

**HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL - 21ST JANUARY 2013
MINUTES OF 1072ND MEETING OF
HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 21ST JANUARY 2013
AT THE VILLAGE HALL.**

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: POLICE COMMUNITY BEAT MANAGER P. HARRISON, AND 2 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:

An apology for absence was submitted from Councillor J. Baldwin.

2. 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.

3. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 3rd December 2012 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

THERE THEN FOLLOWED AN ADJOURNMENT TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO RAISE ISSUES AND QUESTION THE PARISH COUNCIL REGARDING MATTERS DEALT WITH. TTHE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT DID NOT RAISE ANY ISSUES. THE PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED WITH THE BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA.

5. POLICE REPORT:

(A) NEWSLETTERS:

The Clerk circulated a copy of the December local newsletter which mentioned there had been two incidents in the Parish during the period, together with the Police and Crime Commissioner Newsletter which indicated that he was holding a series of road shows at various locations during January 2013. He would be in the Chorley area at Asda Clayton Green on 25th January from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) referred to the press statement issued by the PCC regarding the increase in the police budget in 2013/14.

Councillor Ms Urry reported details regarding the theft of dogs over the period from November 2012 to the present. PCBM Harrison said he would look into this issue. She also reported that shots had been fired at the rear of her property between 11.00 and 11.30 p.m on 19th January 2013 but there was no sign of anything when she had visited the site the following day. PCBM Harrison would mention this to the Police Wildlife Officer.

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(B) CONSUMER ALERTS – TRADING STANDARDS:

The Clerk circulated copies of the latest consumer alerts from the County Council's Trading Standards Officer

6. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current newsletter and referred to the programme of training workshops issued by LALC .

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) agreed to discuss the current situation regarding the the resurfacing of Quaker Brook Lane, Station Road and Riley Green with County Councillor Devaney..

The Clerk also reported details of the Royal Garden Party. The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) was nominated to attend.

7. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). QUAKER BROOK LANE 20 MPH ZONE:

The Clerk reported that the introduction of a 20 mph limit on Quaker Brook Lane had been agreed by the County Council and consultations would begin shortly.

Councillor Peter reported that some two years ago he had met Mr. Peet the Neighbourhood Officer regarding the blocked gully in Quaker Brook Lane and had unblocked it as he could access it from his land. The gully had become silted up again and he offered to do the work subject to the agreement of Chorley Council.

The Parish Council accepted Councilor Peter's offer and the Clerk would seek authorisation from Chorley Council.

(B). HEDGE STATION ROAD:

At a previous meeting Councillor Baldwin requested early action regarding the cutting back of the hedge in Station Road and Mr Peet the Neighbourhood Officer had been asked to arrange for it to be cut.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) informed the Parish Council that the hedge had not been cut. The Clerk would contact Chorley Council about this.

(C). FOOTPATH 19 RILEY GREEN:

The Clerk was to meet Community Payback and make arrangements for the path to be tidied up.

(D). GIB LANE:

At a previous meeting The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) had reported that the grass verge along the footway from the Railway Bridge to the top of the hill was very overgrown and was virtually impassable. The Clerk reported that Chorley had asked if there were any areas of the parish where grass cutting was required and he suggested that they be asked to look at the verges in Gib Lane.

(E). TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF MINTHOLME LEVEL CROSSING:

The Clerk reported the closure of the level crossing on 27th January 2013 for maintenance work to be carried out.

(F). FOOTPATH - BRINDLE LODGE:

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The County Council's Footpaths Officer's report was awaited on the work required and once received the Clerk would arrange for the work to be carried out by Community Payback in the Spring of 2013.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) and the Clerk would meet with Community Payback to discuss the work.

(G). BUS SHELTERS:

The Clerk circulated a copy of a letter from Chorley Council in response to Councillor Sharratt's comments on the action taken by Chorley to repaint the bus shelters red which he considered was a disgrace. He felt that in a rural area the colour should be green, red was entirely inappropriate.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported that he had received several complaints that the colour of the newly painted bus shelters was inappropriate for this area. He had taken this up with Chorley Council.

He noted that in the letter it was stated that Chorley would review the matter and a review of the bus shelters in Hoghton had been requested.

Chorley Council had responded that they had listened to comments from local residents who were both for and against the new red colour. As it stood they would not be undertaking a wholesale change to the colour, but where they had identified locations of shelters immediately in the vicinity of houses where residents had offered reasonable complaint, they could make some alterations. In the case of Clayton-le-Woods parish, additional painting work would be done at the bus shelter opposite the Pines Hotel. The back of the shelter that faced properties on Preston Road would be repainted green.

If there were further site-specific complaints from local residents who lived in the vicinity of shelters then they would review the matter further.

