

MINUTES OF 1061ST MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 16TH JANUARY 2012 AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: INSPECTOR D.ROBINSON AND PCSO M. APPLETON,

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were submitted from The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) and Councillor J. Proctor.

2. COUNCILLOR DICKINSON:

The Chairman of the Meeting (Councillor T. Greenwood) informed the Parish Council of the illness of Councillor Dickinson. (The Chairman)

The Parish Council wished Councillor Dickinson a speedy recovery.

3. COUNCILLOR PROCTOR:

The Chairman of the Meeting (Councillor T. Greenwood) informed the Parish Council of the illness of Councillor Proctor.

The Parish Council wished Councillor Proctor a speedy recovery.

4. POLICE SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON:

The Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council welcomed Inspector Robinson who was attending his first meeting of the Parish Council. He spoke about his role and gave assurances about the level of policing in the Parish following the reductions in expenditure by the Police Authority. He also confirmed the eventual closure of Wheelton Police Station and informed Members of the possible opening of a police base at Clayton Brook.

He then answered questions from the Members. Councillor Sharratt sought an assurance that the police would enforce all speed limits. A question was asked about the introduction of the 101 telephone service. PCSO Appleton would provide information about this to the Clerk who would arrange for it to be posted on the notice boards.

The Chairman of the Meeting (Councillor Greenwood) thanked Inspector Robinson for his attendance.

5. 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.

6. MINUTES:

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The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21st November 2011 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. 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.

8 POLICE REPORT:

PCSO Appleton reported on incidents of crime in the Wheelton Police Area during January 2012 there had been no incidents in Hoghton.

She circulated the Chorley Rural East newsletter for January 2012.

The Clerk reported that at the Brindle Parish Council meeting the police had asked members to be aware of potential stone and lead thieves. It was also reported that the Police were monitoring sheep and cattle rustling. It was intended to restart the Farm Watch Scheme under the title Rural Watch in the spring.

PCSO Appleton gave further details of this and asked Members to provide contact information if they wished to receive updates on incidents. Further details would be sent to the Clerk.

9. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current newsletter which included the LALC Annual Report 2010/11, plus details of the LALC Annual Conference, government advice on the operation of the Transparency Code for Councils, Climate Week in March 2012 Computers for Rural People Scheme, the launch of the Crash Map website and the training programme for 2012.

Details of the Royal Garden Party the repeal of discretionary payments legislation and the Jubilee Beacons were also reported.

Councillor Peter suggested that the De Hoghton Estate be informed of the Jubilee Beacons Scheme. The Clerk would send information to Sir Bernard De Hoghton.

A report was presented on the current situation concerning the appointment of a Parish Council Representative on the Chorley Three Tier Forum. The Chorley Area Committee had appointed a representative to the Three Tier Forum and the first meeting took place in December. Currently a report was awaited from him about the meeting.

The Area Committee was reviewing its arrangements with all Chorley Parishes on how each representative attending meetings could communicate and feed in any comments they had for the forthcoming agenda items, and how future representatives could be organized.

The County Council had asked the Three Tier Forum for its views on the Environment Directorate Commissioning Plan. The Plan was looked at by the Parish Council in October 2011 and no comments were raised.

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In future, the agendas and minutes had been requested electronically so these could be circulated - this request was being considered. Councillor Sharratt commented on this move.

The arrangements for Three Tier Forums would be discussed by Chorley Parishes following the Borough/Parish Liaison meeting on Wednesday, 18 January 2012. The Chairman of Brindle Parish Council (Councillor D. Cranshaw) would attend this meeting.

Following a discussion with the County Council the Area Secretary eventually received copies of the agenda and reports for the first meeting and the Clerk submitted them for information.

At the first meeting the County Council had requested the views of the Parish Council on the Environment Directorate Commissioning Plan. The Plan had been considered by the Parish Council in October 2011. The only issue which affected Houghton was that Riley Green Switch Road had been put on a reserve list of resurfacing projects in 2012/13. This meant that if there was any money left over because another scheme elsewhere was not proceeded with it would be spent at Riley Green.

