

MINUTES OF 1045TH MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 21ST JUNE 2010 AT THE VILLAGE HALL

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were submitted from The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) Councillor J. Proctor, County Councillor M. Devaney and Mr J. Peet (Chorley Neighbourhood Officer).

2. COUNCILLOR PROCTOR:

The Chairman reported that Councillor Proctor would be attending 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 17th May 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 May to June.

Councillor Ms Urry referred to the BBC Programmes "Crimewatch" and "North West Tonight" where reference was made to illegal shooting of wildlife in this area.

7. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk referred to matters raised by the Association in their current Newsletter. These included details of training courses relating to Chairmanship, and Community Engagement Workshops. He also reported details of the Association AGM to be held on 6th November 2010. Notification of delegates and details of any resolutions to be considered at the Annual Meeting were required by 6th September 2010.

- **(H(HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 21ST JUNE 2010))**

The report was accepted, The Chairman(Councillor D. Dickinson) and Councillor Ms Urry were appointed the Council's representatives at the LALC Annual General Meeting, any resolutions to the AGM would be considered at the next meeting.

8. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). SALT BINS:

The Clerk reported that no further information had been received regarding the provision of a salt bin on Private Road near St. Joseph's Church and he had contacted the Parish Council's Champion at the County Council to see if anything further had developed.

The County Council had yet to give an assurance that the salt bins would be replenished.

Councillor Peter suggested that the Clerk should continue to seek assurances from the County Council that the salt bins would be re-filled.

Councillor Baldwin felt that they should be asked to say when this would be done.

(B). HOGHTON LANE:

The Chairman reported that he would discuss the situation regarding the work required to the carriageway and the flooding problem with County Councillor Devaney.

Councillor Ms Urry reported that some work had been carried out to the drains but as there had been no period of heavy rains it is not possible to say whether this problem had been resolved.

(C). BOUNDARY SIGN – MOULDEN BROW:

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

(D). LAND AT BOARS HEAD:

The Clerk had notified the de Hoghton Estate of the County Council's views on the maintenance of this land.

(E) TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER:

Councillor Sharratt referred to the County Council Statutory notice which was inserted in the Chorley Guardian of 2nd June to the effect that new speed limits would be introduced from 7th June at Riley Green and Finnington Lane

The Parish Council were reminded that In November 2009 the Lancashire Local had agreed to reduce the speed limit on Finnington Lane. The County Council published a notice to say they were doing this and was also considering reducing the speed limit at Riley Green.

The Clerk had submitted the views of the Parish Council and the County Council had replied that they were pleased that the recommendations for Finnington Lane are acceptable.

However with regard to the section of Riley Green Switch Road that was currently at 60mph they acknowledged there were residential properties on this road. They commented that as this 1km stretch of road from the junction of Finnington Lane had seen several accidents recorded in the last 5 years and due to the restrictions at either end of this kilometre stretch of road being 40mph and the surrounding roads

(HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 21ST JUNE 2010)

being (or becoming) 50mph, it was considered reasonable to suggest that the reduction to 50mph for the road network in the area.

It was felt that The Parish Council should have been notified about the impending Statutory Notice.

The Clerk would write to the County Council to ask why the Parish Council had not been informed.

Councillor Ms Urry asked why the speed limit signs had been painted over and whether this meant that the speed limit restrictions were still in force.

The Clerk would raise this with the Environment Directorate.

(F). FINGER POST SIGN – BOARS HEAD:

The Chairman reported that following discussions with Chorley Council the finger post sign to Hoghton Bottoms at the Boars Head would be replaced.

(G) PUBLIC FOOTPATH SIGN:

Councillor Sharratt reported that the sign by the stile at Laneside Farm adjacent to the Village Hall had been knocked down.

The Clerk would ask the Footpaths Officer to arrange for the re-erection of the sign.

The Chairman referred to the gate which gave access to the rear of the Pavilion at the Village Hall.

(H). PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO CHORLEY:

Councillor Ms Urry reminded the Parish Council that there was no direct bus route to Chorley from Hoghton.

