

DRAFT MINUTES OF 1031ST MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 16TH MARCH 2009 AT THE VILLAGE HALL

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

192. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:

An apology for absence was submitted from Councillor Ms Urry.

193. 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 declared an interest at this stage.

194. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th February 2009 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

195. ADJOURNMENT:

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

196. POLICE REPORT:

As the Police were not present no report was submitted. Councillor Sharratt referred to the appointment of the three Independent Members of the Lancashire Police Authority and the lack of information regarding these appointments despite the fact that he had publicised widely the appointments procedure on behalf of the Police Authority.

197. LALC REPORT:

There was nothing to report on this matter.

198. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A) HOGHTON LANE:

The drainage problem near Brindle Lodge had been attended by United Utilities and the Area County Surveyor was to investigate the condition of the carriageway.

(B). RIGHT TURN – VILLAGE HALL:

The Clerk had received an estimate of £211.00 for the provision of a bi-directional sign to the Village Hall from the Environment Directorate.

The Parish Council agreed to the provision of the sign when funds were available.

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.

- **(HHOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 16TH MARCH 2009)**

(C). LAND ADJACENT TO THE BOARS HEAD:

Councillor Peter reported fly tipping was taking place at this location.

The Clerk would contact the Brewery about this.

(D). GIB LANE – RESURFACING:

The Area County Surveyor had indicated that resurfacing work from The Bungalow to Blackburn Old Road would take place in 17th March 2009.

Councillor Sharratt reported for information that Bells Lane would be closed from 14th -16th April 2009 for cabling work by BT.

(E) INFORMATION SIGNS - RILEY GREEN:

The sign had been removed recently but there was no information as to what further developments would take place.

(F) FLOODING DOVER LANE:

Councillor Peter had reported that the work to the culvert had been completed but other work was required relating to a ditch. The Clerk had contacted United Utilities and they had instructed their contractor to redo the work.

(G). SALT BIN – THE CROSSINGS STATION ROAD:

The Clerk reported that there was already a salt bin in this location. He had written to the Landlord at the Sirloin to ask for his assistance in spreading salt during icy conditions.

(H) FOOTPATH – BRINDLE LODGE:

The Countryside Service had inspected the site and was considering tarmacing the footpath.

(I) FOOTPATHS - HOGHTON BOTTOMS:

The footpaths had been obstructed for some time and were eroding. The Clerk had asked the Countryside Service of the County Council to investigate.

(J) PRIVATE ROAD:

The County Council had stated that this road was unadopted and any work required was the responsibility of individual landowners. The Parish Council felt that this was not the case. The Clerk would contact the County Council again about this.

(K) FOOTPATHS - HOGHTON BOTTOMS:

The footpaths had been obstructed for some time and were eroding. The Clerk had asked the Countryside Service of the County Council to investigate.

(L) FINGER POST SIGNS:

The Chairman reported that the Sablesbury finger post sign at the Boars Head had been re-erected and Chorley Council had offered to erect a finger post sign to Houghton Bottoms. The Parish Council accepted this offer.

(M) PROPOSED 50 MPH SPEED LIMITS ON RURAL ROADS:

Councillor Sharratt circulated newspaper articles about the Government's intentions for imposing a 50 mph speed limit on rural roads and this would help to remove the anomaly of Houghton Lane/ Blackburn Old Road being a 50 mph speed limit whilst Sandy Lane and Dover Lane were 60 mph limits.

(HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 16TH MARCH 2009)

The Clerk also reported that the County Council had now completed its survey of speed limits on Lancashire Roads and details of the findings for this would be reported to the next meeting of the Lancashire Local – Chorley.

199. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman reported on issues affecting the Parish Council including the level of the Council Tax increase the calculation of the Council Tax, together with details of the amount of the Parish Council's element of the Council Tax.

200. PLANNING REPORT:

(A) DECISIONS:

The following application had been refused and enforcement action was taking place:-

A retrospective application to retain four lighting columns The Boatyard Inn Bolton Road. App no 09/00053/FUL Applicant Daniel Thwaites PLC had been received.

