

**MINUTES OF 1152ND MEETING
OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
(VIRTUAL MEETING)
HELD ON 8TH JUNE 2020**

**PRESENT: - COUNCILLOR T. GREENWOOD (CHAIRMAN)
COUNCILLOR N. PETER (VICE CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLORS Ms
Y. HARGREAVES MRS.S.LONG, AND B. MATTOCK AND MR. T.
HARKNESS (CLERK).**

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: THREE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

752. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors J. Baldwin and Ms M. Urry.

753. 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.

754. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th March 2020 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record.

The Chairman (Councillor T.Greenwood) was authorised to sign the Minutes when appropriate.

755. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:

THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT RAISED THE FOLLOWING MATTERS.

CHAPEL LANE/HOGHTON BOTTOMS:

The Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) reported on the problems relating to the general public visiting Hoghton Bottoms and the huge increase in cars parking on Chapel Lane.

The police had been asked to monitor the situation. Chorley Council and County Councillor Snowden had been informed. Sir Bernard de Hoghton had also commented on action taken by the Tower. Sir Lindsay Hoyle had been notified of the issues.

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SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

A local resident reported that a van driver had been seen acting suspiciously at Holy Trinity church entrance on the evening of 4th June.

A photograph had been taken and the information had been passed to the Church authorities.

LEEDS - LIVERPOOL CANAL LITTER/DOG BIN:

It was reported that dog fouling had become a serious problem following the Coronavirus Lockdown and it was suggested that Chorley Council should be asked to provide a litter/dog bin either on the canal towpath or on Bolton Road.

A similar request had been made some time ago but nothing had been done about it.

Chorley Council and the Canal and Rivers Trust would be asked to reconsider the provision of a litter/dog bin in the locality.

FOOTPATHS:

It was reported that the public footpaths at Viaduct Road and Hoghton Bottoms were narrow, in parts were dangerous and prevented social distancing. It was suggested that they should be closed temporarily at the present time.

The County Council would be asked to consider this suggestion.

THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC DID NOT RAISE ANY FURTHER ISSUES AND THE PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED WITH THE BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA.

756. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). FLOODING ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL:

The County Council had added this to their gulley clearing routes programme.

(B). DOVER LANE - BLOCKED CULVERT:

One of the culverts had been unblocked but another further down Dover Lane had not.

The County Council would be informed.

(C). HEDGE - QUAKER BROOK LANE/THE STRAITS:

The Parish Council was reminded that following the grant of planning permission on land adjacent to the Post Office on Hoghton Lane it had asked that the existing hedge should be removed to improve the sight lines at the junction of Quaker Brook Lane and Hoghton Lane

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The County Council had carried out a site investigation and had merely decided to ask the landowner to trim back the hedge.

The County Council would be asked to give further consideration to improving the sight lines at the junction.

(D). GIB LANE - OVERGROWN HEDGE:

The landowner was asked to trim the hedge and verge in April by the County

Council they had asked them to do this again in Autumn.

(E). STATION ROAD - HEDGE:

BT had agreed to cut the hedge at the appropriate time.

(F). FLY TIPPING:

Fly tipping had occurred in the passing places on Private Road and Chorley

Council had been notified.

(G). OVERGROWN HEDGES:

It was reported that the hedges on Blackburn Old Road (A675) near the Boars Head needed cutting back.

The hedge at the Old Vicarage on Blackburn Old Road was also overgrown causing pedestrians to walk in the road.

It was understood the hedge near the Boars Head was cut annually by Chorley Council and this would be done later in the year.

The overgrown hedge at the Old Vicarage would be reported to Lancashire County Council Highways Department.

(H). TRAFFIC SPEEDS - HOGHTON LANE:

A Member reported concerns about the speed and parking of public transport on local roads during the Lockdown.

The police would be informed.

757. PLANNING REPORT:

(A) DECISIONS:

Two applications for a development at Chapel Lane had been withdrawn since the last meeting of the Parish Council and an application for a development at Bolton Road had been granted.

(B). APPLICATIONS:

Applications for development in Private Road, Riley Green, Hoghton Tower Gib Lane and two developments in Quaker Brook Lane had been submitted to Chorley Council since the last meeting. Details had been circulated to all Members and comments were made on various applications which would be reported to Chorley Council.

