

MINUTES OF 1039TH MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 18TH JANUARY 2010 AT THE VILLAGE HALL

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors J. Proctor and T. Sharratt.

2. COUNCILLOR MS URRY:

The Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council welcomed back Councillor Ms Urry following her recent illness.

3. COUNCILLOR J.PROCTOR:

Councillor Ms Urry reported that Councillor Proctor had been admitted to hospital. The Parish Council wished him 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. The Vice Chairman – Councillor T. Greenwood declared an interest in the item relating to the War Memorial.

5. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th November 2009 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:

In the absence of the Police the Clerk circulated a copy of the police newsletter for November 2009 which showed that no incidents of crime had been reported during the period.

Councillor Peter referred to the introduction of a farm watch scheme in Brindle and Houghton.

8. LALC REPORT:

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The Clerk reported details of the current Newsletter which included free community websites, increased charges for the Local Council Review and the findings of the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee that the Government strategy regarding the closure of Post Offices was badly organised and did not give local people a say in the closure process. He also reported details of two training courses one on local council finance the other for chairmen.

9. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). FOOTWAY – PARK GATES:

The footway at Park Gates had now been included in a programme of repairs. The Clerk would try to ascertain the progress of this scheme.

(B) FOOTPATH – BRINDLE LODGE:

Brindle Parish Council had confirmed that they had requested the views of the Public Rights of Way Supervisor regarding the upgrading of this footpath to a bridleway. He had suggested a meeting with Brindle to discuss this. The Parish Council would await the outcome of this meeting to see if there was anything affecting Hoghton.

(C) SALT BINS:

The County Council had agreed to replace the lid of the salt bin in Viaduct Road. The Clerk also circulated the County Council statement on gritting in which there was a reference to the refilling of salt bins. They would not be refilled until gritting of roads was no longer a priority.

Councillor Peter reported that the salt bin in Quaker Brook Lane had not been filled for some time despite repeated requests. There had been numerous incidents in Quaker Brook Lane during the recent icy conditions. He suggested that if the bin was not filled regularly it should be removed and the County be forced to ensure the road was gritted.

Councillor Ms Urry confirmed that requests to fill the bin had been made in the autumn of 2009 before the bad weather set in.

The Clerk would make a complaint about this situation and seek the views of the County Council on the protocol relating to the use of salt bins.

(D). GIB LANE – STREET LIGHTS:

The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) reported that the trees had still not been cut back. The Clerk would ask for the work to be done as soon as possible.

The Chairman referred to the problems with rats in Gib Lane as a result of the non collection of rubbish bins. The Vice Chairman also indicated that the problems with rats which had occurred over the summer of 2009 had re-appeared.

The Clerk would ask Chorley Environmental Services to inspect the areas mentioned and take appropriate action.

(E) CHANGES TO SPEED LIMITS ON RILEY GREEN SWITCH ROAD AND FINNINGTON LANE

The County Council had responded to the Parish Council's comments regarding this order.

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The Parish Council had accepted the proposal to reduce the speed limit on Finnington Lane .

With regard to the comments regarding the speed limits at Riley Green and on Hoghton Lane the County Council had responded that although the section of Riley Green Switch Road that was currently at 60mph had limited residential properties the 1km stretch of road from the junction of Finnington Lane had seen several accidents recorded in the last 5 years. Also due to the restrictions at either end of this kilometre stretch of road being 40mph and the surrounding roads being (or becoming) 50mph. It was considered reasonable to suggest that the reduction to 50mph for the road network in the area.

In the review carried out by the consultants for the County Council they did not make any recommendations on the extent of the Hoghton Lane which was currently 50mph. However this did not mean that it could not be considered.

The Clerk had requested that this speed limit should be reviewed.

(F) SPID DEVICE:

The Chairman and the Clerk were to attend a meeting of the Chorley and District Neighbourhood Watch Association to discuss the deployment of the SPID device. The meeting would be held on Monday 25th January 2010.

(G) HOGHTON LANE:

Councillor Ms Urry referred to the deteriorating condition of the carriageway in Hoghton Lane. The County Council were due to resurface the road but no date had been specified. The Clerk would contact the Highways Authority to ascertain the date of the scheme.

