

**MINUTES OF 1067TH MEETING OF
HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 18TH JUNE 2012
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: MR. J. PEET NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER CHORLEY , COUNTY COUNCILLOR M. DEVANEY COUNTY AND COUNCILLOR M.OTTER PARISH COUNCILS CHAMPION.

PINFOLD

County Councillor Otter presented a cheque for £150.00 to the Parish Council towards the cost of a story board for the Pinfold.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) on behalf of the Parish Council thanked County Councillor Otter for his kind donation.

The Parish Council then proceeded with the meeting:-

1. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:

An apology for absence were submitted from Councillor J. Baldwin.

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. No one made a declaration at this stage.

3. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21st May 2012 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. AS THERE WERE NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT THE PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED WITH THE BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA.

5 POLICE REPORT:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson), Councillors Sharratt and Ms Urry reported on the Air Support Unit Pact Meeting held on Thursday 7th June 2012 at the Black Horse Hotel Gregson Lane.

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Councillor Sharratt reported that he had mentioned the work of the Air Support Unit to local schools and that there had been considerable interest in the Unit visiting them to explain their role.

The Clerk also circulated a copy of a notification from the County Council Trading Standards Officer on Scam Alerts.

6. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current newsletter including a Legal Topic Note from NALC on the revised Code of Conduct.

He reported that the LALC Annual Conference would be held on 22nd September at the Leyland Hotel. The programme included an update on National Matters by the Chief Executive of NALC, a session on Neighbourhood Planning, a workshop on play areas funding and community involvement, online procurement and a final session on Insurance.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) was appointed the Parish Council's delegate to the conference and a cheque for the delegates fees amounting to £35.00 was signed.

The Clerk also reported that as in 2011 the Lancashire Parish Councils Conference and the LALC AGM would be held on the same day. This year they would be held on 10th November 2012 at County Hall Preston. The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) and Councillor Ms Urry were appointed the Council's representatives at the LALC Annual General Meeting and the Lancashire Parish Councils Conference.

7. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). FOOTPATH – PARISH CHURCH:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that he was currently liaising with Councillor Peter for the supply and storage of materials for the work.

He was arranging a start date with Community Payback and prior to the commencement of the job Councillor Peter had offered to trim the grass.

Councillor Councillor Devaney asked if the broken stile had been repaired and the Clerk confirmed that it had.

Councillor Ms Urry reported that Dawb Hall Lane would be closed for resurfacing on 20th and 21st June and commented on its knock on effect for Bells Lane.

(B) ROAD SURFACE – QUAKER BROOK LANE:

Councillor Sharratt indicated that he would be meeting representatives of the Environment Directorate on highways matters and would raised this issue with them.

He commented that areas of Quaker Brook Lane had already been marked out for attention.

(C) ROAD MARKINGS A675 BLACKBURN OLD ROAD:

The Clerk reported that despite being informed that work would take place on 15th May 2012 it did not appear to have been done.

Councillor Devaney would investigate the reasons for this.

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(D) DUMPING OF ROADSIDE MATERIAL – VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK:

The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) had met the Neighbourhood Officer and arranged for the removal of the rubbish.

(E) PRIVATE ROAD:

At the last meeting Councillor Sharratt reported that a tree was leaning across the road and was in danger of falling down. The Clerk had asked the County Council's Tree Service to investigate this. Unfortunately no progress had been made.

County Councillor Devaney would look into the reasons why no work had been done.

It was reported that the Houghton part of Private Road had been satisfactorily resurfaced.

However, the Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported that the part in Brindle had not been touched.

County Councillor Devaney reported that no further resurfacing would be carried out this year but he had noticed two large potholes in this location which he had reported.

(F). OVERGROWN HEDGE – CHAPEL LANE:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported that he had received a complaint from a local resident that the hedge on Chapel Lane was overgrown causing pedestrians to walk in the road. The Clerk had notified the Highways Inspectorate but no work had been done.

