

MINUTES OF 1034TH MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 15TH JUNE 2009 AT THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: - COUNCILLOR D. DICKINSON (CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLOR T. GREENWOOD (VICE CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLORS J. BALDWIN, N.PETER. J. PROCTOR, T.SHARRATT, AND Ms M. URRY AND MR. T HARKNESS (CLERK).

1. 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.

2. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th May 2009 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. FORMER COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS. M. LIVESEY:

The Chairman referred to the retirement of Mrs Livesey following the recent County Council elections.

The Parish Council recorded its appreciation of the work of Mrs Livesey on its behalf and the Clerk would send a letter of thanks.

4. COUNCILLOR .T.SHARRATT:

The Chairman congratulated Councillor Sharratt on his re-election to the County Council. Councillor Sharratt was now the longest serving member of the County Council.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

AS THERE WERE NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT THE PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED WITH THE BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA.

6. 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 one reported incident of crime during May 2009. At the last meeting Councillor Ms Urry reported other incidents which did not appear to have been reported. Councillor Sharratt was concerned that these had not been mentioned in the newsletter The Clerk had asked the police to provide more detailed information in any future reports to the Parish Council.

The police had responded that they had checked the system, and confirmed that only 1 crime has been reported in Houghton (i.e. Chorley Council Area) between 1st April and 1st May.

There have been other incidents but all in South Ribble, (Higher Walton, Gregson Lane, Arrowsmith Drive and Coupe Green) which the Wheelton Rural Area which

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the Community Beat Manager would not be aware of. PC. Calderbank from Bamber Bridge covered that area. He was not aware of the "Hoghton Handbook".

Councillor Sharratt referred to the incident at Top oth Lane Brindle and asked if it was known where the car had been travelling to or from. The Police regularly patrolled the area near Denham Quarry as this was known to be used by drug addicts.

Councillor MS Urry felt that the police should still provide more information regarding their activities and suggested that the Parish Council should be introduced to the new Police Community Support Officer.

The Clerk would contact the police regarding these suggestions.

7. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current Newsletter and informed the Parish Council that the LALC AGM would be held on 7th November 2009 and requested them to consider the appointment of delegates and any resolutions for submission to the meeting.

The report was accepted, Councillor Ms Urry was appointed the Council's representative at the LALC Annual General Meeting, any resolutions to the AGM would be considered at the next meeting.

He also submitted a request from Vitalise for a donation. The organisation gave respite breaks for disabled people so that their carers could also have a break. The parish Council adhered to its existing policy.

There was also a poster for display about the Galloways Society's Morecambe Bay Walk on 15th and 16th August 2009.

The Chairman reported that this year unlike in previous years LALC proposed to hold its Annual Conference as a one day conference. He also reported on the Calor Gas Awards Scheme.

8. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A) HOGHTON LANE:

Some resurfacing work had been done on 8th June 2009. The Clerk had asked the Area Surveyor to consider removing the dropped kerbs by the terraced properties on Hoghton Lane because of drainage problems.

Councillor Ms Urry reported that the work was unsatisfactory and limited in nature. Some damage had been done to the existing road surface making the situation worse.

The Clerk would inform the County Council of these comments and notify the new County Councillor for the area.

(B). RIGHT TURN – VILLAGE HALL:

After the last meeting it was noticed that the sign had been erected. The Chairman reported that as you approach the Village Hall from the Boars Head the sign was slightly obscured by a tree branch. The Clerk had reported this to the County Highways Department.

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The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) declared an interest in this item being Chairman of the Village Management Committee and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

(C) LAND ADJACENT TO THE BOARS HEAD:

The Clerk reported that the County Council had contacted the de Hoghton Estate to say that they had considered the site and had no obligations to do anything despite the Estate's view that they had a moral obligation.

The Parish Council agreed to take no further action on this matter.

(D) FOOTPATH – BRINDLE LODGE:

The Clerk had been informed that a further inspection of the footpath had taken place and no further action was proposed.

Councillor Proctor felt that there were still problems with this footpath and it was agreed to request a site meeting with the Countryside Service.

(E) TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE - MINTHOLME CROSSING:

The Clerk reported that the proposed closure related to the crossing at Station Road and not Mintholme. He circulated a revised notice relating to the closure. The diversion route would be south east and northeast on Station Road, north west on Blackburn Old Road (A675) and south east on Station Road and vice versa.

With regard to further closures the County Council was not aware of any.

(F) PRIVATE ROAD:

The Chairman referred to an article which appeared in the Chorley Guardian.

(G) HOGHTON BOTTOMS:

Following a site inspection of the 8th June the salt bins at Chapel Lane and Viaduct Road needed repairing and the Clerk had contacted the County Council Environment Directorate about this.

(H) DOG BIN – HOGHTON BOTTOMS:

The chairman reported that the landowner had requested that the dog bin be relocated. He had spoken to the Dog Warden at Chorley and she was looking into this.