Future agendas and minutes had been requested electronically so these could be circulated - this request was being considered.

The Clerk would inform the Chorley Three Tier Forum the Parish Council had no further comments to make on the County Council's Environment Commissioning Plan.

Councillor Sharratt commented on this development and indicated a similar situation in South Ribble. He was to speak on the issue at the North West Area Meeting of NALC.

Councillor MS Urry felt that the non publication of the proceedings of the Three Tier Forum did not achieve the Government's locality agenda. ..

The Clerk circulated a letter from the County Council to various organisations regarding the problems caused by Chinese Lanterns.

Councillor Sharratt commented on this letter.

10. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). FOOTPATH – FINNINGTON

Councillor Ms Urry reported that the Footpaths Officer had not contacted her since the last meeting to discuss the issues raised by her in connection with this footpath. However, in view of current developments it was felt that no further action should be taken on this at the present time.

(B). COMMUNITY PAYBACK:

The Chairman of the Meeting (Councillor Greenwood) reported that Community Payback, were still to carry out work to the footpath on Houghton Lane but had completed the work to the benches and the doors to the Village Hall.

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The Clerk submitted an account for £50.00 for the completed work and a cheque was signed.

(C). POTHLES – PRIVATE ROAD:

The Clerk contacted County Council and County Councillor Devaney regarding lack of progress in repairing Private Road. They both replied that the potholes would be temporarily repaired pending the resurfacing of the road in the next financial year.

(D) POTHOLE – QUAKER BROOK LANE:

At the last meeting Councillor Peter had reported the filling in of a large pothole in Quaker Brook Lane and queried the method used.

There was nothing further to report.

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

The Clerk would inform the Highways Inspectorate.

(E). HOGHTON LANE – TRAFFIC SPEEDS:

At the last meeting Councillor Proctor reported that traffic continued to speed on Hoghton Lane.

The Clerk had asked the police to monitor the situation.

Chorley Council had recently trained members of staff to enable the deployment of a SpID throughout the Borough. They had suggested that they would be able to use an additional SpID acquired by Chorley Council to help target speed awareness in the area. They were looking at sites for deployment in line with statistical analysis.

The Clerk would contact them regarding the deployment of the device in Hoghton.

(F) ROAD MARKINGS A675 BLACKBURN OLD ROAD:

At the last meeting Councillor Baldwin had reported that the road markings on Blackburn Old Road needed attention he also commented that the road surface was poor and it was dangerous when there was a need to use the overtaking position in the road.

The Highways Inspectorate had notified the Clerk that some repair work had taken place. However, the surface was still causing problems.

The Clerk would report this again.

(G) TREE FELLING MINTHOLME/PRIVATE ROAD:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) had reported a complaint to the Clerk from a local resident that he had been covered in mud arising from contractors' vehicles using Mintholme and Private Road. Network Rail had employed a contractor to cut down branches which were causing problems on the railway line and the workmen had deposited large amounts of mud on the road. .

The Clerk had contacted the Highways Engineers and Network Rail. Network Rail had apologised and spoken. They had also spoken to the complainant.

Members reported that the work was ongoing and mud continued to be a problem.

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The Clerk would contact the Highways Inspectorate about this.

(H) POTHoles – HOGHTON LANE:

Councillor Baldwin reported that there were large potholes on the A675 Hoghton Lane near the railway bridge.

The Clerk would inform the Highways Inspectorate.

11 CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Clerk reported on issues affecting the Parish Council

12. PLANNING REPORT:

(A) DECISIONS.