The Clerk would ascertain the current position.

(G) POTHOLE CHAPEL LANE:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) had reported that there were large potholes on Chapel Lane near the former Methodist Chapel. The Clerk had notified the Highways Inspectorate. The work had still not been done.

County Councillor Devaney advised that there was a backlog of road works which the Environment Directorate was attempting to reduce.

(H) SIGNS – WEASEL LANE:

County Councillor Devaney reported that the Highways Signs had been ordered and would be erected in the week commencing 18th June 2012.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported on the current situation regarding the signs to be erected by Chorley Council.

(I). FOOTPATH - GIB LANE:

The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) reported that the footway in Gib Lane was overgrown and needed attention.

Mr Peet the Neighbourhood Officer would arrange for this to be cut.

8 CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

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The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported on the recent meeting of Chorley Council.

9. PLANNING REPORT:

(A) DECISIONS.

The following applications had been granted since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

1. Erection of a two storey side extension and single storey rear extension 14 Viaduct Road (App no 12/00320/FUL) Applicants Mr and Mrs Antrobus.
2. Erection of a single storey side extension The Willows 5 The Crossings. (App no 12/00319/FUL) Applicants Mr and Mrs Nuttall.

(B). APPLICATIONS:

With regard to the application for the development of a rural outdoor educational facility at Ricroft Nursery Quaker Brook Lane (App No 12/00378/FUL), to which the Parish Council had made no observations. Following this the Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) had received objections to this application from several residents in Quaker Brook Lane on traffic grounds and the provision of facilities for visitors.

Councillor Peter explained the situation.

Councillor Peter declared a financial interest in this application.

(C) WIND TURBINES:

Councillor Sharratt reported that following his previous remarks on wind turbines (at the last meeting of Brindle Parish Council), there had been a most important development: on May 30 *The Times* reported the outcome of a case in which Mrs Justice Lang upheld a decision by a planning inspector to refuse planning consent for four wind turbines near Great Yarmouth.

"She said: "I do not accept that the inspector ought to have disregarded the local landscape policies in the light of the national policies. As a matter of law, it is not correct to assert that the national policy promoting the use of renewable resources negates the local landscape policies or must be given 'primacy' over them."

The report says that Great Yarmouth Borough Council and a Government planning inspector had rejected a developer's plans because they feared they would threaten the area's character and natural beauty. "Despite recognising the benefits of wind-generated power, Mrs Justice Lang said that the inspector was entitled to the view that they were, in this case, outweighed by the 'material harm' the development would cause to a sensitive area."

Councillor Sharratt considered that the decision provided the strongest possible ground for opposing any plans for wind turbines round here.

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10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following accounts for payment

1.A. Harkness	Clerk Salary (£362.50) and Expenses March - June 2012 (£144.73.)	£507.23
2..Brindle Parish Council	Apportionment of Annual Stationery Costs	£167.20

The Accounts were agreed and the cheques signed.

11. VAT REPAYMENT:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the VAT for 2011/12 had been reclaimed amounting to £93.90.

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 (Councillor Dickinson) and the Clerk had made a health and safety risk assessment inspection of the notice boards, benches, and the Pinfold on 13th June 2012.

The notice boards were generally in good condition with the exception of the one at the Boars Head, some of the benches need repainting and repairing.

In addition the following needed attention:-

- 1.The road surface at Riley Green needed looking at .
- 2.All the grass verges in the Parish needed cutting. (This had now been done).
- 3.The road surface at Station Road needed attention and a hedge needed cutting.
- 4.The road signs at Blackburn Old Road near Brindle Bar needed re fixing.
- 5.The vegetation at the road sign for Viaduct Road needed cutting back.

