

DRAFT
MINUTES OF 993RD MEETING
OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 20TH JUNE 2005
AT THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: -

COUNCILLOR D. DICKINSON (CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLOR T. GREENWOOD (VICE CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLORS E. MILLER-CROOK J.PROCTOR T.SHARRATT, Ms. M.URREY AND MR. T HARKNESS (CLERK).

THERE WERE NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillor J.Baldwin.

39. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th May 2005 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

40. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST:

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct the Clerk asked if any Member wished to declare an interest in any matter to be considered by the Parish Council at the meeting. No one declared an interest.

41. LAPTC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current Newsletter of the Association. He submitted recommendations concerning a revised method of raising the subscription income required to fund the Association's activities each year. The Parish Council was asked for its comments.

The Clerk also reported an increase in the rates for car allowances effective from April 2005 and referred to the booklet A Guide to Good Practice - Pointers for Local Councils.

The Parish Council had been notified of the next meeting of the Chorley Area Committee on 29 June and in particular the matter raised by Ulnes Walton Parish Council regarding enforcement of planning issues and whether other Parishes were experiencing similar problems.

It was felt that there were no specific instances relating to enforcement issues which required raising but Councillor Sharratt said that there was concern about the general conduct of Chorley Planning Department. In particular he raised the issue of the telecommunications mast at Oram House Farm and the likelihood of a new planning application being made.

He referred to his letter about the last application. The Chairman stated that there were serious staffing problems within the Planning Department.

- **(HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 20TH JUNE 2005)**

He also reported on the proceedings of the Annual Conference.

(1) The report of the Chairman was accepted.

(2) The Clerk would inform LAPTIC that the Parish Council accepts the recommendations for the revised method for the raising of subscriptions.

(3) The Clerk would respond to the letter from the Clerk of Ulmes Walton and circulate a copy of Councillor Sharratt's letter regarding the telecommunications mast at Oram House Farm to each Member of the Parish Council.

42. GULLIES – CHAPEL LANE:

The Lancashire Highways Partnership (Area County Surveyor) had confirmed that the carriageway gullies would be checked and cleaned out as necessary. Councillor Miller Crook indicated that the problem was that the gullies needed lifting. It was understood that the Partnership was investigating this.

43. FOOTWAY SWEEPING:

The Chairman had discussed with Chorley Borough Council the sweeping of the A675 on the slope up to the east side of Hoghton Railway Bridge and at Gib Lane down to and under the railway bridge when approaching from the Boars Head.

The Chairman reported the outcome of those discussions.

44. OVERGROWN FOOTWAYS:

The Chairman had discussed the cutting of the overgrown footways from the Village Hall to Station Road and from the Railway Bridge to Station Road with the appropriate authority.

Councillor Miller Crook expressed his concern about the state of the footway and the overhanging vegetation. It was the responsibility of the owners to cut back the overgrown hedges and clear the footway of debris.

Councillor Ms Urry reported that the hedge opposite Quaker Brook Lane overhung the footway and caused problems for pedestrians. She also presented a letter and petition from local Residents about the condition of the land.

She also stated that when litterbins were collected they were put together in groups on the bend in the road, which again was hazardous for pedestrians.

(1) The Clerk would write to the Lancashire Highways Partnership (Area County Surveyor) to express the concern of the Parish Council about the state of the footways.

(2) The Clerk would write to Lancashire Highways Partnership (Area County Surveyor) about the overhanging hedge near Quaker Brook Lane and to Chorley Refuse Collection Service about the bin collection problem.

(3) The Chairman would submit the petition to Chorley Council and notify the Lancashire Highways Partnership (Area County Surveyor).

45. BUS SHELTER THE STRAITS:

The Clerk reported the comments from Chorley Borough Council regarding the provision of a bus shelter on the Straits on the Blackburn side of the road.

(HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 20TH JUNE 2005)

The Borough Council did provide new bus shelters but this was dependent on strict criteria. The safety aspect referred to at the last meeting was an important factor but other elements were required before Chorley could consider the suggestion. The Chairman had discussed this with the appropriate officer at Chorley and further investigations were taking place.

The Parish Council would await further developments.

46. BUS SHELTERS:

The Lancashire Highways Partnership (Area County Surveyor) had requested more information about the overgrown verges surrounding the bus shelters. The bus shelters in question were those at the Boars Head.

The Clerk would inform the Lancashire Highways Partnership (Area County Surveyor) of the location of the overgrown areas.

47. TRAFFIC SPEEDS – HOGHTON LANE:

Councillor Proctor requested the Parish Council to give further consideration to the speed of traffic along Hoghton Lane. The Parish Council was reminded that the County Council in November had stated a 40 mph limit from Riley Green to Bells Lane could not be justified. Reference was made to the petition from Mr Seddon of Brindle Bar about the traffic problems on the A675 and the comments of the local MP on this issue.

