

**HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF 1014TH MEETING
HELD ON 16TH JULY 2007
AT THE VILLAGE HALL
PRESENT: -**

COUNCILLOR D. DICKINSON (CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLORS J. BALDWIN, J. PROCTOR T. SHARRATT AND Ms M URRY AND MR. T HARKNESS (CLERK).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: ONE MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC.

53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were submitted from The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) and Councillor E. Miller-Crook.

54. 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.

55. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th June 2007 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 DID NOT RAISE ANY MATTER AND THE PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED WITH THE BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA.

56. POLICING REPORT:

In the absence of the Police the Clerk reported on policing in the Parish since the last meeting and confirmed that the incident reported by Councillor Proctor in Quaker Brook Lane had been noted by the police.

57. LAPTC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the June Newsletter giving details of the arrangement to focus on priority neighbourhoods, the Autumn Conference to be held at Park Hall Charnock Richard from 19th to 21st October 2007, and an appeal on behalf of disabled people.

Councillor Ms Urry would consider going as the Council's delegates to the Saturday Session of the Annual Conference and would notify the Clerk who would arrangement for the payment of the delegate's fees of £36.00. were agreed.

Councillor Sharratt reported that Brindle Parish Council supported his proposed resolution to the Annual General Meeting which had been suggested at the last meeting.

The Chairman reported on the Chorley Area Annual General Meeting and the normal business meeting held on 25th June 2007.

58. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). TRAFFIC SCHEME – HOGHTON LANE:

The Clerk reported that following the decision of the Lancashire Local –Chorley the Environment Directorate would proceed with the legal advertising of the speed limit order which would probably take a month or so.

It was hoped the signing and lining works would be implemented later this year.

He had also confirmed the query raised by Councillor Proctor at the last meeting that there would be a Reduce Speed Now signs at The Straits in each direction.

The Clerk also reported that following the last meeting he had contacted the Police to correct the statement that they had attended the Public Meeting when they had not. The Police had now offered to meet local residents.

Councillor Sharratt again expressed his dissatisfaction at the conduct of the meeting and the way the decision was arrived at and indicated possible consequences arising from this.

(B). LAND ADJACENT TO THE BOARS HEAD:

The Clerk had approached the Brewery regarding the tidying up of the land and had been told that arrangements had been made to cut back the brambles.

This had not been done and he had asked them to do the work as soon as possible.

(C). GIB LANE:

Following complaints at the last meeting about the general condition of Gib Lane and in particular the overgrown footway from the dip at the "Bungalow" up the hill to "Rowan Bank". The Chairman had asked the Area County Surveyor to investigate. He had contacted Houghton Estate Office whose tenant was responsible for part of the hedge and would also contact the owner responsible for the rest of the hedge.

(D) FOOTPATH NO 5:

The Clerk reported that there was to be a meeting about this footpath on Thursday 19th July 2007.

(E) FOOTPATH STATION ROAD:

The footpath between Station Road and the railway bridge was overgrown and required attention, the Clerk would inform the Area County Surveyor.

(F) ROADSIDE DRAINS:

Councillor Baldwin reported that several of the roadside drains were flooding a particularly the ones at Quaker Brook Lane and The Straits. The Area County Surveyor would be asked to investigate.

(G) LAND AT STATION ROAD:

Councillor Baldwin reported that the triangular area of land at the junction of Station Road and the A675 was overgrown. The Clerk would contact BT about this.

(H) QUAKERBROOK LANE:

The Chairman had reported the condition of the hedge and fence opposite Quaker Brook Lane to the Area County Surveyor for attention.

(I) REFUSE COLLECTION:

Councillor Ms Urry reported further problems with the way the refuse collectors returned empty bins to properties. This was causing potentially hazardous situations for people. The Clerk would report this to the Refuse Collection Manager

59. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman reported on issues affecting the Parish Council.

60. PLANNING REPORT:

A. DECISIONS

The Clerk reported that the following decisions had been made on the applications listed.

1. Conversion of joiner's workshop to dwelling Fell View Chapel Lane Applicants Mr. and Mrs Whittle (App no 07/00367/FUL).Refused.
2. Proposed two storey side extension 5 Willowfield Chase Applicants Mr. and Mrs Addison (App no 07/0288/FUL). Granted.

B. APPLICATIONS:

1. Single storey side extension Hollybank Riley Green Switch Road. (App no 07/0714/FUL) Applicant Mr Hindle

The Parish Council made no observations on this application.

61. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

1	Hoghton Village Hall	Hire of Rooms April June 2007	£27.00
2.	Brindle Parish Council	Apportionment of Annual Printing Costs	£155.25.

The Accounts were agreed and the cheques were signed.

62. REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT SYSTEM:

The Clerk would submit a review on the effectiveness of the Parish Council's system of internal control to the September meeting.

63. NO COLD CALLING ZONES:

The Clerk reported on the establishment of such zones.

64. CODE OF CONDUCT:

The Clerk circulated a report and documents relating to the adoption of the revised code of conduct together with a letter from Chorley Council regarding the publication of the notice of adoption of the Code. He also circulated a revised register of interests form.

