

DRAFT
MINUTES OF 991ST MEETING
OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 16TH MAY 2005
AT THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: -

COUNCILLOR D. DICKINSON (CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLOR T. GREENWOOD (VICE CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLORS J. BALDWIN, E. MILLER-CROOK J.PROCTOR T.SHARRATT, AND MR. T HARKNESS (CLERK).

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillor Ms M. Urry.

9. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th April 2005 were read out by the Clerk, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST:

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct the Clerk asked if any Member wished to declare an interest in any matter to be considered by the Parish Council at the meeting. No one declared an interest.

THE CHAIRMAN THEN CALLED AN ADJOURNMENT TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO RAISE ISSUES AND QUESTION THE PARISH COUNCIL REGARDING MATTERS DEALT WITH. THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT RAISED THE FOLLOWING MATTERS: -

THERE WERE NO OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC AND THE BUSINESS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WAS RESUMED.

11. LAPTC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current Newsletter of the Association. The Parish Council had been asked if it wished to participate in the national celebrations to commemorate the Battle of Trafalgar. He also submitted details of the Spring Conference, and informed the Parish Council of a competition about building community life.

Resolved: That the report be accepted.

12. GULLIES - HOGHTON LANE:

The Clerk reported that the Lancashire Highways Partnership had informed him that they were still trying to determine the ownership of the area of ground adjacent to the steps that go from the south footway of Hoghton Lane to the Public Right of Way along the west side of the railway line and he would contact the Parish Council when he had further information.

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Agreed: - That further developments be awaited.

13. GULLIES – CHAPEL LANE:

Councillor E. Miller Crook reported that following flooding occurring to the blocked gullies in Chapel Lane he had discussed the matter with the Lancashire Highways Partnership (Area County Surveyor) and the situation had been rectified. There was still a problem regarding the gully near the Railway Bridge.

Agreed: - That the Clerk seek the views of the Lancashire Highways Partnership (Area County Surveyor) on the situation relating to the gully by the railway bridge.

14. FOOTWAY SWEEPING:

The former Clerk had written to the Borough Engineers Department about the sweeping of the A675 on the slope up to the east side of Hoghton Railway Bridge and at Gib Lane down to and under the railway bridge when approaching from the Boars Head. This was said to be mud and debris with weeds growing out of the embankment retaining wall.

The Chairman agreed to discuss this with the Engineers Department at Chorley.

Councillor E. Miller Crook circulated photographs showing the overgrown footways from the Village Hall to Station Road and from the Railway Bridge to Station Road.

The Chairman agreed to take up this matter with the appropriate authority.

Agreed: - That the course of action proposed by the Chairman be accepted.

15. PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL BUS SHELTER GRANT:

The Clerk reported that the County Council operated a scheme of grants for the provision of bus shelters subject to Parish Councils agreeing to fund maintenance and repair

It was suggested that a new bus shelter could be provided on the Straits on the Blackburn side of the road.

Councillor Sharratt felt it was the duty of the Borough Council to provide and maintain bus shelters.

Agreed: - That the Clerk write to Chorley Borough Council about the provision of a new bus shelter on the Straits.

16 CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman presented a report on issues affecting the Parish Council.

17. PLANNING REPORT:

The Clerk reported that there were no planning applications to consider at present.

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18. ACCOUNT FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following account for payment.

1. Village Hall	Rental January to March 2005.	£27.00
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Agreed: - That the account be paid

19. ACTION DARWEN VALLEY:

The Clerk reported that last time the Parish Council had agreed a grant of £25.00 for the Houghton Bottoms Clean Up to the Action for the Darwen Valley Organisation. . They had thanked the Parish Council for the grant, which enabled them to buy more litter collection equipment. The event ran between 9 – 17 April and was well attended. They now intended to progress clearance through the gorge beneath the viaduct. A task too dangerous for volunteers. They would continue to strive for a litter trap in the river at Witton Country Park where they would hold another clean up this month.

Unfortunately the cheque was made out to Action Darwen Valley but it should have been made out to Mersey Basin Business Foundation RVI.

Agreed: - That a revised cheque be sent to the Mersey Basin Business Foundation RVI.

20. AUDIT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the Audit for 2004/05 would take place on 29th July 2005.

The Independent Internal Auditor would now examine the Parish Council's Accounts and procedures and to confirm that the Accounts and procedures were in order.

He also reported under the procedure it was necessary for the Parish Council to approve a statement of assurance that the accounts had been undertaken in accordance with prescribed regulations. A copy of the Annual Return and Statement of Assurance was circulated to each Member.

Agreed: -That the Parish Council acknowledges its responsibility for the preparation of the accounts and confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief that the Council's accounts for the year ended 31st March 2005 are true and correct and that they have considered the statement of assurance in connection with those accounts

21. BANK SIGNATURES:

As agreed at the last meeting the Clerk had contacted Natwest and they had indicated that a letter should be sent from former Clerk and the present Members who can sign cheques informing them of the change of Clerk and authorising the new Clerk to sign cheques.

