

MINUTES OF 1035TH MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 20TH JULY 2009 AT THE VILLAGE HALL

**PRESENT: - COUNCILLOR D. DICKINSON (CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLOR T. GREENWOOD (VICE CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLORS N.PETER. J. PROCTOR, T.SHARRATT, AND Ms M. URRY AND MR. T HARKNESS (CLERK).
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: TWO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillor J. Baldwin and Mr. J. Peet Neighbourhood Officer - Chorley

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.

3. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 15th June 2009 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. THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT RAISED THE FOLLOWING MATTERS: -

5. TRAFFIC SCHEME – HOGHTON LANE:

The Members of the Public thanked the Parish Council for their support regarding the Traffic Scheme on the A675 through Hoghton. They considered that there had been a general improvement in traffic speeds as a result. However, the branches of a tree obscured speed limit sign at Park Gates. It needed cutting back and this had been reported but no action had been taken. The Clerk would contact the County Council about this.

Councillor Ms Urry suggested that traffic speeds were increasing again on Hoghton Lane.

Councillor Proctor agreed he felt the police should make more patrols. He also referred to the list of sites of speed cameras issued weekly in the local press and observed that they were always in the same areas. Hoghton Lane was not one of them.

Councillor Sharratt reported that traffic was regularly exceeding the speed limit and the police had not responded to the query as to why the 40 miles per hour could be enforced on one part of the A657 at Higher Walton but not enforced on Hoghton Lane.

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The police would be asked for their comments on the suggestions made regarding traffic speeds.

6. FOOTWAY – PARK GATES:

A Member of the Public reported that the footway at Park Gates had been damaged during recent highway repair work.

The County Council would be asked to re-instate the footway.

7. REFUSE COLLECTION:

The Members of the Public reported on the failure of the Refuse Collectors to collect their refuse despite constant requests and an agreement that they would do so.

They requested that the contract for refuse collection be renegotiated as soon as possible so that a more efficient system could be introduced and asked for the support of the Parish Council.

The Chairman indicated that the existing contract was currently being reviewed by Chorley Council. However, the request would be supported and Chorley Council notified.

The Parish Council discussed the problems generally in the parish arising from bin collection.

Councillor Ms Urry reported that at the recent Borough/Parish Liaison meeting the Manager of the Refuse Collection Service had requested all parishes to report problems with the service and inform him so that he could prepare a data base.

The Clerk reported that following problems with the bin collection at Cripplegate Lane a site meeting was to take place with representatives of the contractor, Chorley Council and the resident concerned. It was agreed that the Parish Council should attend this meeting to raise the problems associated with refuse collection in the Parish generally.

The Chairman and Clerk would make the arrangements and notify Members of the date and time of the meeting.

8. POLICE REPORT:

In the absence of the Police the Clerk circulated a copy of the police newsletter for June 2009 which showed that there had been three reported incidents of crime during the period.

The Chairman reported the appointment of PCSO Michelle Appleton in place of PCSO Mike Jones.

The Chairman reported that there had been complaints of joy riding and loud music in the early hours of the morning at the Village Hall car park. The police had been informed.

The issues relating to the occupation of sites by travellers was discussed and it was felt that consideration should be given to a barrier being erected at the entrance to the Village Hall Car Park. The Chairman would look into the legal position regarding this and the Management Committee asked for their views.

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9. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current Newsletter which included details of the Annual Conference and various training seminars.

The Chairman asked if there were any resolutions for submission to the Annual General Meeting on 7th November 2009. None were put forward.

The meeting of the Area Committee would be held on 30th July 2009. He also reported that the County Council had agreed to continue funding the Association.

10. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A) HOGHTON LANE:

The Clerk had contacted the Area County Surveyor about the unsatisfactory resurfacing work which had been done on 8th June 2009. He had also reminded him about the removal of the dropped kerbs by the terraced properties on Hoghton Lane because of drainage problems.

The County Council explained that they had patched areas of the road that were prone to potholes to keep it safe. The road level was high due to years of resurfacing and needed planing off and completely redoing this together with the dropped kerbs has been put on a list for special maintenance in the next financial year.

Councillor Sharratt suggested that the new County Councillor should be informed about the matter and asked for his support when the projects to be included in the list of special maintenance items were considered by the Lancashire Local – Chorley.

Councillor Ms Urry suggested that the County Councillor should be invited to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council. This was agreed.

The Chairman referred to the Road Safety Federation which had named Hoghton lane as the most dangerous road in the country. Members had taken part in a news item on Radio Lancashire and details had appeared in the press.

(B) FOOTPATH – BRINDLE LODGE:

The Public Rights of Way Supervisor was looking to see if there was funding to undertake a more substantial surface for the path.

(C) SALT BINS:

The County Council has received complaints about damaged salt bins from all over the County. It was carrying out an assessment and would inform the Parish Council of the action it proposed to take relating to the damaged bins in Hoghton by the end of July.

(D) DOG BIN – HOGHTON BOTTOMS:

The Dog Warden at Chorley was to meet the landowner to discuss his request that the dog bin be relocated.

(E) LITTER PICK:

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Councillor Proctor had requested that Chorley Council carry out a litter pick and gully cleaning exercise. The Clerk had contacted Chorley Cleansing Department about this.