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

1 Application for the erection of two lean-to side extensions to an existing agricultural storage building (continuing the same roof pitch) and to re-clad the building Vale House Farm Viaduct Road. (App no 11/00896/FUL) Applicant Street Design Partnership. - Granted

2. Proposed single storey rear kitchen in fill extension9 Laurel Bank Moulden Brow (App no 11/00805/FUL) Applicant: Mrs Bisby. - Granted

(B). APPLICATIONS:

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

C. HELICOPTER FLIGHTS – BEESTON MANOR

The Clerk informed the Parish Council the Civil Aviation Authority had indicated that the proprietor did not require of the further qualifications to give flying lessons.

The Planning Enforcement Officer at South Ribble Council had indicated that he had spoken to Mr Bickerstaff regarding helicopter flying lessons and he did not intend to give flying lessons from Beeston Manor.

He had also invited members of the Parish Council to come to Beeston Manor so that he could explain first hand what he did and answer any questions directly.

Prior to the Parish Council accepting the invitation the Clerk would make further enquiries regarding the helicopter operations at Beeston Manor and consult Samlesbury Parish Council for their views on the issue.

(C).PLANNING WORKSHOP:

The Clerk reported that Chorley Council's Annual Planning in Practice Development Workshop for Councillors would take place on Monday 23 January from 5.30 – 8.00pm in the Lancastrian Suite, Town Hall, Chorley. Councillor Peter would attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

13. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The following accounts were submitted for payment

1. Village Hall	Hire of room October and November 2011	£20.00
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2 T. Harkness	Clerk – Salary (£312.50) September – December 2011 (Direct Debit)	£312.50.
3.Douglas Tonks Ltd	Payroll Administration Fee for payment of salary. (Payment by Direct Debit)	£11.70
4. Chorley Council	Annual Dog Waste Bin Rental	£86.15

The accounts were agreed and cheques signed.

14. PARISH COUNCIL ESTIMATES 2012/13:

The Clerk submitted a revised report (circulated) dealing with the Parish Council's Estimates for 2012/13, the report gave details of actual spending in 2010/11 together with an update of spending in the current financial year and set out the proposed estimated spending for 2012/13.

The report revised the allocations for work to the Pinfold, the cost of local elections, and the Clerk's salary

He indicated the amount of increased expenditure required if the Parish Council was to meet these targets. If the Parish Council was to increase its precept from £4400.00 to £5000.00 this would be an increase of 15% and would mean an extra £1.67 on the Council Tax for Band D properties if a 10% increase was agreed it would mean an extra £1.11.

The Estimates for 2012/13 as set out below were approved and the Parish Council's precept on Chorley Borough Council for 2012/13 would amount to £5,000.00.

LAST YEAR 2010/11	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT YEAR 2011/2012			ESTIMATES 2012/213
		ORIGINAL £	CURRENT £	PROJECTED £	DRAFT £
RECEIPTS					
3113.44	B/FWD	3513.39	3513.39	3513.39	900.00
4400.00	PRECEPT	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	5000.00
78.52	VAT	72.89	72.89	72.89	75.00
NIL	GRANTS	500.00	500.00	500.00	NIL
1.63	INTEREST	2.00	.NIL	2.00.	3.00
180.00	PAYMENT -CHORLEY	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
7773.59	TOTAL RECEIPTS	8488.28	8486.28	8488.28	5978.00
PAYMENTS					

