

# **MINUTES OF 1046TH MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 19TH JULY 2010 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).**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillor J. Baldwin, County Councillor M. Devaney and Mr J. Peet (Chorley Neighbourhood Officer).

**2. COUNCILLOR PROCTOR:**

Councillor Proctor reported on his attendance at the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 22nd June.2010. The Parish Council congratulated Councillor Proctor.

**3. 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.

**4. MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21st June 2010 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**5. 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.**

**6. POLICE REPORT:**

The Clerk circulated the current police newsletter which indicated that there had been one incident of reported crime during the period June to July

He also reported that at the PACT Meeting on 6th July it was mentioned that 3 youths were arrested in Houghton Tower Woods on poaching and firearms (air rifles) Offences on 3rd July 2010. Deer poaching with dogs was on the increase in this area, and the Police had asked that any sitings to be relayed to them.

Councillor Ms Urry once again requested the contact number for the Wildlife Officer. The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) and the Clerk would try to obtain this number.

Speed enforcement by PC Evans had been stopped by Police HQ until all the sites he uses for speed checking had been risk assessed this was a force wide instruction and followed an incident in Northern Division. Presently there are no

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Officers qualified to make risk assessments. PCSO Appleton had taken the risk assessment exam but would not have results for 6 weeks.

Financial cutbacks would mean a reduction in the road traffic unit from 15 officers to 10, PCSO's might be at risk of redundancy.

**7. LALC REPORT:**

The Clerk referred to matters raised by the Association in their current Newsletter. These included details of training courses. There were no resolutions for submission to the LALC Annual General Meeting.

The Clerk reported that Brindle Parish Council had agreed to send a resolution to the AGM regarding the problems caused by Chinese Lanterns for farmers. The Parish Council supported the resolution.

Councillors Peter and Ms Urry referred to problems with Chinese Lanterns and noise and fireworks at Beeston Manor at Samlesbury. They also referred to problems from helicopter training at this location. Councillor Sharratt referred to the flight path of the helicopters.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported that the helicopter problem was currently being dealt with by South Ribble Borough Council.

The Clerk would write to South Ribble Council to complain about the helicopter training and also to report the problems of Chinese Lanterns, noise and use of fireworks at the restaurant.

**8. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:**

**(A). SALT BINS:**

The Clerk reported that the Area County Surveyor had indicated that it was normal practice for the County Council's response teams, there were three covering the Chorley Borough area, to fill grit bins in September/October before the start of the winter season. The replenishment of the existing grit bins would be carried out during this period. Any subsequent re-filling was normally reliant on requests from the Parish Council or residents and the best number to contact for this refilling was 0845 053 0011.

Councillor Peter suggested that this contact number be put on all the salt bins.

The Clerk would write to the County Council regarding this suggestion.

The request for a new salt bin on Private Road near St. Joseph's Church would be assessed with a reply to follow after the process had been completed.

Councillor Sharratt referred to the practice in some areas of the County and at one location in Samlesbury where no salt bins were provided and salt and grit were put at the side of the road.

County Councillor Mike Devaney had indicated that the review of salt bins would be finished in August.

Councillor Ms Urry mentioned that in January a question was raised at the Chorley/Parish Council Liaison Meeting about gritting vehicles being on the road whilst empty but no response had been received.

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The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) would raise this at the next Liaison Meeting on 21st July 2010.

**(B). HOGHTON LANE:**

The Clerk reported that the Environment Directorate had scheduled the resurfacing of Hoghton Lane in July and August 2010. Councillor Proctor reported that signs had been erected giving the dates for the resurfacing. The work would commence on 10th August 2010.

Councillor Ms Urry reported that residents had been sent a letter by Lindsay Hoyle MP about the work.

She also mentioned that there did not appear to be any intention of repairing holes further down Hoghton Lane.

Councillor Proctor referred to the difficulty in gaining access to his property because of the camber of the road in this location and the height of the kerbstones.

**(C). BOUNDARY SIGN – MOULDEN BROW:**

The Clerk was awaiting a response from the County Council about this.

**(D) TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER:**

Following the last meeting the Clerk had asked the Environment Directorate why the Parish Council had not been consulted by them before the Statutory Notice appeared in the press.

The Leader of the Legal Support Section had indicated that it was not the practice to advise Consultees of when an Order was to be introduced except in a situation where there had been an objection(s). Such action was required under the regulations.

In every case and in any event i.e. whether proposals were supported or objected to, they placed a further notice in the local newspaper of the Order having been made and giving details of when the Order would come into operation.

Councillor Sharratt referred to the new policy of the County Council informing County Councillors of developments by the County Council in their areas.

The Clerk reported that with regard to the signs being blanked out the County Council had stated that: - Usually, in situations where there was a change in speed limit proposed, where "new" signs were installed, they were spray painted over until the Order came into force when the paint was removed & motorists were then able to observe the new/revised speed limit. In a situation where there was an existing specified speed limit or a national speed limit was in force, such existing limit would continue until the new/changed speed limit was brought into force.

Councillor Ms Urry said the signs had been blanked out since March 2010 and this was still the position. Marker posts had been erected near the lay-by at Jack Pits but nothing further had been done. The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) indicated that workmen were saying that the marker posts meant they were unable to cut the grass verges.

The Clerk would write to the County Council to ask why the signs did not have the speed limit painted in and would enquire about the grass cutting.