The Clerk would ask Chorley Council for their views on this.

(I) TRANSPORT SEMINAR:

Councillor Sharratt reported on the County Council's Transport Seminar where he had raised several issues. These included the Rail Halt for Brindle and Hoghton, the restoration of the Colne to Skipton Railway line and the extension of the London – Manchester proposed high speed rail link to areas to the north of Manchester.

9. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman reported on issues affecting the Parish Council.

10. PLANNING REPORT:

(A). DECISION:

The amended planning application for the erection of a detached single storey garage to the rear of 1A Gib Lane (App no 10/00196/FUL) Applicant Mr. D. Lowe. had been granted.

(B). APPLICATION:

- **(H(HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 21ST JUNE 2010)**

An application had been submitted for the pruning of three trees at Heatherdale Quaker Brook Lane (TPO) Hoghton 1991 (App no 10/004770) Applicant Mr D. Allen since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

No observations were made on this application.

(C) DISABLED ACCESS – BOARS HEAD:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) was to discuss this with the landlord of the Boars Head.

11. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following accounts for payment

1. A. Harkness	Clerk Salary and Expenses March - June 2010	£422.85
2..Brindle Parish Council	Apportionment of Annual Stationery Costs	£203.44

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

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 14th June 2010 and these were generally considered satisfactory. However, the benches required painting.

The Clerk would arrange for the painting of the benches

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

14. PINFOLD:

The Clerk reported the latest position regarding the scheme for the Pinfold.

He was awaiting a suitable date from the de Hoghton Estate for a site meeting to explain the proposals to Sir Bernard de Hoghton. The Parish Council had accepted a quote for the work from Mr. Savage amounting to £1550.

Once the meeting with the Estate took place the Clerk would write to local residents to tell them what was happening.

The Chairman reported an approach by Mrs Walker from 33 Riley Green and both he and the Clerk had spoken to Mr.Bowker of 31 Riley Green when they visited the Pinfold on 14th June 2010.

He was informed of the Parish Council's intentions regarding the site and that local residents would be told when the site visit would take place and that they could be present.

Councillor Peter referred to the sign for the Royal Oak and suggested that the landlord should be approached for a donation towards the retention for the sign and

(HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 21ST JUNE 2010)

also asked to attach a discreet sign saying that the land should not be used as a beer garden.

Councillor Ms Urry suggested that an information plaque should be provided explaining what the Pinfold was.

These ideas would be discussed with the Estate.

15. LIBRARY SERVICE:

The Clerk circulated a copy of the following comments made by County Councillor Calvert the Cabinet Member for Libraries

“A. review of mobile library services was currently being undertaken across the whole County including Hoghton.

Our current fleet of 11 vehicles operates primarily in rural communities using set criteria such as proximity to a branch library and distance between individual stops. It was very important to stress that these criteria had not been altered in any way and were being used to inform the current review. In other words, residents who use the mobile library would still receive a service in the future. ~

Reviews of mobile library services were needed periodically as our "routes" became distorted over time as the numbers of users increased or decreased over time. This was particularly the case with our service which was primarily rural and had a lot of stops visited by one or two individuals. Redundant stops needed to be removed and new stops provided if there was demand. These changes could be accommodated on an ad hoc basis but eventually they became unmanageable and a thorough review was required. In addition there had been a steady reduction in mobile library use over a long period as the nature of rural communities had altered appreciably with far fewer residents at home during the day. The last review affecting Hoghton took place in 2005.

When a review was implemented, inevitably the time and sometimes the day of a visit could change although we do try to keep disruption to a minimum. It was too early to say categorically what the visit pattern to Hoghton would be but at the moment it appeared that most stops would be served as they were at the moment in the morning with a couple of afternoon stops moved to late morning.

So effectively it was too early to be categorical in terms of the review; reviews were needed as demand changed naturally (people move, die etc); the review would not conclude in making drastic changes in this area. It would appear that some stopping points may have changed.

Councillor Ms Urry felt that these comments were bland and blurred the distinction between mobile libraries and trailer libraries. She felt that the changes were detrimental to people living in rural areas in particular to children who used the current library system. It was a false economy and would affect children in the future.