The Chairman reported on the use of speed enforcement equipment by Members of the Public and informed the Parish Council of the signs used by Age Concern.

It was considered that the cost of providing this equipment and the use of volunteers to do the work of the police was not acceptable.

The Chairman had spoken to County Councillor Mrs Livesey about the problems of speeding motorists and the petition which had been sent to them and she was to seek the views of the Environment Director at the County Council.

Councillors Proctor and Sharratt felt that speed limits needed enforcing and that the A675 from Finnington to Chorley Road Corner at Walton le Dale should be the subject of an investigation into traffic speeds. Councillor Sharratt also felt that interactive speed signs should be erected.

The Clerk would consult the Police and the County Council about the use of interactive speed signs on the A675 from Finnington to Chorley Road Corner at Walton le Dale. He would also inform the local MP and County Councillor Mrs Livesey of the views of the Parish Council.

48. 50 MPH SIGN:

Councillor Miller Crook reported that branches obscured one of the 50 mph signs.

The Clerk would notify the Lancashire Highways Partnership (Area County Surveyor) about this.

49 CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman presented a report on issues affecting the Parish Council.

(HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 20TH JUNE 2005)

50. PLANNING REPORT:

The reserved matters application for the erection of a two storey residential dwelling and detached double garage at Quaker Brook Substation Hoghton Lane (App no 05/00287/ REM) was approved 24th May 2005.

The Clerk reported that there were no other planning applications to consider at present.

51. ACCOUNT FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following account for payment.

1. T.Harkness	Salary May and June 2005.	£183.33
	Expenses	£ 60.73
	Total	£244.06

The Parish Council agreed to pay this account and the cheque was signed.

52. GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS:

The Clerk submitted the requests for donations to Childline Northwest and 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.

53. CPRE:

The Clerk circulated three publications of the CPRE including details of a change in the Chairmanship of the Lancashire Branch.

54. LANCASHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY:

The Chairman reported on the Community Police meeting held on 6 June 2005 at Brinscall.

55. LIAISON MEETING BOROUGH/PARISH COUNCIL:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council of the arrangements for the next Liaison meeting on 13th July 2005 plus a questionnaire regarding the format of future meetings.

56. VAT

The VAT repayment of £87.13 was reported.

(HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 20TH JUNE 2005)

57. CHORLEY RAMBLERS:

Details of the programme of walks of the Chorley Branch of the Ramblers Association from June to September 2005 was submitted for posting on the notice boards.

Reference was also made to the Best Kept Village Posters that had been removed from the notice boards. Discussion took place about the number of notices being posted.

Councillor Greenwood reported that Election Notices had been pasted on the Notice Boards and were difficult to remove.

The Clerk would arrange for new Best Kept Villages Posters to be put up and remove any notices that were no longer valid. He would also contact the Returning Officer at Chorley to arrange for the removal of the election notices.

58. STANDARD SCHOOL YEAR:

The Education Department at the County Council had now agreed that with effect from September 2006 all schools throughout Lancashire would have standardised school terms and holiday dates.

59. RECYCLING INFORMATION:

Councillor Ms Urry reported on the conflicting information received from Chorley Borough Council regarding the new arrangements for the collection and recycling of rubbish which was due to come into effect shortly. There was concern that it was unhygienic and would give rise to the spread of vermin.

The Chairman would undertake urgent discussions with the Borough Council to clear up the conflicting information and ask for residents to be notified.

60. FORMER CLERK MR NOBLETT – PRESENTATION:

The Parish Council was informed of the arrangements for the presentation of a clock to Mr. Noblett in recognition of his services to the Parish Council from 1983 to 2005.

The arrangements for the presentation were agreed and the bill for the purchase of the Carriage Clock amounting to £40.44 was paid.

61. LANCASHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:

The Clerk submitted details of the draft statement of Community Involvement for pre-submission consultation and public participation on the development of a new framework for Minerals and Waste Development that would replace the current Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

The Parish Council had been invited to attend a launch of the framework on Tuesday 5th July at the Harris Park Conference Centre Garstang Road Preston from 10.00 a.m. to 1p.m.

The Clerk would review the document and make comments if required subject to a further report to the Parish Council and if necessary would attend the launch on behalf of the Parish Council.

62. CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005:

The timetable for the implementation of this act had been agreed and an explanation of how this would impact on Parish Councils was made.

- **(HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 20TH JUNE 2005)**

The information was noted.

63. VILLAGE HALL – DONATION:

Councillor Greenwood submitted a letter of the thanks from the Village Hall Committee thanking the Parish Council for the donation they had made.

64. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 18th July 2005 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.