It was also reported that notices had been put on the litter bins in the Parish suggesting that dog waste could be put in them.

Councillor Proctor was concerned regarding this dual use of litter bins and felt this was unhygienic.

The Parish Council agreed to meet the Dog Warden about these matters.

(I) GRASS CUTTING:

The Chairman had asked for the grass verges to be cut and the Clerk had put this request to the County Council.

The Vice Chairman referred to the possibility of the Probation Service doing some grass/hedge cutting or maintenance work however, the Probation Service had indicated possible health and safety issues.

(J) DOVER LANE:

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The undergrounding scheme had still not been completed satisfactorily and was being reviewed.

9. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman reported that there were no issues affecting the Parish Council.

10. PLANNING REPORT:

(A) DECISION:

Chorley Council had approved the application to erect a two storey side extension and single storey side at Hawthorne Cottage Moulden Brow - App no 09/00225/FUL
- Applicant - Mr Sturgess.

(B) APPLICATION:

Demolition of existing buildings, erection of five office units with ancillary residential use, erection of 5 live/work units, erection of 5 affordable housing units, formation of new access to Finnington Lane, landscaping, laying out of new road and parking areas together with provision of washroom/wc. building for canal boat users Finnington Industrial Estate Finnington Lane.

The Chairman reported that the Planning Officers at Chorley were concerned about the affordable housing element of the application and that the proposals did not cover the whole site.

Councillor Sharratt objected to this he felt that the development was piecemeal and inappropriate. He was also concerned at the excessive speed of traffic on Finnington Lane.

The Parish Council concurred with Councillor Sharratt`s objections.

The Chairman also reported that dumping of rubbish was taking place at the site and other activities required attention. Chorley Council had been asked to investigate.

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

11. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following accounts for payment

1. A. Harkness	Clerk Salary and Expenses March - June 2009	£425.32
2..Brindle Parish Council	Apportionment of Annual Stationery Costs	£192.85
3.Village Hall	Hire of Room Parish Council Meetings April - June 2009	£27.00

The Accounts were agreed and the cheques signed.

12. REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT SYSTEM:

The Clerk circulated a report dealing with a review of the Parish Councils Internal Audit System.

The review was accepted

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13. RISK ASSESSMENT:

The Chairman and Clerk had made a health and safety risk assessment inspection of the notice boards, benches, and the Pinfold on 8th June 2009 and these were considered satisfactory. With regard to the War Memorial some work was required to the lettering. The Clerk had contacted a contractor to inspect this and advise how the lettering could be restored. Councillor Peter offered to spray the weeds in the area surrounding the War Memorial.

It was considered that the notice board at the Post Office was too small and it was suggested that rather than enlarge it, it be made two sided. The Clerk would investigate this idea.

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

14. VAT REPAYMENT:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the VAT for 2008/09 had been reclaimed amounting to £93.22.

15. GIB LANE /CRIPPLEGATE LANE:

The Vice Chairman reported on his discussions with Chorley Council into the infestation of wild ducks and vermin in this area and on the action taken.

16. PINFOLD:

A. OWNERSHIP

The Clerk reported the current situation regarding the registration of the Pinfold. Councillor Peter would speak to Mr. Forrester the de Hoghton Estate's Land Agent about title to the land. He also referred to the small garden area at the Pinfold and was informed that this was used by a local resident with the Parish Council's permission.

Councillor Sharratt reported on the present position regarding the legal status of the Pinfold.

B. LISTED STATUS:

The Parish Council agreed to seek listed status for the Pinfold.

C. LETTER:

The Clerk circulated a letter from Mrs Russell at 6 Riley Green. The Parish Council noted the comments made and the Clerk would respond.

D. SIGNS:

The Chairman reported the erection of a new traffic direction sign which also indicated Hoghton Tower and Witton Park. This sign seemed to replace the former tourist information sign at Brindle Bar.

17. NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN – BRINDLE:

The Clerk reported on the latest position.

18. LANCASHIRE CPRE BRANCH AGM:

The Parish Council had been invited to the AGM on 4th July at County Hall at 10.30 a.m.

19. REFUSE COLLECTION:

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The Vice Chairman reported problems with the bin collection service at Cripplegate Lane and this was being investigated.

The Chairman reported that there had been further problems regarding missed bins at Quaker Brook Lane and Bolton Road.

Councillor Ms Urry commented on the way emptied bins had been returned to properties on the Straits.

The Clerk would report these concerns to Chorley Council.

20. CHORLEY STANDARDS COMMITTEE;

The Clerk reported on items of interest to the Parish Council to be considered by the Standards Committee at its meeting on 18th June 2009.

He also circulated a draft protocol dealing with Parish Member/Employee Relations. The Parish Council would await formal consultation on the Protocol.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 20th July 2009 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05. p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

20TH JULY 2009