The Clerk would arrange for:-

- 1.The repainting and repair of the benches.
2. Harry Fowler Joinery to look at the Notice Board at the Boars Head.
3. The County Council would be asked to resurface the A675 at Riley Green and Station Road.
4. The County Council would be asked to arrange for the cutting back of the hedge on Station Road.
5. Chorley Council would be asked to repair the Blackburn Old Road sign.

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6. The Clerk would arrange for the trimming of the grass verges at the War Memorial

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

14. WAR MEMORIAL:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported that the War Memorial needed further attention. He had asked the Clerk to arrange for it to be inspected by a stonemason.

The Parish Council authorised the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman to agree that any necessary work be carried out once the stonemason had completed his survey.

The Parish Council then discussed the future restoration of the Memorial and Councillor Peter suggested that notices be put up requesting the assistance of the public in its restoration as this was a central feature of the Parish.

Councillor Ms Urry suggested that a voluntary group known as the Friends of Houghton War Memorial should be set up to apply for funds.

County Councillor Devaney indicated that he was to publish a newsletter in the near future and suggested that details inviting people to join the group should be inserted in this newsletter.

Councillor Ms Urry would liaise with County Councillor Devaney regarding this.

In the meantime the Clerk would erect notices about the formation of the group.

15. PINFOLD:

At the last meeting it was agreed to await the response of the residents of Green Lane regarding the siting of the maintenance gate, to review the situation relating the erection of a flagpole and continue with the proposed erection of a story board at the Pinfold. The Clerk had been informed by word of mouth that the residents of Green Lane agreed to the proposal but nothing had been received in writing.

Councillors Peter and Sharratt were of the opinion that the siting of the additional gate next to 29 Riley Green would minimise any disturbance to residents of Green Lane and that the Parish Council should proceed with this proposal.

The Parish Council felt that in the circumstances the gate should be located next to 29 Riley Green and the Clerk would ask Mr. J. Savage to carry out the work .

Councillor Peter had indicated that the grass needed cutting and this had now been done. The Clerk submitted an account for this work amounting to £55.00 by M. Savage and a cheque was signed.

He also submitted a grass cutting schedule and this was accepted. The Clerk would write to Mr. M. Savage to confirm this arrangement.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) and the Clerk would contact the landlady at the Royal Oak to discuss contribution towards the maintenance costs,

16. FLAGPOLE

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Councillor Sharratt reminded the Parish Council that they had been considering locating a flagpole at the War Memorial. Councillor Baldwin had discussed this with him and it was felt that the mound in front of the Village Hall would be a more suitable location.

Councillor Sharratt considered that to put a flagpole beside or behind the War Memorial would create a visual clash – two vertical objects in close proximity, each competing for attention. The War Memorial stood alone against a relatively flat background: there was nothing to distract attention from the memorial itself. In his opinion a flagpole standing close by would do just that. By contrast there would be no visual clash if a flagpole stood in front of the Village Hall.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) indicated that this would need the permission of the Village Hall Management Committee and their next meeting was not until September 2012.

The Clerk would write to the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee to request permission to site a flagpole on the mound to the front of the Hall.

17. CHORLEY STANDARDS COMMITTEE:

At the last meeting Councillor Sharratt had referred to changes in the political control of Chorley Council and reminded the Parish Council that about 18 months ago he had been nominated by Brindle and Houghton Parish Councils to serve on the Chorley Standards Committee but had not been appointed.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) had consulted Chorley Council to see if there were any changes to their position relating to appointments to the Standards Committee and none were anticipated.

18. MINERALS AND WASTE FRAMEWORK UPDATE:

The Clerk circulated a copy of the summer newsletter and Councillor Sharratt commented on the consultation exercise reported therein.

19. EQUALITY FORUM:

The Clerk submitted a letter from the Chairperson of the Forum which Councillor Ms Urry commented on. The next meeting of the Forum would be held on 5th July 2012.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 16th July 2012 at 7.45.pm at the Village Hall

there being no further business the Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) declared the meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

**Signed
Chairman**

16th July 2012