

DRAFT
MINUTES OF 1003RD MEETING
OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 17TH JULY 2006
AT THE VILLAGE HALL
PRESENT: -

COUNCILLOR E. MILLER-CROOK (IN THE CHAIR) COUNCILLORS T. GREENWOOD, J. PROCTOR, T.SHARRATT, AND Ms M. URRY AND MR. T HARKNESS (CLERK).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: - MRS A. DAWSON AND MR. P. REECE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE LANCASHIRE BRANCH OF THE CPRE.

57 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were submitted from The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) and Councillor J. Baldwin and Pc Evans (Community Beat Manager).

58. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING:

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman at the start of the meeting Councillor E. Miller Crook was appointed Chairman for the meeting.

59. CHAIRMAN – COUNCILLOR D. DICKINSON:

The Acting Chairman informed the Parish Council that the Chairman had gone into hospital for an operation.

The Parish Council wished him a speedy recovery.

60. 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.

61. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19th June 2006 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

THERE THEN FOLLOWED AN ADJOURNMENT TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO RAISE ISSUES AND QUESTION THE PARISH COUNCIL REGARDING MATTERS DEALT WITH. THE MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT RAISED THE FOLLOWING MATTER: -

62. CPRE:

The CPRE representatives explained that their attendance was part of an initiative by the CPRE to attend meetings of Parish Councils and other organisations in the locality. They reported on various issues currently being considered by the CPRE.

Mrs A. Dawson also stated she wanted to do a survey of the need for quiet lane designations in the Gregson Lane/Hoghton area. She would prepare a questionnaire and send a copy to the Parish Council. Details would also appear in the Idle Toad magazine.

AT THIS POINT AS THERE WERE NO OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT THE PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED WITH THE BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA.

63. POLICING REPORT:

As the Community Beat Manager was not present no report on policing in the Parish was made. The Clerk also reported on the inaugural meeting of Police and Communities Together held on 5th July 2006

64. LAPTC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current Newsletter of the Association. He also reported details of the Association AGM on 4th November 2006. Notification of delegates and details of any resolutions to be considered at the Annual Meeting were required by 29th September 2006. The Clerk reminded the Parish Council of the resolution proposed by Councillor Sharratt urging LAPTC to support the funding of the Air Ambulance Service nationally.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) and Councillor Ms Urry were appointed as the Council's delegates to the Annual General Meeting of LAPTC to be held on 4th November 2006 and any resolutions to be submitted to the AGM would be considered at the next meeting. The Chairman would attend in his capacity as a Member of LAPTC.

65. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). TRAFFIC SCHEME – HOGHTON LANE:

Detailed design work would shortly be underway on the scheme. The Environment Director at Lancashire County Council expected to be able to go to public consultation later this year, although he could not be more specific as there were many other schemes at this stage as well.

(B) GIB LANE:

The Area County Surveyor had confirmed he would cut back where necessary any trees which obscured the various speed height and weight restriction signs.

The relocation of the street nameplate at the junction of the A675 was under investigation as was the large pothole by the railway bridge.

The leak had been reported to United Utilities.

No action had been taken on any of the issues previously raised.

Members expressed concern about the general condition of Gib Lane the footway was overgrown with brambles and pedestrians were being forced to walk in the road.

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It was suggested that the Area County Surveyor should meet representatives of the Parish Council onsite to discuss these problems.

(C). LAND ADJACENT TO THE BOARS HEAD:

The de Hoghton Estate had indicated that they did not consider the land was owned by them. They had agreed to write once again to Whitbreads Brewery to ask them to cut back the brambles. The Clerk would approach the Area County Surveyor to see if he could assist. It was suggested that United Utilities might have been granted an Easement over this land. If so the Clerk would write to them to see if they would be prepared to do any removal work.

(D). BUS STOP SIGN – RILEY GREEN:

The sign had been reported to the Environment Directorate's Transport Co-ordination Section but no action had been taken. The Clerk would contact them again about this.

(E) 50 MPH SIGN A675.

The Area County Surveyor had confirmed he would cut back the where necessary any trees which obscured the sign. The sign was still obstructed and the Clerk would ask the Area County Surveyor to arrange for the cutting back to be done as soon a possible.

(F). GRASS CUTTING:

The Area County Surveyor informed the Clerk that although the highway verges along the A675 were maintained as rural verges, he accepted that there were problems with the first cut. However, the second cut should have been completed to a reasonable standard and he had arranged for the verges to be inspected. The road side verges were becoming overgrown again and it was agreed that the Area County Surveyor be asked to arrange for them to be cut again.

(G). TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE:

The level crossing at Mintholme would be closed on Sundays 6 August and 12 November 2006 between the hours of 1.00 a.m. and 5.00 a.m. to upgrade the level crossing.

An alternative route would be signed via Gregson Lane, Hillhouse Lane Sandy Lane, and Hoghton Lane and vice versa.

