking them to arrange for markings to be provided.

(I) FOOTPATH REAR OF HOGHTON LANE:

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

(J) SPEED LIMIT ORDERS:

The Clerk circulated a County Council briefing note on Speed Limit Orders.

(K) SPEED WARNING SIGNS:

The Clerk reported the request from Withnell Parish Council that speed warnings signs be jointly acquired. The Parish Council was not in a position to make a financial contribution to the proposal and the Clerk would notify Withnell Parish Council.

(L). BUS SHELTER THE STRAITS:

The erection of a bus shelter was raised last year but no progress had been made. The Clerk would contact the Environment Director about this.

184. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman reported on issues affecting the Parish Council.

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185. PLANNING REPORT:

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

(A) DECISIONS

1. Emergency repair/rebuilding one flue chimney stack and lead repairs behind single flue chimney stack on west range and repairs and minor rebuilding work to two single chimney stacks on south wing Hoghton Tower Blackburn Old Road (App no 07/01141/LBC) Applicants Hoghton Towers Preservation Trust.
2. Replacement of modern patio doors with European oak screen School House Blackburn Old Road (App No 07/01120/LBC) Applicant Mr Hantom.
3. Erection of two storey rear extension 1-2 Spring Bank Cottages Viaduct Road (App no 07/01081/FUL). Applicant Mr. Quail.
4. Extension to existing ménage Quaker Brook Farm Quaker Brook Lane (App no 07/001195/FUL) Applicants Mr and Mrs Pendlebury.

(B) APPLICATIONS

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.

The Parish Council was concerned about the limited parking in this area and felt that Chorley Council should be informed.

186. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The following accounts were submitted for payment

1 T. Harkness	Salary (£312.50) and Expenses (£144.27) September – December 2007	£458.01
*2.P. Whitehead	Insurance Excess for repair of War Memorial Replacement for cheque 604 issued to Allianz Insurance Society*Payment approved by the Chairman	£125.00
3.Hoghton Village Hall	Hire of Room – October and November 2007.	£18.00

The accounts were agreed and cheques signed.

187. PARISH COUNCIL ESTIMATES 2008/09:

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The Clerk resubmitted the report (circulated) dealing with the Parish Council's Estimates for 2008/09, in the light of revised figures for election expenses received from Chorley Council.

It was agreed: - That the Estimates for 2008/09 be increased by £600.00 to cover the cost of increased Election Fees and that the Parish Council's precept on Chorley Council amount to £4,400.00.

ESTIMATES 2008/09

LAST YEAR 2006/07	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT YEAR 2007/08		ESTIMATE 2008/09
		ORIGINAL £	TO MARCH 2008 £	
RECEIPTS				
4115.34	B/FWD	2743.89	2743.89	1885.26
3,500.00	PRECEPT	4000.00	4000.00	4,400.00
49.32	VAT	61.66	61.66	65.00
74.12	INTEREST	60.00	60.00	70.00.
7738.78	TOTAL RECEIPTS	6865.55	6865.55	2020.26
PAYMENTS				
825.00.	CLERK – SALARY	1250.00	1250.00	1250.00
201.12.	EXPENSES	250.00	300.00	300.00
635.00	GRANTS AND DONATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 137 PAYMENTS	700.00	700.00	700.00
652.08	BENCH	NIL	NIL	NIL
640.26	INSURANCE	700.00.	688.36.	720.00
1381.00	REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	1179.00	1100.00	750.00
180.74	FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	280.00	200.00	250.00
58.75	AUDIT FEES	59.00	58.75	59.00
102.96	PHONE RENTAL	170.00	200.00	250.00

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90.00	HIRE OF ROOMS	90.00	129.00	90.00
123.40	STATIONERY AND EQUIPMENT	140.00	155.25	200.00
NIL	TRAINING	NIL	NIL	50.00
30.00	WREATH	30.00	30.00	35.00
75.00	COMPUTER RENTAL	100.00	100.00	100.00
NIL	ELECTIONS	NIL	NIL	1100.00
4995.31.	TOTAL	5171.00	4933.86	6454.00

188. COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET.

The County Council reported to the Lancashire Local in December 2007 details of its budget proposals for 2008/09 which amounted to an increase of 4.89%. Copies of the proposals were circulated.

189. CONSULTATION ON CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL'S SPENDING PLANS:

The Clerk circulated the consultation documents and Councillor Ms Urry reported that the Parish/Chorley Liaison Committee had received a presentation on the budget at its meeting on 16th January 2008.

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.