(F) HOGWEED - FINNINGTON LANE:

Following a complaint by the Chairman that hogweed was growing on Finnington Lane the County Surveyor had placed an order for its removal on 2nd July 2009.

Councillor Sharratt submitted a letter he had sent to the Environment Director regarding the spread of Hogweed on land adjacent to the Boars Head car park. He had requested her to consider appropriate action regarding the matter.

(G) HGV LICENCE RENEWAL:

Details of an application to the Traffic Commissioners for the renewal and extension of the HGV licence at Anderton Fold Farm Riley Green by Mr Coar. Following discussions with the applicant Councillor Peter reported on the proposals and no objections were raised and the application had been approved.

(H) MINOR HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES:

The Clerk reported that the Lancashire Local – Chorley would consider the list of schemes recommended by the Parish Council on 22nd July but that the projects were unlikely to be approved.

(I) 241 HOGHTON LANE:

Councillor Ms Urry reported that it appeared that some work was due to start out side her property on Hoghton Lane. It was not known what this was.

9. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman reported on issues affecting the Parish Council and in particular referred to the Council's Annual Report for 2009/10.

11. PLANNING REPORT:

The following applications had been received since the last meeting of the Parish Council and details had been circulated to all Members.

1. Erection of a single storey front and rear extension Newlands Quaker Brook Lane App no 09/00477/FUL Applicants – Mr and Mrs Heeney.

2. Provision of balcony at second floor level to the west facing elevation Higher Mill Viaduct Road App no 09/00506?FUL Applicant Mr. Mathias.

3. Installation of underground sewage treatment plant and associated infrastructure at rear of graveyard to serve occupants of former Sunday School Chapel Lane. App no 09/00520/FUL Applicant Mrs N. Kellett.

No observations were made on these applications.

The Chairman also reported Neighbourhood Officer was looking into the dumping of rubbish and other activities at the Finnington Lane Industrial site and the current position regarding the planning application to develop the site.

The police would be asked again to monitor the speed of traffic on Finnington Lane.

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12. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

There were no accounts for payment

13. GIB LANE /CRIPPLEGATE LANE:

The Vice Chairman reported on current situation regarding the infestation of wild ducks and vermin in this area and on the action taken.

14. PINFOLD:

A. OWNERSHIP

The Clerk reported on the discussions which Councillor Peter and the Chairman had had with Mr. Forrester the de Hoghton Estate's Land Agent about title to the land.

The Parish Council discussed the options open to it.

Councillor Proctor felt that the land should be registered as soon as possible.

Councillor Peter indicated he would discuss the issues with Sir Bernard de Hoghton and report back to the Clerk.

B. LISTED STATUS:

The Clerk reported that following discussions with the Planning Officer at Chorley he had been advised that it was unlikely that the Pinfold would be granted listed status.

15. NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN – BRINDLE AND HOGHTON:

Chorley Council had now published the North Eastern Parishes Neighbourhood Action Plan which included Hoghton. A copy of the plan was circulated and details of the proposed projects affecting the Parish were discussed. Councillor Sharratt referred to the current use of the Village Hall.

The Clerk also submitted a report on the Day of Action on 11th May 2009

It was also reported that it was proposed to hold a further information exchange in July or August. The Parish Council agreed to participate in this.

The Action Plan was noted and the Parish Council agreed to participate in a further information exchange event.

16. EQUALITY FORUM:

The Chairman and Councillor Ms Urry reported on the meeting of the Equality Forum held on Thursday 9th July 2009.

17. BOROUGH PARISH LIAISON:

Councillor Ms Urry reported on the meeting of the Borough/ Parish Liaison Committee held on Wednesday 15th July 2009. In particular she referred to the discussion on the use of funds arising from Planning Act Section 106 moneys. She felt that some of the funds could be used for repairing the Pinfold. The Director of Business and Planning had offered to advise parish councils on the submission of bids for funds. Councillor Proctor felt that the Parish Council should apply for funding.

The Clerk would contact Chorley Council about making a bid for funds

18. BOWLAND PENNINE MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM.

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The Clerk submitted a request for a donation to the Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue Team. It was decided to adhere to the existing policy of not making grants to organisations, which had no specific connection with the Parish.

19. WAR MEMORIAL:

The Clerk reported the arrangements for the cleaning of the War Memorial following an inspection by the Chairman. The work was to be carried out by Mr. P. Whitehead at an estimated cost of £200.00 which could be met from the Parish Council's Maintenance Budget. Power was delegated to the Clerk to settle the bill following the completion of the work satisfactorily.

Councillor Peter asked what had caused the staining of the Memorial. This appeared to be from the metal bases of the wreaths which were laid there. Councillor Ms Urry suggested that a wooden frame be constructed to lay the wreaths on. The Clerk would investigate this idea.

20. DUMPING OF RUBBISH:

Councillor Sharratt expressed his concern about what appeared to be a change of policy by Chorley Council regarding the collection of rubbish dumped on country lanes. Chorley Council seemed to have decided that grass clippings and other bio degradable rubbish could be left in where it had been dumped to rot down.

He felt they should treat rural areas in the same way as urban areas and remove all rubbish which had been dumped.

The Chairman agreed to take this up with Chorley Council.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 21st September 2009 at 7.30.p.m at the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25. p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

21ST SEPTEMBER 2009