She also reported flooding in the area between 241 and 243 Hoghton Lane.

The Clerk would contact the Environment Directorate about the flooding.

10. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman reported on issues affecting the Parish Council and mentioned in particular changes to the senior management structure.

11. PLANNING REPORT:

DECISIONS:

The following decisions on the undermentioned applications had been taken since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

1. Installation of underground sewerage treatment plant and associated infrastructure at rear of graveyard (amendment to previous approval 09/00520/FUL) to include connection to former Methodist Chapel as well as former Sunday School. Methodist Chapel, Chapel Lane. (App no 09/790/FUL) Applicant - The Methodist Property Office. - **Approved.**

2. Proposed replacement dwelling Gatesgarth Quaker Brook Lane
App no 09/00733/FUL Applicants – Mr McDonnell. - **Granted**

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3. Demolition of single storey rear extension and erection of two storey rear extension Lowood Station Road (App no 09/00821/FUL) Applicant – Mr Lawson. - **Granted**

4. Extension to form new bedroom above existing garage 4 Station Road App no 09/00715/FUL Applicant – Mrs. Nichols: - Granted.

5. Demolition of existing buildings, erection of 15 units for mixed use of office and living accommodation, formation of new access to Finnington Lane, landscaping and laying out of new road and parking areas together with provision of washroom/W.C. for canal boat users Finnington Industrial Estate. App no 09/00825/OUT – Applicant MAS Services.- This application had been withdrawn at the Planning Meeting on 12th January 2010..

APPLICATIONS:

No planning applications had been received since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

PUBLIC SPEAKING – PROTOCOL:

The Clerk circulated details of the revised arrangements for public speaking at Development Control Meetings at Chorley.

12. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The following accounts were submitted for payment

1. S. Ormerod	Maintenance of Trees adjoining War Memorial	£30.00
2. T. Harkness	Clerk – Salary (£312.50) and Expenses (£97.86) September – December 2009	£410.36
3. Village Hall	Hire of room October and November 2009	£18.00

The Accounts were agreed and cheques signed.

13. FEES FOR HIRE OF VILLAGE HALL:

The Clerk reported that with effect from 1st January 2010 the fee for the hire of the Committee Room at the Village Hall would be £10.00 per session.

14. GRANT – AUTUMN CLUB:

The Clerk submitted a request from Secretary of the Autumn Club for a donation to the Club funds.

A grant of £50.00 was made and a cheque signed.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) declared a prejudicial interest in this matter in view of his connection with the Autumn Club and left the room.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) took the place of the Chairman whilst this matter was being discussed.

The Chairman returned to the room at this point.

15. PINFOLD:

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The Clerk gave an update on the current position regarding the Pinfold.

Councillor Peter would prepare a schedule of costs for the work and this would be submitted to Chorley Council for the money to be allocated. Once this was done arrangements would be made for the work to be put out to tender.

Councillor Peter referred to the location of accesses to the site and suggested that the legal position relating to right of way over land adjoining the site should be decided before work commenced. The Clerk would contact The De Hoghton Estate's Land Agent about this.

Councillor Ms Urry reported that The Property For Sale Board which had been erected without permission at the Pinfold was still there. The Neighbourhood Officer had contacted the person concerned to ask him to take it down. The Clerk would ask that the board be removed as soon as possible.

16. WAR MEMORIAL:

The Clerk reported that Harry Fowler (Joinery) had designed a board to hold the wreaths and crosses it was a free standing board which would sit on the steps. It had rails on it to stand the wreaths on and slots for the crosses. It would be made of oak so it would be durable. The cost was estimated to be £155.00.

The intention as to prevent further deterioration of the War Memorial surfaces which had caused maintenance costs in the past. Councillor Baldwin felt that the design of the board should incorporate measures to ensure the board could be adequately fixed to the Memorial to prevent movement.

Arrangements would be made to store it at the Village Hall when not in use.

The Clerk would ask the joiner to make the board and to incorporate adequate fixing arrangements.

Discussion took place as to the appropriate length time that the wreaths should remain on the Memorial before they were removed. The Clerk would write to all the organisations responsible for laying a wreath for their views.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) having previously declared an interest in this matter did not vote on the proposals.