(H) CANAL FOOTPATH:

Councillor Proctor reported that the canal footpath was overgrown and required attention.

The Clerk would write to the Footpaths Officer at Lancashire County Council.

66 CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT:

The Clerk reported on issues affecting the Parish Council.

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67. PLANNING REPORT:

The applications for the change of use of existing disused stable block to visitor reception/shop etc Hoghton Tower Blackburn Old Road (Apps nod 06/00292/LBC and 06/00293/COU) had been withdrawn.

The application for Listed Building Consent for various internal alterations Dover Farm Blackburn Old Road (app no 06/00272/LBC) for Mr Hilton had been granted.

The following applications had been received since the last meeting

1. Change of use of existing barn to farm workers cottage Home Farm Hoghton Lane (app no 06/00309/COU).
2. Erection of Conservatory to the rear Hilltop Moulden Brow (App no 06/00793/FUL)

No observations were made on these applications.

3. Retrospective application for erection of two floodlights on overflow car park Boars Head Hotel Blackburn Old Road (App no 06/00323/FUL)

The Parish Council objects to this proposal as the current level of illumination is too bright and is a nuisance to adjoining occupiers.

68. ACCOUNT FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following account for payment.

1. Brindle Parish Council	Apportioned Stationery Costs for 2005/06	£123.40
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The Account was agreed and the cheque was signed.

69. VILLAGE HALL GRANT – LETTER OF THANKS:

The Honorary Secretary of the Village Hall had sent a letter of thanks for the grant made by the Parish Council towards the upkeep of the Village Hall.

70. 1000TH MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL - BENCH:

Mr Ormerod had partially completed the work and submitted a bill amounting to £220.00, discussion also took place regarding the wording of the commemorative plaque to be attached to the bench.

It was agreed.

1. That in view of the fact that the next meeting of the Parish Council was not until 18th September 2006 the Clerk was authorised to settle the account with Mr Ormerod following consultation with the Chairman and the Vice Chairman subject to satisfactory completion of the work.

2. That arrangements be made to acquire the bench on the same understanding as (1) above.

(3) That a plaque be ordered for the bench with the following wording:-

TO COMMEMORATE HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL'S 1000TH MEETING APRIL 2006.

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71. PINFOLD:-

In view of the lack of progress in the rebuilding of the wall the Clerk had notified the Council's Insurers and asked them to recover the cost from the driver's insurers.

Councillor Proctor said that it appeared that some repair work was being undertaken to the wall. The Clerk had not been notified of this.

It was agreed that further investigations be undertaken.

It was also reported that Mr Bowker of 31 Riley Green had contacted Land Registry to ask for an official copy of the register for Pinfold in order to ascertain its status. In the meantime the Clerk had asked for confirmation that the site was registered as common land. with the Land Registry. He had been notified that the County Council were the registration authority for common land and he had contacted them about the matter.

72. DRAFT PLAY STRATEGY FOR CHORLEY

Copies of a consultation document on a proposed play strategy in Chorley were resubmitted and it was agreed that the strategy should be endorsed.

73. REVIEW OF COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE:

The County Library Service had asked for comments on the service and that a questionnaire be completed.

Copies of the completed questionnaires would be submitted to the Clerk.

74. LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE:

The Clerk circulated a copy of the annual progress report on the performance of the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service.

75. POST BOX – GIB LANE:

The stolen post box in Gib Lane had still not been replaced despite assurances from the Post Office. The Clerk would contact the Post Office again about this.

Councillor Sharratt referred to a similar theft in Brindle and felt that the enquiries are made with the Post Office regarding the protection of rural post boxes.

He also considered that the police should be informed and asked to keep an eye on the situation.

A letter of objection regarding the withdrawal of services at Houghton Post Office had been sent to the National Federation of SubPostmasters and they had welcomed the Parish Council's support. Reference was made to the proposal that television licences could now be renewed in shops rather than Post Offices the erosion of postal services and its effect on rural post offices.

76 CHORLEY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:

The Clerk reported the arrangements for consultation on various parts of the Local Plan over the next twelve months and of the adoption of the Planning Consultation document.

77. WILDLIFE TRUST.

The Wildlife Trust had asked whether the Parish Council wished to become a Group Member at a cost of £50.00 plus VAT per annum.

It was agreed to take no action on the suggestion.

78. URGENT BUSINESS:

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting Mr Ormerod was asked to give estimates for tidying up Pinfold, the War Memorial and for the treatment of the roadside benches.

To date he had agreed to do the work but had not sent any estimates. As the Parish Council would not meet again until mid September. To avoid delay the Clerk was authorised after consulting the Chairman and the Vice Chairman to accept any suitable estimates and arrange for the work to be done

79. CAMPAIGN FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES:

The Clerk reported details of the latest newsletter from the Campaign Co-ordinators and referred to a public meeting to be held in Greater Manchester in October 2006.

80. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 18th September 2006 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10.p.m