

MINUTES OF 1063RD MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 19TH MARCH 2012 AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: MR. J. PEET NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER CHORLEY, POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS, M. APPLETON AND L. HOUGH,

1. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:

An apology for absence was submitted from Councillor J. Proctor.

2. COUNCILLOR MS URRY:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) welcomed back Councillor Ms Urry following her recent illness.

3. COUNCILLOR PROCTOR:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) informed the Parish Council that Councillor Proctor was now recovering at home following his admission to hospital.

The Parish Council wished Councillor Proctor a speedy recovery.

4. 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.

5. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 20th February 2012 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. 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.

7 POLICE REPORT:

PCSOs Appleton and Hough reported that there had been one incident of crime in Houghton during February 2012 and the police had monitored the speed of traffic on Bolton Road over the past month.

The Police PACT meeting for this area was held on 6th March 2012.

8. LALC REPORT:

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The Clerk submitted the current newsletter which reported on the operation of the County Council's Three Tier Forums, the Code of Conduct, an invitation from the Lancashire Gujarat Forum to their Health Mela on 21st April, and details of the Annual Galloway Morecambe Bay Walk. He also reported on the parish pilot on Neighbourhood Plans

Councillor Ms Urry expressed an interest in the Morecambe Walk and the Clerk would send her details.

9. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). COMMUNITY PAYBACK:

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that Community Payback had carried out work to the footpath on Hoghton Lane and by the Parish Church and they felt that the surface of the footpath at the Parish Church needed attention and suggested the laying of a membrane and stone chippings. It was also reported that he stile need attention.

As this was a public footpath the County Council's Footpath Officer had been asked for permission to carry out this work. The County Council had no objections to the proposals subject to the Parish Council paying for the work. The Countryside Service would look into the repair of the stile.

Councillor Baldwin suggested that the any weeds should be sprayed and cut down before commencing and further work.

The Clerk would prepare an estimate of cost for the work and agree a scheme with Community Payback.

The County Council had requested details of the land ownership beyond the route by the Parish Church. It was reported that his was owned by the de Hoghton Estate. The Clerk would inform the County Council.

(B) ROAD SURFACE – QUAKER BROOK LANE:

At the last meeting Councillor Sharratt expressed concern regarding the condition of the carriageway. The road surface was bunching up under pressure from vehicles and was leading to the deterioration of the foundations.

The Clerk had informed the Highways Inspectorate and this was being investigated.

Councillor Ms Urry referred to the current problems with traffic movement in Quaker Brook Lane. The cause of this was the large amount of building work to properties on the Lane.

(C) ROAD MARKINGS A675 BLACKBURN OLD ROAD:

The Clerk had asked the Highways Inspectorate to carry out further investigations into the condition of the road. The highways Inspector had informed him that the works were put on an order November 2011 but had yet not been done.

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

At the last meeting the Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) reported that he had been informed by a local resident that what appeared to be waste road side material

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had been dumped on the Village Hall Car Park. It was claimed that the people dumping the rubbish were Chorley Council employees.

The Clerk had asked the Neighbourhood Officer to investigate this claim and he had indicated that it was not Chorley Council. The Clerk had then contacted Lancashire County Council and they had also denied dumping rubbish.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) had discussed this again with the complainant who was adamant the dumping was done by Council workmen.

The rubbish had still not been removed but the Neighbourhood Officer was looking into this.

(E) TREE –PRIVATE ROAD:

Councillor Sharratt reported that a tree was leaning across the road and was in danger of falling down.

It was situated near to the two passing places on Private Road.

The Clerk would ask the County Council's Tree Service to investigate this.

10 CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported on the meeting of Chorley Council held on 28th February 2012 to confirm the level of the Council Tax for 2012/13.

11. PLANNING REPORT:

(A) DECISIONS.

No decisions affecting the Parish had been taken since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

(B). APPLICATIONS:

(1) STANLEY GRANGE:

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) Councillors Peter and Sharratt Councillor Peter and Sharratt reported on the public meeting regarding the planning application at Stanley Grange

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) circulated a letter from the Department of Health regarding the future care arrangements for residents of Stanley Grange.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood and Councillor Ms Urry requested a copy of the letter.

(2) Proposed single garage with pitched roof to side of existing dwelling Sunnymead Station Road (App no 12/00252/FUL) Applicants Mr. and Mrs. Brown.

No observations were made regarding this application.

12. ACCOUNT FOR PAYMENT:

There were no accounts for payment.

13. PINFOLD:

The Clerk reported the current position regarding the work to the Pinfold.

Mr. Savage the Contractor had completed the hardstanding and erected the bench at a cost of £230.00. He submitted his account for the work.

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The account was agreed and a cheque signed

The Clerk had circulated the suggestions of Chorley Council in respect of the gate to the Pinfold and a meeting would be held on 21st March 2012 to discuss the idea with the Planning Officers.

Councillor Peter would plant up the gap in the privet hedge to the rear of Green Lane.

The Clerk had submitted an application to County Councillor Otter the County Council's Parish Council Champion for funds towards the cost of providing a story board on the site and it was hoped a grant would be forthcoming.

The Neighbourhood Officer would erect Notices about dog fouling on the site.

14. QUEEN`S DIAMOND JUBILEE:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) informed the Parish Council that the de Hoghton Estate had now decided not to light a beacon at the Tower on 4th June 2012 to commemorate the Jubilee for health and safety reasons.

Councillor Peter informed the Parish Council of other events at the Tower.

The Parish Council considered other ideas to commemorate the occasion.

At the last meeting Councillor Sharratt suggested that a flagpole be erected at a suitable location in the Parish to commemorate the event.

The Parish Council agreed and considered possible suitable sites and it was agreed to investigate the siting of the flagpole on the Pinfold. Discussions would be held with the Planning Officers about this.

The President of the Women's Institute had approached the Clerk for permission to plant daffodils and tulips in the grass verges adjoining the War Memorial.

Permission was granted and the Clerk would inform the Women's Institute.

15. 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 Class, The Church the Post Office and the Royal Oak had agreed to enter but no response had been received from the Boars Head.

It was agreed that the entry fee of £12.00 be paid and a cheque was signed. The Clerk would enter the organisations mentioned in the Certificate of Merit Class.

16. OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported the arrangements for Olympic Torch Relay through Chorley on 1st June 2012.

17. FLOODING – CRIPPLEGATE LANE:

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The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) reported that a resident had expressed concerns regarding flooding in Cripplegate Lane. He had contacted Mr. Peet the Neighbourhood Officer who was to investigate the problem.

18. LIBRARY SERVICE:

Councillor Ms Urry reported that the mobile library service now had a full time librarian and visited Hoghton and Gregson Lane on alternate Fridays. She was arranging for posters to advertise the service.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 16th April 2012 the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00.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 9.25.
p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

16TH APRIL 2012