17. LANCASHIRE LOCAL:

The Parish Council received a report on the proceedings of the Lancashire Local – Chorley held on 16th December 2009 including details of the Face to Face Access Scheme proposed by the County Council; Closer working with Chorley Council; the Effectiveness of fixed speed cameras at sites in Chorley; the Public Realm Integration Project, Improving Neighbourhoods in Chorley and the views of Parish Councils on the budget process currently being undertaken by the County Council.

The Clerk also reported the intention of the County Council to scrap Locals from 31st March 2010. He circulated details of the proposals for their replacement. There was reference to parish councils in the report but the Locals were designed as a partnership between the County Council and District Councils. Parish Councils had limited input. The County Council's view was that links with Parish Councils would be strengthened when the Parish Protocol agreement was implemented later this year.

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The Parish Council made no observations on the proposal.

18. UNDERSTANDING RURAL ISSUES:

The Clerk circulated a joint County Council Defra and Government Office for the North West Publication 'Understanding Rural Issues'.

This brochure had been developed by Lancashire County Council on behalf of the North West Rural Strategic Group with the support of DEFRA.

It was designed to raise both awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by rural communities across the North West. The brochure had been deliberately designed as 'bite size' as it was principally a signposting tool to advice and information which would help in developing local responses to the issues faced by communities within rural areas.

19. NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN – BRINDLE AND HOGHTON:

The Clerk reported that the Information Exchange arranged for December 2009 was cancelled and the date of the next one was awaited.

20. BOROUGH PARISH LIAISON:

The next meeting of the Borough/Parish Liaison Committee would be held on Wednesday 20th January 2010. The Chairman and Councillor Ms Urry would attend.

21. DRAFT STREETSCENE DELEGATED SERVICES PROTOCOL:

The Clerk reported that in the Parish and Town Council Charter, launched November 2008 the County Council had committed to working with parish and town councils to provide high-quality services for the people of Lancashire. As part of this commitment they specifically promised to look into a list of services that they might potentially be able to delegate to parish and town councils, and develop a framework for responding to delegation requests.

At the Parish and Town Council Conference held on the 21 November 2009 they circulated a draft 'streetscene' delegated services protocol which now formed the basis of a consultation with all parish and town councils. A copy was circulated The Parish Council considered its options and decided that it would not be feasible to partake in the protocol on grounds of cost.

22. RURAL HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY:

At the last meeting the Clerk reported that Chorley Council was undertaking a study of rural housing needs covering Brindle and Hoghton as well as five other Parishes. Following a consultation meeting they were now considering the next step.

23. RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT:

A meeting was held on 15th December 2009 to discuss the project in more detail.

The bid for the £500 000 of funding from the Department for Energy and Climate Change had been submitted.

A workshop on energy management would be held at the Village Hall on 26th January 2010 from 6:45 -7:45pm. It was designed to be an educational workshop giving advice on recording and monitoring energy consumption and various other

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aspects of home energy management. Letters were sent out to all households in Hoghton about this.

Councillor Ms Urry would attend the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.

24. WASTE AND MINERALS LOCAL PLAN:

The County Council were undertaking a consultation exercise on possible minerals and waste site allocations. The Clerk circulated a copy of their letter and the latest update.

The consultation document did not identify any sites within Hoghton.

25. MAYORS CHARITY BALL

The Clerk reported that the Mayors Charity Ball would be held on 5th February 2010

26. TRAINING FOR COUNCILLORS:

The County Council was sponsoring a series of training events from January to March. They were aimed specifically at Parish Councillors. Details of the various topics were circulated. Councillor Peter suggested that the Parish Council obtain details of the training session to be held on 15th March 2010 entitled Gypsies, Romas and Travellers.

27. EQUALITY FORUM:

The next Forum meeting would be held on Tuesday -19th January 2010. The Chairman and Councillor Ms Urry would attend.

28. BIN COLLECTION SERVICE:

Councillor Ms Urry reported problems with the collection service particularly with regard to the dates set for collection.

The Clerk would contact Chorley Council about this.

29. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 15th February 2010 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20. p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

15TH FEBRUARY 2010