A draft response to Chorley's budget proposals was circulated which was endorsed.

It was agreed to write to the Chief Executive at Chorley to protest at the arrangements for consultation on the Chorley Budget proposals for 2008/09 and to query whether the investment in clean up teams to tackle fly tipping and litter would extend to Hoghton.

190. LETTERS OF THANKS

The Clerk reported letters of thanks from Care, the Autumn Club and North West Air Ambulance for the donations made to them by the Parish Council.

191. BENCH – POST OFFICE:

The Chairman reported that present position regarding the donation of a bench by Chorley Council. It was agreed to dedicate it to Arthur Miller Crook and Eric Miller Crook in recognition of their service to the Parish. The Clerk would arrange for a suitable plaque to be attached to the bench.

Reference was also made to the programme of Post Office Closures. Details of the closures in Chorley were to be announced on 22nd January 2008. The Clerk had not been notified of any closure in Hoghton.

192. DOG FOULING:

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The Clerk reported the current position regarding the installation of the dog fouling bins. The Chairman would contact the landowner for his written permission.

193. BOROUGH/PARISH LIAISON COMMITTEE:

Councillor Ms Urry reported on the meeting of the Liaison Committee held on 16th January 2008.

194. TRAINING – PLANNING

The Chairman and Councillor Ms Urry Members reported on the planning training session held at the Town Hall Chorley on 19th December 2007.

195. RIVER BLAKEWATER – WATER QUALITY:

The Environment Agency reported that the water quality of the River Blakewater. was grade D which was classed as fair.

196. CHORLEY SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2007:

The Clerk submitted for information a copy of the re-freshed Community Strategy for Chorley. which set out the Council's Vision priorities and strategic objectives over the next three years and how the Authority would measure its achievement of key projects

Whilst the overall vision and priorities was constant with the previous strategy a few changes had been made to the strategic objectives and long term outcomes to enable the development of local solutions to climate change issues and to reflect the main strategic big issues facing Chorley such as citizen engagement, improvement of front line services, regeneration, use of resources and attraction and retention of high quality staff.

The refreshed strategy also contained a reduced number of key projects aimed at achieving the long term objectives. The Parish Council noted the Strategy.

197. MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:

The Clerk reported that the draft core strategy had been submitted to the Secretary of State for examination. The draft strategy set the direction for minerals and waste planning in Lancashire to 2021. The Parish Council noted the Strategy

198. PARISH CHARTER FOR LANCASHIRE:

The Clerk reported that following the Conference in September 2007 a timetable for the development of the revised charter had been agreed with the aim of producing a draft Parish Charter by June 2008.

199. BULBS:

The Chairman reported on the planting of the bulbs by Chorley Council at the Pinfold, the Post Office and the Village Hall on Thursday 6th December 2007. The Clerk would send a letter of thanks to Chorley Council.

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200. SOUTH EAST LANCASHIRE RAIL ACTION PARTNERSHIP:

The Clerk submitted a letter from this organisation thanking the Parish Council for its support and enclosing a summary of a study into the re-opening of the line. Brindle Parish Council had also indicated its support.

201. WAR MEMORIAL:

The Clerk reported that Care had indicated that they intended to do further maintenance work at the War Memorial. Mr Ormerod also did work to the Memorial.

The Chairman would hold further discussions with the two parties regarding the responsibility for maintaining the War Memorial.

202. VILLAGE HALL:

The Clerk submitted a letter from the Chair of the Autumn Club regarding the current state of the Village Hall in support of the Management Committee's application for a grant from Community Futures. The Parish Council also agreed to send a letter of support.

203. NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

National Savings had added the annual interest sum of £26.89. The amount of money in this account was now £738.94.

204. CHORLEY EAST COMMUNITY FORUM:

The Clerk circulated the minutes of the last meeting of the forum and informed the Parish Council that he had been notified that Chorley are reviewing alternative methods of working within neighbourhoods and that he next scheduled meeting of the Forum would not now take place. Councillor Ms Urry expressed her disappointment regarding the decision and requested that Chorley be asked what would replace the Forum.

205. STANDARDS – MENTORING:

The Clerk reported that Councillor Tom McGowan the Parish Council's Standards Mentor would attend the next meeting. He also reported a consultation document from the Department of Communities which set out revised procedures for considering standards issues.

206. SUSTAINABLE COMUNITIES ACT:

The Clerk reported that this Act had now been passed and District Councils were now required to set up citizens' panels. He also referred to the Planning and energy Private Members Bill

207. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 18th February 2008 at 7.30. pm. at the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05. p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

21st January 2008