The Clerk would contact County Councillor Calvert to indicate that the Parish Council felt that his was a disproportionate reduction in the library service in rural areas and ask if the cost of the service could be offset by the closure of a park and ride service.

16. WAR MEMORIAL:

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

Mr Ormerod contacted the Clerk about the condition of the land surrounding the War Memorial which need tidying up. The Chairman agreed and the work was done at a cost of £195.00. This was accepted and a cheque was signed.

It was also considered that the War Memorial should be maintained on a quarterly basis by Mr. Ormerod

The Clerk would write to him to ask him to maintain the site on a quarterly basis.

Councillor Peter felt that the cobbled area required repointing and this would alleviate the weed problem to some extent.

The cost of doing this would be initially high but would mean savings in maintenance costs in the future.

Councillor Peter would look into this to see what needed to be done and report back to the Parish Council.

Councillor Sharratt returned at this point.

17. LANCASHIRE CPRE BRANCH AGM:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the AGM for the Lancashire Branch of the CPRE would take place at County Hall Preston on 3rd July 2010.

18. CHORLEY STANDARDS COMMITTEE;

The Clerk reported on items of interest to the Parish Council considered by the Standards Committee at its meeting on 17th June 2010.

The Clerk reported that there was a further vacancy on this Committee for a Parish Council Representative Councillor Sharratt had been approached about this and he had applied, He had posted the form on 16th June 2010 at the offices of Chorley Council and had asked for a written acknowledgement that the form had been received. To date this had not been done.

The Parish Council confirmed Councillor Sharratt`s nomination and they Clerk would contact Chorley Council to verify the receipt of the application and ask that Councillor Sharratt receive confirmation of this in writing.

19. WEATHER FORECASTS FOR COASTAL LANCASHIRE:

Councillor Sharratt reminded the Parish Council that he had raised this issue at the last meeting and had requested Parish Councillors to canvas opinion regarding the introduction of a coastal weather forecast for Lancashire and Cumbria which was not covered by the regional coastal weather forecasts.

Councillor Sharratt reported further that he had requested the support of South Ribble Council and the County Council on this but they had both declined to do so.

20. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

The Clerk circulated a copy of the Guide to Community Engagement issued by the County Council following a conference on Community Engagement and the benefits to local communities on 22nd May 2010. The purpose of the guide was to help with some of the terms and approaches used by Parishes and other local organisations.

21. THE FUTURE OF LOCALITY WORKING

The Clerk circulated a report issued by County Councillor Otter – Parish Council's Champion dealing with the County Council's proposals for locality working following the ending of the Lancashire Locals scheme.

These proposals were endorsed by Council on the 20th May 2010. There were four key areas:

- The role of county, district and parish councillors in delivering an integrated approach to locality working.
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- Governance structures and delivery vehicles, including joint approaches to engaging local communities.
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- Decisions that show potential to be delegated to district councils within existing policy and budgetary frameworks. These could be devolved as a first step towards establishing a more integrated locality working approach.
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- A wider framework which seeks to identify service areas which might benefit from more integrated approaches, in particular opportunities for closer joint working on some local service planning and delivery issues.
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As far as Parish Councils were concerned the report, recognised the need to build on the relationships already in place, and harness local knowledge, in order to help to deliver high quality services at the local level. The County Council recognised that it was likely that different areas would be of interest to different parishes, given that the whole approach was designed to be responsive to local priorities and move away from "one size fits all".

There was also a common theme running through the report regarding the need for district councils to work up effective arrangements to ensure that parish and town councils had the opportunity to shape and influence any decisions that were delegated by the county council to that particular district.

Councillor Sharratt commented on the proposals.

22. PHONE BOX – STATION ROAD:

The Chairman reported that during the risk assessment site inspection on 14th June 2010 it was noticed that the phone box and the approach to it was in a neglected condition.

The Clerk had contacted BT.

23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

- **(H(HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 21ST JUNE 2010)**

Monday 19th July 2010 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall

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

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

19TH JULY 2010.