Councillor Sharratt did not accept this and felt that the shelters in Hoghton should be repainted green in their entirety. He formally requested that this be put to Chorley Council as the colour red was entirely inappropriate in a rural area such as Hoghton.

Councillor Ms Urry referred to the consultation procedure and indicated that two letters about the bus shelter proposals had been published on Chorley's Website.

She supported Councillor Sharratt's comments.

The Clerk would write again to Chorley to express on behalf of the residents of Hoghton the concern that the bus shelters should be green not red.

In view of the complaints received from local residents The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) would discuss the issue with Chorley.

(H). LANCASHIRE TRANSPORT STRATEGY:

The Clerk reported on the proposals in this strategy so far as they affected Hoghton.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) referred to the public transport in rural areas provisions in the Plan.

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The Clerk would remind the County Council of the issues for rural communities relating to the provision of public transport.

(I). TREES - PRIVATE ROAD.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T.Greenwood) requested information regarding two trees on Private Road which were leaning . The Clerk had consulted County Councillor Devaney regarding this.

Councillor Sharratt indicated that he had raised this matter some time ago and he was of the view that the arboriculturalist should be asked if the trees were in danger of falling and if so they should be trimmed back.

(J). ROAD SURFACES:

Councillor Ms Urry expressed her concern regarding the condition of the roads in the Parish and reported a number of potholes at the level crossing on Station Road, the brow of the railway bridge on the A675, and at Riley Green. Councillor Sharratt reported potholes near Hoghton Tower and near the entrance to the Village Hall.

He was also concerned about the quality of repairs to potholes which did not seem to last for long.

Councillor Peter referred to the method of filling in used.

The Clerk would notify the County Council about the location of the potholes.

8. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported on the recent meeting of Chorley Council.

9. PLANNING REPORT:

(A) DECISIONS.

The Clerk reported that following planning applications had been granted since the last meeting of the Parish Council:-

(1) Reduce back canopy to 4 Oak Trees and 2 Beech Trees included in Chorley Council TPO No 3 Hoghton 1998 Group 1 Brookhouse Farm Hoghton Lane (App no 12/01017/TPO) Applicant Mr M. Worthington.

(2) Proposed extension of the licensed area in to ladies and kitchen area to form new dining area , the existing undeveloped space to become the kitchen area as indicated on the plans The Royal Oak Hotel Riley Green. (App no 12/01076/FUL) Applicant Daniel Thwaites PLC.

(3) Minor non material amendment to planning approval to replace previously approved (App no 12/00284/FUL) natural stone balustrade with part stone part steel railings and re-site door in north elevation of front porch. Boars Head Hotel Blackburn Old Road. (App no 12/00893/MNMA) Applicant Boars Head Public House.

(4) To extend the time limit to implement the previous permission ref 09/00790/FUL which was for the installation of an underground sewerage treatment plant and associated infrastructure at the rear of the graveyard to include connection to the former Methodist Chapel as well as the former Sunday School

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(Section 73 application) Hoghton Methodist Chapel. (App no 12/01090/FUL)
Applicant The Methodist Property Office.

(B). APPLICATIONS:

The following applications had been submitted since the last meeting of the Parish Council:-

1. Proposed amendments to dwelling comprising rear dormers and balcony, alterations to front roof windows and formation of door way top rear and enlargement of window to front Annadale Station Road (App no 12/01220/FUL)
Applicant Mr. Lawrenson

Details were circulated to all Members and no observations were made. The Clerk had notified Chorley Council.

2. Erection of detached garage 18 Bell Villas Gib Lane (App no 12/01219/FUL)
Applicant Mr. Taylor.

Details were circulated to all Members and no observations were made. The Clerk had notified Chorley Council.

3. Application to extend time limit to implement previous permission ref 09/00825/OUTMAJ which was the outline permission for 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 layout of new road and parking areas together with provision of wash room/W.C. building for canal boat users (Section 73 application) Finnington Industrial Estate Finnington Lane (App no 12/01211/OUTMAJ) Applicant Cholsey Investments

No observations were made on this application and the Clerk would had notify Chorley Council.

(C). STANLEY GRANGE:

It was reported that South Ribble Borough Council on 12th December had refused the 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. The refusal was on the grounds that it was an inappropriate development within the Green Belt and the lack of affordable homes.

Councillor Sharratt informed the Parish Council he had spoken against the proposal at the meeting and welcomed the decision. He recommended that the Parish Council continue to monitor this situation closely.

(D). PLANNING IN PRACTICE EVENT:

The Clerk reported that this event would take place on 4th March 2013 at Chorley Town Hall from 5.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. and would deal with topics concerning permitted development, flooding and sewerage matters. The Parish Council had been invited to send representatives to this event.

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Councillor Sharratt reported that he had recently attended a briefing on fracking at County Council but no representative from Cuadrilla had been present.