With regard to the addition of other members as signatories for cheques this was being processed and a further report would be submitted.

Agreed (1) That for the time being the Council's Bank Account remain at Natwest and that Natwest be informed of the change of Clerk.

(2) That Mr T. Harkness be authorised to sign cheques on behalf of the Parish Council.

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(3) That the Clerk make inquiries about the transfer of the Parish Council's funds to the special Parish Council Accounts of the Co-operative Bank.

22. A CODE FOR THE FUTURE - MEMBERS INTERESTS:

The Clerk reported that the Standards Board was undertaking a review of the operation of the Code of Conduct and had issued a questionnaire and consultation document on the operation of the scheme. Responses were required by the 17th June 2005. A copy of the questionnaire and consultation document on the operation of the scheme was circulated. Members commented on the documents.

Agreed - That the Clerk inform the Standards Board for England of the views of the Parish Council.

23. GRANTS

A. - AIR AMBULANCE:

The Clerk resubmitted the request for a donation to the Air Ambulance.

Agreed:- That a grant of £100.00 be made to the Air Ambulance.

B.- CARE VILLAGE:

The Parish Council had received a letter of thanks from the Locality Manager on behalf of Care Village for their donation to them in appreciation for keeping the War Memorial Tidy.

C. VILLAGE HALL – DONATION:

Councillor Greenwood informed the Parish Council of the thanks of the Village Hall Committee for the donation they had made.

24. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP:

The Clerk submitted for the information of the Parish Council a copy of the newsletter and the strategy for 2005 to 2008.

Agreed: - That the documents be noted.

25. CPRE:

The Clerk reported on the proceedings of the meeting of the Lancashire Branch of the CPRE held on 3 May 2005.

26. LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ACTIONPLAN 2005/06

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that Two -Year Action Plan of the Fire Authority had now been agreed.

27. REPLACEMENT OF JOINT LANCASHIRE STRUCTURE PLAN 2001-2016:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the replacement plan had now been adopted and superseded the 1991-2006 Structure Plan.

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28. DOG FOULING:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that he had received a notice about the number of fixed penalty notices issued by the Dog Warden throughout Chorley. None had been issued in Hoghton.

29. HOLY TRINITY LICENSING OF PRIEST IN CHARGE:

The Clerk circulated a letter with the agenda inviting the Parish Council to attend the licensing on 17th May. Councillor Proctor was to attend and would make a formal welcome on behalf of the Parish Council.

30. PRECEPT:

The Clerk reported receipt of the precept for 2005/06 from Chorley Borough Council amounting to £3,500.00.

31. COMMUNITY BEAT MANAGER:

The Clerk submitted a request from Brindle Parish Council for its support in seeking the early appointment of a Police Community Beat Manager for the area.

Agreed: - That this Parish Council supports the request of Brindle Parish Council.

32. PRIVATE ROAD – DUMPING OF RUBBISH:

Councillor Proctor reported that the Borough Council had removed the mattress, which had been dumped in Private Road. Councillor Greenwood indicated that garden rubbish was being dumped along Private Road.

Agreed: - That the dumping of garden rubbish on Private Road be reported to Chorley Borough Council.

33. BUS SHELTERS:

Councillor Miller Crook reported that the grass surrounding the bus shelters was overgrown and needed cutting.

Agreed That this be reported to of the Lancashire Highways Partnership (Area County Surveyor)

34. WAR MEMORIAL:

The Chairman reported that he had paid for the replacement of the chains round the War Memorial.

35. BRINDLE AND HOGHTON AGREEMENT:

The Clerk submitted his suggestions regarding the areas that overlapped as a result of being Clerk to both Parish Councils. These included the use of a computer, phone charges and stationery. Brindle PARISH Council had agreed these recommendations.

Agreed –That the following course of action be undertaken

- a. A new computer be bought the cost to be met by the Clerk and the two councils pay a rental for the use of it.
- b. That a sum be allocated in both councils estimates each year to allow for the replacement of the computer when a new Clerk is appointed.
- c. That the Clerk be authorised to acquire broadband for use on the computer.

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- d. That an assessment be carried out during the year regarding the use of stationery by both Councils and a sum apportioned at the end of that period for each Council.

36. FORMER CLERK – MR E. NOBLETT:

The Chairman referred to the work of Mr Noblett as Parish Clerk for the past twenty-two years.

Resolved: - (1) That the Parish Council places on record its appreciation of the work of the former Clerk Mr E. Noblett over the past twenty two years.

(2) That consideration be given to the making of a presentation to Mr Noblett in recognition of his valuable service.

37. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 20th June 2005 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

**D.DICKINSON
CHAIRMAN**

20TH JUNE 2005