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758. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The following accounts had been paid under delegated powers

1. Whitehead and Aldrich	Payroll Administration	£50.40
2. T. Harkness	Salary and Expenses Quarter ended 31st March 2020	£715.60
3. HMRC	Tax on salary and expenses	£145.83

759. PRECEPT:

Payment of the precept of £6,000.00 had been received and paid into the bank.

760. AUDIT 2019/20:

The Clerk reported that due to the pandemic the Audit for 2019/20 would be on 1st September 2020.

Under the regulations as the Council's income and expenditure was below £25000.00 it could apply for a certificate of exemption from external audit.

It was still necessary for an internal audit to take place and the Independent Internal Auditor had examined the Parish Council's Accounts and procedures, confirmed that they were in order, agreed the Audit Report and submitted his report to the Parish Council for approval.

Also under the procedure it was necessary to approve an Annual Statement of Governance and that the accounts have been undertaken in accordance with prescribed regulations.

A copy of the Statement of Governance, the Annual Return, the Internal Auditor's Report and the certificate of Exemption was circulated.

Under the regulations copies of the Annual Return would be posted on the Parish Council's website and notice boards for 30 working days from 15th June 2020.

The Parish Council accepted the report of the Internal Auditor.

Acknowledged its responsibility for the preparation of the accounts and confirmed to the best of its knowledge and belief that the Council's accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020 are true and correct and it had considered the statement of governance in connection with those accounts.

The Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) was authorised to sign any

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necessary documents.

761. INSURANCE PREMIUM RENEWAL:

The Clerk had previously circulated details of the Parish Council's insurance renewal premium quotation for the period from 1st June 2020 to 31st May 2021.

In 2018 the Parish Council had entered into a three year agreement with the Insurers.

The original renewal premium was £716.40. Following a request for an up to date estimate for the repairs to the wall at the Pinfold a revised estimate of £10,000 was submitted compared with the current one of £4,500 .

As a result of this the premium increased by £38.64. is £755.04. Last year it was £696.99.

A sum of £800.00 has been included in the Parish Council's Estimates for this premium in 2020/21.

The Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) had authorised payment under delegated powers and the Parish Council confirmed the action taken.

762. WAR MEMORIAL:

The Vice Chairman (Councillor N. Peter) reported the current situation regarding the ponding issue at the War Memorial.

763. CRIPPLEGATE LANE:

In April Chorley Council acknowledged there was an issue with rats in this area and details of the action taken were reported to eradicate the pests and stop the artificial feeding by the residents which was exacerbating the problem.

Residents had been informed of the action taken.

In terms of the longer term, an ecology consultant had been commissioned to undertake an assessment of some council owned natural habitats including ponds and Cripplegate Lane was one of these.

The Landlord of the properties in Cripplegate Lane had asked the tenants not to feed the ducks and this matter had been raised with a director of the Company. However, the infestation had expanded to other areas.

Some clearance improvement works had been undertaken regarding the ecology and bio diversity at the site, recognising that until the pest and volume of birds at the site was addressed, it would be limited in terms of the amenity value .

In terms of draining the pond, this was not straightforward for reasons linked to water attenuation and drainage, and the protection of certain species such as

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bats and great crested newts. Before making any decisions, the Ecology survey would be required to explore it was feasible given the biodiversity and amenity value of the pond, following that, it was highly likely planning permission would also be required.

A local resident reported the persistent behaviour of the tenant. Who had a bulk delivery of animal feed and was continuing to put food out regardless of any threatened sanctions

Chorley Council had been informed.

764. NOTICE BOARDS:

A new notice board had been put up at the land near the Post Office with one side having a locked door, a locked door had been added to one section of the notice board at the Boars Head. Further consideration was being given as to how to change the one at Riley Green.

765. SUPPORTING FAMILIES:

The Clerk circulated a proposal from Chorley Council aimed at co-ordinating support for vulnerable families during the Pandemic.

766. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) indicated that an urgent meeting would be called if necessary the next scheduled meeting would be Monday 3rd August 2020 at 7.30 p.m. and would either be via Zoom or a socially distanced meeting dependent on Government Regulations and the availability of accommodation.

There being no further business the Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) declared the meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

3RD AUGUST 2020