The Clerk asked that interested persons inform him about attending the Event by 22nd February 2013.

(E) HERRABIN FARM BOLTON ROAD:

The Clerk reported that a local resident had contacted him again regarding the activities taking place at the farm. The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) reported that a meeting had been held with the local resident and the Enforcement Officer at Chorley when the position had been explained to him.

(F) CHORLEY LOCAL PLAN:

The Clerk reported that the Local Plan had been submitted to the Secretary of State and would now be subject to Independent Examination by an Inspector appointed by him. The examination in public would be held in March/April 2013.

10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following accounts for payment

1.Village Hall	Hire of Room Parish Council Meetings October and December 2012	£20.00
2.Chorley Council	Dog Waste Bin Emptying – Annual Charge	£86.15
*3 Douglas Tonks Limited	Clerk Salary and Expenses September to December 2012.	£495.00
*4. Douglas Tonks Ltd	Payroll Administration Fee	£14.04

* Payment by Direct Debit

The accounts were agreed and the cheques signed.

11. PARISH COUNCIL ESTIMATES 2013/14:

The Parish Council's Estimates for 2013/14 had been agreed at the meeting in December 2012 since that time the Government had decided that for purposes of calculating the Council Tax base local authorities including Parish Councils would have to adjust this to include the impact of welfare reforms in their precepts.

This meant that an extra sum should be included to take account of this change. On the figures calculated by Chorley this would be an additional £173.00 on the precept.

Chorley Council had met on 7th January 2013 and had decided that that the income loss by parishes due to the Welfare Reform Changes be reimbursed.

This would be based on income levels set at the 2012/13 precept levels and was subject to review in 12 months time once the impact was better known. The final detail of any reimbursement could only be decided as part of the Council's budget setting process for 2013/14 and this meeting would be held in late February.

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For this reason parishes would need to assume that the reimbursement would take place for 2013/14 when setting their own precept.

The Clerk had circulated details of the changes to all Members and suggested that the precept remain the same as set at the last meeting of the Parish Council i.e. £5000.00 which was the same as 2012/13

12. 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 3rd February 2013.

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

13. GRASS CUTTING SERVICE:

At the last meeting the Parish Council had agreed to support Brindle Parish Council in requesting that the current service by Chorley Council be continued.

It was understood that the County Council was reviewing the grass cutting service for next year. It was felt that a better service had been provided this year in comparison with previous years

The County Council had confirmed that the current arrangement was to continue.

Chorley Council had indicated that they would undertake five verge cuts over the season with a trim after each cut and a cut back to the boundary after the second and final cuts.

14. LETTER OF THANKS:

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter of thanks from Hoghton Autumn Club in respect of the Parish Council's donation.

15. NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

The Clerk reported changes to the calculation of interest for this account and that the Parish Council would now receive an annual statement in April.

16. WINTER WEATHER:

The Clerk reported a notice from the insurance company about claims arising from bad weather. He also reported that there was now a website on insurance matters for Parish Councils.

17. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2013:

The Clerk submitted details of this year's Competition, he also circulated details of the judges report on the 2012 competition.

The Parish Council decided not to enter the Annual Best Kept Village Competition.

18. POND CRIPPLEGATE LANE:

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) reported drainage problems arising

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from the pond. Water was backing up and blocking the drains. The pond was the responsibility of Chorley Council and he requested urgent action be taken to alleviate

the situation. It was understood the Mr. Forrester had written to Chorley on behalf of the de Hoghton Estate about the flooding.

The Vice Chairman asked that a meeting should be held as soon as possible on site to discuss the problem with senior officials from Chorley Council. The Clerk would contact Chorley about this.

19. PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER:

The Clerk reported that he had made arrangements for the publication of a Parish Council Newsletter to be incorporated in the Parish Church Magazine and suggested that a donation of £50.00 be made towards the publication costs.

The Parish Council agreed in to make a donation of £50.00.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) had made enquiries into a similar report being included in the Brindle St Joseph's RC Church Magazine as many of the parishioners lived in Hoghton.

A letter from the editor of the St. Joseph's magazine was submitted requesting a donation towards the publication costs.

The Parish Council agreed to make a similar donation of £50.00 and a cheque was signed.

20. PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY:

The Clerk reported that following publication of a notice regarding the vacancy on the Parish Council, he had received expressions of interest from Mr. B. Mattock of Hoghton Lane and Mr. M. Watson of Arrowsmith Drive Gregson Lane.

Both had been attended this meeting and were asked if they still were interested in becoming a member of the Parish Council.

Both confirmed that they were and it was agreed that they would attend an informal interview at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

The Clerk would contact them to make the necessary arrangements.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 18th February 2013 at 7.45.pm at the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15

p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

18TH FEBRUARY 2013