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1250.00	CLERK SALARY –	1250.00	1250.00	1250.00	1450.00
221.93.	EXPENSES	300.00	70.46	250.00	200.00.
NIL	PINFOLD	1551.00	1950.00	1950.00	750.00
50.00	GRANTS AND DONATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 137 PAYMENTS	300.00	50.00	150.00	100.00
569.41	INSURANCE AND EXCESS	650.00	562.00	570.00.	625.00
890.00.	REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	600.00	144.47	750.00	200.00
230.43	FEES	300.00	214..00	224.00	260.00
141.00	AUDIT FEES	144.00	.90.00	144.00	150.00
219.74	PHONE RENTAL	200.00	.270.00	270.00	260.00
70.00	HIRE OF ROOMS	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
244.25	STATIONERY AND EQUIPMENT	225.00	222.00	222.00	300.00
NIL	TRAINING	50.00	NIL	50.00	NIL
180.00	CHORLEY REFUND	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
35.00	WREATH	45.00	NIL	45.00	35.00
80.00	COMPUTER RENTAL	80.00	20.00	80.00	80.00
200.00	ELECTIONS	200.00	NIL	200.00	1432.00
NIL	NOTICE BOARDS	250.00	NIL	155.00	200.00
71.91	DOG BIN RENTAL	80.00	86.15	87.00	180.00
NIL	PAYROLL ADMIN.	44.00	11.04	44.00	48.00
NIL	WAR MEMORIAL	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
4653.67	TOTAL	7069.00	5540.12	7241.00	6748.00

15. PINFOLD:

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

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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 the Clerk would now ask the contractor to proceed with the work.

The Parish Council also agreed where the bench would be sited.

Chorley Council was thanked for the donation of the bench.

Chorley Council was currently discussing the planning situation regarding the provision of a double gate off Blackburn Old Road. Councillor Peter had discussed the type of gate needed with a contractor and suggested that a five foot pedestrian gate would suffice. This might not need planning permission and would solve the position regarding the Highways Authority. The revised gate would be adequate for access for contractor's equipment.

The Clerk would discuss this with Chorley Council.

At the last meeting Councillor Peter suggested that the existing anchor rope to the pylons should be moved.

The Clerk had contacted United Utilities regarding this and they had replied that it was not possible to move the cable but had agreed to make it more visible.

The Contractor had agreed to undertake further work when the access situation had been resolved.

Further publicity had been given to the developments at the site.

16. WAR MEMORIAL:

The Clerk gave a progress report on the funding applications for the work to the War Memorial.

Councillor Ms Urry agreed to provide information relating to the educational aspects of the Lottery Fund Application.

The Clerk had approached Sir Bernard de Hoghton again regarding funding sources but nothing further had been received.

17. BOROUGH PARISH LIAISON:

The Clerk reported that the next meeting of the Borough/ Parish Liaison Committee would be held on Wednesday 18th January 2012. Councillor Ms Urry would attend.

18. CHORLEY RURAL HOUSING NEEDS STUDY:

The Clerk reported on the outcome of the Member Learning Session about the study on Monday 21st November 2011.

19. LANCASHIRE CIVIC CAROL SERVICE - BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL:

The Clerk submitted an invitation from the Dean of Blackburn Cathedral to the Parish Council to attend the Lancashire Civic Carol Service at the Cathedral on 29th January 2012.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) would represent the Parish Council at this service.

20. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

Councillor Sharratt reported on the following environmental issues

1. Wind Turbines
2. Gas Fracking
3. Sand Gravel Extraction.

21. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION:

The Clerk submitted the Judges` report on the Parish.

Details would be circulated to all interested parties.

22 LOCALISM ACT:

The Clerk circulated a report from Chorley Council regarding the impact of the Act on the Standards Regime.

The Parish Council would await further information on this.

23. LANCASHIRE LINK:

The Clerk circulated the January newsletter of the organisation.

24. COUNTY COUNCIL – PARISH CHAMPIONS NEWSLETTER

The Clerk circulated a copy at the meeting.

25. SELRAP:

The Clerk submitted the current newsletter from the Action Group regarding the re-opening of the Colne to Skipton line.

26. EQUALITY FORUM:

Councillor Ms Urry reported on the meeting of the Forum held earlier on 16th January 2012.

27. WEBSITE INFORMATION:

The Clerk reported that Mr. Williams of Brindle had offered to include a Houghton Parish Council link on the new website he was setting up for the parishes of Brindle and Houghton.

The Parish Council accepted the offer.

28. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 20th February 2012 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall.

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

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

20TH FEBRUARY 2012