**(E). FINGER POST SIGN – BOARS HEAD:**

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The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) indicated the progress being made on this matter.

**(F) PUBLIC FOOTPATH SIGN:**

The Footpaths Officer had been asked to re-erect this sign.

**(G). PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO CHORLEY:**

A reply was awaited regarding the Parish Council's enquiry there being no direct bus route to Chorley from Hoghton.

Councillor Ms Urry reported that at the Equality Forum Meeting on 8th July 2010 reference was made to a pilot project to assess the potential for a minibus service through Brindle, Hoghton and Wheelton.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) and Councillor Sharratt referred to past attempts to provide a bus service and felt that there was no demand.

**(H) CHORLEY HIGHWAYS BULLETIN:**

The Clerk circulated a copy of the new quarterly bulletin issued by the Environment Director this was intended to be a quarterly briefing for County Councillors, District Councillors and the Local MP and was designed to inform members of planned highway schemes, utility works and major events which were likely to impact upon the highway network in Chorley.

In future the Clerk would notify the Parish Council of any work proposed in Brindle and Hoghton.

**(I) QUAKER BROOK LANE HEDGE:**

The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) reported overhanging hedges in Quaker Brook Lane near Beeston Villa. The hedges on both sides of the road were overgrown and were hazardous to motorists and pedestrians.

The Clerk would contact the Environment Directorate at the County Council to request that the hedges be cut back as soon as possible.

**(J) HOGHTON RAILWAY BRIDGE:**

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported that the gap in the fencing alongside the railway bridge had been fenced off.

**9. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:**

The Chairman reported on issues affecting the Parish Council. The Clerk submitted a copy of the Chorley Council Annual Report 2009/10.

**10. PLANNING REPORT:**

**(A). DECISION:**

The planning application for the felling of two trees covered by TPO1 (Hoghton) 1969 42 Fowler Close (App no 10/00337/TPO) Applicant Mrs Waddington had been granted.

**(B). APPLICATION:**

An application for the demolition of existing single storey rear extension and erection of two storey rear extension with chimney to give additional accommodation Lowood Station Road(App no 10/00544/FUL) Applicant Mr and Mrs. Lawson had been submitted since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

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Councillor Sharratt commented on the application form and reference was made to current work tasking place at the property.

No planning observations were made on this application.

**11. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:**

**Councillor Sharratt declared a prejudicial interest in respect of Account Number 2 and left the room during consideration of this matter.**

The Clerk submitted the following accounts for payment

1.Village Hall	Hire of Room Parish Council Meetings April - June 2010	£30.00
2. S.Ormerod	Painting of benches	£400.00

The Accounts were agreed and the cheques signed.

**Councillor Sharratt returned at this point.**

**12. REPAYMENT OF MONEY:**

The Clerk reported that he had received payment of £180.00 from Chorley Council for Tai Chi Classes at the Village Hall. This money should have paid to the Village Hall Management Committee and Chorley Council had asked that the sum be repaid to them so that they could make the funds available to the Management Committee.

Following consultation with the Chairman a cheque had been sent to Chorley Council for the £180.00

**13. PINFOLD:**

Councillor Peter gave an update on the current situation regarding a site meeting.

**14. LIBRARY SERVICE:**

The Parish Council considered the latest position regarding this matter. Councillor Ms Urry commented on the current situation and Councillor Sharratt had written to the Head of the Library Service but had not received any reply.

**15. WAR MEMORIAL:**

**Councillor Sharratt declared a prejudicial interest and left the room during consideration of this matter.**

Mr Ormerod had agreed to the regular maintenance of the land surrounding the War Memorial.

**Councillor Sharratt returned at this point.**

At the last meeting Councillor Peter felt that the cobbled area required repointing and this would alleviate the weed problem to some extent. He was currently looking into this

The Clerk reported concerns about the deterioration of the stone plinths. Councillor Sharratt mentioned that South Ribble Council had informed him of potential funding for rural projects and gave a list of the type of projects which would be considered. He felt that if this was on offer to South Ribble then a similar offer would have been made to Chorley.

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It was suggested that if there were funds available the work to the War Memorial could be considered. The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) felt that the Neighbourhood Officers would know about this particularly as they were assisting the Village Hall in securing funding.

He felt that if there was a potential source of funds the Village Hall should also be included in any application.

The Clerk would contact Chorley Neighbourhood Officers about this.

The Clerk also reported that arrangements were being made to store the board for the wreaths at the Parish Church.

**16. EQUALITY FORUM:**

The Chairman and Councillor Ms Urry reported on the meeting of the Equality Forum held on Thursday 8th July 2009. In particular she mentioned the discussion on the Library Service and the observations of the members of the Children's Council on the reduction in service.

She suggested that if the service was not to be re-instated then perhaps the times of operation could be better planned.

Councillor Ms Urry would submit a question on this topic to the Borough/ Parish Liaison Meeting on 21st July 2010.

**17. BOROUGH PARISH LIAISON:**

The next meeting of the Committee would be 21st July 2010 and the Chairman would attend.

**18. COUNTY ARCHIVES:**

The Clerk submitted for information details of the work of the County Archivist relating to Parish Records.

**19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Monday 20th September 2010 at 7.30.p.m at the Village Hall

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

**SIGNED  
CHAIRMAN**

**20TH SEPTEMBER 2010.**