Councillor Sharratt circulated copies of the response from the Assistant County Solicitor regarding CRB Clearance for Councillors.

The Clerk reported that Chorley Council had arranged training for Clerks on 23rd July and for Members on 19th September 2007.

He also reported on the question of signing new Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms which Chorley Council was looking into.

It was agreed that:-

(1) That the Parish Council adopt the revised code including Paragraph 12 (2) and the Ten General Principles of Public Life.

(2) That the Parish Council's Standing Orders be amended to give Members the same rights to speak as Members of the Public.

(3) That the arrangements for the publication of the notice of adoption as suggested by Chorley Council be accepted and if required the Clerk be authorised to agree any proportionate printing costs.

(4) That the Clerk notify the Standards Board of the adoption of the Code.

(5) That Members complete and return to the Clerk the Register of Interests Form who will then submit them to the Monitoring Officer at Chorley.

(6) That the Clerk attend the training session arranged by Chorley Council on 23rd July 2007.

(7) The details of the CRB Clearance be noted.

(8) That the further details about the signing new Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms be reported when available.

65. RISK ASSESSMENT:

The Chairman and Clerk had made a health and safety risk assessment inspection of the notice boards benches Pinfold and the War Memorial on 26th June 2006.

Maintenance work to the benches Pinfold and the War Memorial were recommended. It was agreed that Mr S. Ormerod should be asked to carry out this work subject to the submission of a satisfactory estimate.

The Clerk also submitted a risk assessment report in respect of the Council's Financial Systems.

The risk assessment report in respect of the Council's Financial Systems was approved.

66. FIRE AUTHORITY – PROGRESS REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the Fire Authority 2006/07 Progress Report.

67. DOG FOULING:

The Chairman reported that he had discussed the provision of dog litter bins at Hoghton Bottoms with the Dog Warden at Chorley.

It was agreed that further information on the costs of the proposals be awaited.

68. GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS:

(A) BRINDLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

The Clerk submitted the application for grant towards the cost of the publication of a entitled Brindle and Hoghton Pals.

Councillors Proctor and Sharratt declared a prejudicial interest as Members of the Society and left the room whilst the matter was being discussed.

The application was deferred until the next meeting.

At this point Councillors Proctor and Sharratt returned to the meeting.

(B) BOWLAND PENINE MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM:

The Clerk also submitted a request for a donation to the Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue Team. The Parish Council adhered to the existing policy of not making grants to organisations, which have no specific connection with the Parish.

69. POST OFFICE CLOSURES:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council of the latest position regarding the Government's proposed Post Office Closure Programme.

70. WAR MEMORIAL:

The Chairman reported that the War Memorial had been vandalised. The Clerk had received an estimate for the repair work and had made a claim on the Council's Insurance. Once this was accepted the repair work would be put in hand.

71. RAIL HALT AND PARK AND RIDE SCHEME:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that Brindle Parish Council supported the suggestion regarding the provision of a Rail Halt and Park and Ride Scheme.

72. PARISH CHARTER FOR LANCASHIRE:

Last year the Parish Council considered a draft Parish Charter the idea was to establish closer links with the County Council. The charter was not developed because the consultations proved inconclusive. In view of other developments from the Government such as the white paper on strong Local Communities and the County's proposals to engage with people at very local level they had decided to start consulting all over again.

. The Chairman had attended the one for Chorley on Tuesday 26th June 2007 he reported on the outcome of the meeting.

There would also to be a conference on 15th September when the Charter would be formally agreed.

73. CHORLEY PLAY PARTNERSHIP:

The meeting of the Chorley Play Partnership had been held on 5th July 2007.

74. BOROUGH/PARISH LIAISON COMMITTEE:

The next meeting would be held on 18th July and Councillor Ms Urry would attend as the Parish Council's representative on the Committee. The Clerk had sent her details of the meeting.

75. CHANGES TO CHORLEY DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP OFFICE:

The Clerk reported that Cindy Lowthian had been temporarily seconded to a post of Community Engagement Manager at County Hall and her place has been taken by Paula Fodor.

76. CHORLEY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:

The Clerk submitted the comments made following the public consultation exercise on the preferred options document relating to the development of a sustainable resources plan for Chorley.

He had also been contacted by the Central Lancashire City group asking if there were any areas of land in Hoghton which the Parish Council wished to identify for development purposes. The Parish Council did not consider there were any such sites in the Parish.

77. CHORLEY EAST COMMUNITY FORUM:

The Chairman gave a report on the meeting of the Forum held on 12th July 2007.

78. CASHLESS PUBLIC TELEPHONES:

Councillor Sharratt referred to proposals from BT to take out the cash facility of the public phones in Samlesbury and it was agreed that the Parish Council would object to this occurring in Hoghton.

79. TREE WARDENS:

The Clerk reported details of training for tree wardens by Chorley Council the Clerk would send the details to Councillor Ms Urry.

80. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 17th September 2007 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.40. p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

17TH SEPTEMBER 2007