The application for the erection of two stables tack room and first hay store to replace existing stable tack room Viaduct Road App no 08/01237/FUL Applicant J. Miller Crook had been withdrawn

(B) APPLICATIONS:-

The following planning applications had been received:-

1. Listed Building Consent for rebuilding and restoration of semi derelict stables and loose boxes to north of the Great Barn for use as multi purpose commercial/exhibition space, including toilet provision and disabled facilities Hoghton Tower – App no 09/00091/LBC - Applicant Trustees of de Hoghton Tower.

2. Rebuilding and restoration of semi derelict stables and loose boxes to north of the Great Barn for use as multi purpose commercial/exhibition space, including toilet provision and disabled facilities Hoghton Tower – App no 09/00092/FUL- Applicant Trustees of de Hoghton Tower.

Councillors Peter and Sharratt declared a prejudicial interest in these applications and left the room

No observations were made on the applications subject to the materials to be used in construction matching the existing.

Councillors Peter and Sharratt returned to the meeting at this point

(C). TRAINING ON PLANNING:

The Chairman reported on the interactive workshop for Parish Councillors which covered various stages in the planning process, held on Monday 9th March 2009.

The Chairman also reported that Chorley Council was considering a re-organisation of the current planning setup.

201. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

There were no accounts for payment.

202. DOG BINS – VIADUCT ROAD:

- **(HHOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 16TH MARCH 2009)**

The Chorley Dog Warden Service had indicated it was not their policy to put dog litter bins next to ordinary litter bins. The Chairman reported on his further discussions regarding this in view of the fact that other authorities did this.

Councillor Peter reported that dog fouling continued to be a problem at Riley green and was also occurring at Green Lane.

The Clerk would inform the Dog Warden Service.

203. CHEQUE SIGNATURES:

The latest position regarding the addition of new signatories was reported.

204. PINFOLD:

The Parish Council reconsidered the discussion note circulated by Councillor Peter regarding the future of the Pinfold. The Clerk reported that he had received no comments from the Public on this matter. The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) reported the views of one local resident who wished for the fruit trees to remain. Councillor Peter also suggested the marking off of an area for seating.

The Chairman reported that as part of the Neighbourhood Action Plans consideration was being given to the development of a Community Action Project to include the Pinfold.

Reference was also made to the dumping of rubbish and dog fouling at the Pinfold and it was felt that Chorley Council should be asked to take immediate action on this.

The Chairman agreed to discuss with Chorley Council the recommendations of Councillor Peter regarding the future of the Pinfold as a basis for the Community Action Project. He would also ask Chorley Council to take action regarding the removal of rubbish at the Pinfold and discuss the dog fouling aspect with the Dog Warden and the Royal Oak Advertisement sign.

The Clerk circulated a letter from the County Council explaining the difference between Common Land and a Village Green.

Councillor Sharratt would consult the County Council regarding the legal status of the Pinfold.

205. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION.

The Parish Council had agreed to enter the Annual Best Kept Village Competition, and the Clerk had written to various organisations and businesses regarding entry in the Certificate of Merit Competition, however no responses had been received.

It was agreed that the entry fee of £10.00 be paid and a cheque was signed and the Clerk would enter the organisations in the Certificate of Merit Class should further information be available before the closing date.

206. CHORLEY STANDARDS COMMITTEE:

Councillor Sharratt reported on the outcome of his application for Membership of the Chorley Standards Committee. The Clerk circulated the current Standards Board newsletter.

207. NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLANS:

(HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL – 16TH MARCH 2009)

The Chairman referred to a report on proposals for the Parish which would be considered at the informal session on the local Neighbourhood Action Plan.

He also referred to the visit by Chorley Councillors on 14th March 2009.

208. INSURANCE:

The Clerk reported details of a quotation from Norwich Union relating to the Parish Council's Insurance cover.

209. LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL –DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:

The Clerk reported changes to the operation of the Planning Sector at the County Council.

210. VICTIM SUPPORT-DONATION:

The Clerk submitted a request from Victim Support – Lancashire for a donation.

The Parish Council agreed to adhere to its existing policy.

211. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 20th April 2009 the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall to be followed by the normal meeting of the Parish Council.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10. p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

20TH APRIL 2009