

**DRAFT MINUTES OF 1023RD MEETING
OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 19TH MAY 2008
AT THE VILLAGE HALL
PRESENT: -**

COUNCILLOR D. DICKINSON (CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLOR T. GREENWOOD (VICE CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLORS J. BALDWIN, J. PROCTOR, T.SHARRATT AND Ms M URRY AND MR. T HARKNESS (CLERK).

8. 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.

9. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21st April 2008 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

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

11. POLICING REPORT:

As the police were not present no report was presented.

12. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current Newsletter and informed the Parish Council that the LALC AGM would be held on 1st November 2008 and requested them to consider the appointment of delegates and any resolutions for submission to the meeting.

He also reported that the new mileage rate for car allowances was 58.7p effective from 1st April 2008

The report was accepted and Councillor Ms Urry appointed the Council's representatives at the LALC Annual General Meeting, any resolutions to the AGM would be considered at the next meeting.

13. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). TRAFFIC SCHEME – HOGHTON LANE:

Several complaints had been received regarding the extra signs which were being erected on Houghton Lane in connection with this scheme. It was understood that when the scheme was completed the existing signs would be removed.

Councillor Sharratt referred to his earlier proposal to refer the manner in which the decision to implement the scheme was arrived at; at the Lancashire Local Meeting to the Ombudsman. He had decided not to pursue the matter further.

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He also circulated copies of press cuttings and a letter to The Times newspaper regarding the Government's proposals for reducing speed limits and their relevance to this scheme.

(B). LAND ADJACENT TO THE BOARS HEAD:

The brambles had been cut down but as the Boars Head had been sold and now had a different landlord. The work had stopped and the de Hoghton Estate had asked the Parish Council to approach Chorley Council and the County Council to request the removal of builders waste which had been discovered when the brambles had been cut down.

The Parish Council agreed to do this and approach the new Landlord regarding the completion of the work.

(C) CRIPPLEGATE LANE:

A reply was awaited about the signs Bridleway signs. The Vice Chairman reported that the bin collection service was not operating properly and the Chairman had asked the Waste Collection Manger to rectify the situation.

(D) GIB LANE:

The Clerk reported that the Lancashire Local would be considering a list of highway improvement schemes for the Chorley Area schemes for 2008/09 in July.

((E) FINGER POST SIGNS:

The Area County Surveyor was looking into the condition of finger post signs.

(F) FOOTPATH – BRINDLE LODGE:

Councillor Proctor had reported to the Chairman that the surface of the footpath had deteriorated considerably and the Clerk had notified the Footpaths Officer who was considering the solutions to the problem.

(G) INFORMATION SIGNS - RILEY GREEN:

The Hoghton Tower/Witton Park Sign at Riley Green was in poor condition and would be reported to the County Council.

(H) BUS SHELTER OPPOSITE THE POST OFFICE:

Councillor Sharratt reminded the Parish Council that a request had been made for sides to be put on the bus shelter. There was some doubt regarding who was responsible for the shelter and it was agreed that the Clerk would check this with the County Council.

(I) POTHOLES:

There were large potholes in Private Road, Gib Lane and Quaker Brook Lane which still required attention.

14. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman reported on issues affecting the Parish Council.

15. PLANNING REPORT:

A. DECISIONS

The application by Mr and Mrs Nuttall for the erection of a two storey rear extension at 31 Chapel Lane (App no 08/000208/FUL) has been approved)

B. APPLICATIONS

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An application had been received for the erection of a single storey side extension The Old Orchard Quaker Brook Lane. App no 08/0365/FUL Applicant Mr Warburton.

No observations were made on this application.

16. ACCOUNT FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the account from J. Whiteside Builders for the final phase of repairs to wall Pinfold. However, this was a large increase in the estimate quoted. The Chairman and Clerk would hold discussions with Mr. Whiteside about the account.

17. AUDIT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the Audit for 2007/08 would take place on 11th July 2007.

The Independent Internal Auditor had examined the Parish Council's Accounts and procedures, confirmed that the Accounts and procedures were in order agreed the Audit Report and submitted it to the Parish Council for approval.

The Clerk also reported that 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.

The Parish Council 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 2008 were true and correct and that they had considered the statement of assurance in connection with those accounts.

18. PRECEPT:

The precept for 2008/09 amounting to £4,400.00 had been received from Chorley Council and banked.

19. STANDARDS COMMITTEE:

The Clerk reported the new arrangements for the dealing with referrals regarding the Members Code of Conduct. He also reported that a training session for Members would be held at the Town Hall Chorley on 17th July 2008

20. LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE THREE YEAR RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008/11:

The Clerk submitted the Integrated Risk Management Plan of the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service.

No comments were made on the Plan.

21. BOWLAND PENNINE MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM:

The Clerk submitted a request for a donation to the Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue Team. The Parish Council adhered to the existing policy of not making grants to organisations, which have no specific connection with the Parish.

22. PINFOLD:

The Chairman reported on developments at the Pinfold. Mr. Whiteside the Builder had reported that a section of wall required completely rebuilding and that there was a mound of rubbish to remove. The estimated costs of undertaking this work were £980.00 and £564.50 respectively.

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It was agreed to seek other quotations for the rebuilding of the wall and to ask Mr Ormerod to remove the rubbish.

The Chairman reported two further developments. A bin store had been constructed near the entrance to the Pinfold and fencing had been erected by the new occupier of 1 Green Lane. Chorley Council had been informed to see if these developments required planning permission.

The Clerk would write to the occupier of 1 Green Lane regarding this encroachment on the Pinfold.

The Chairman also reported that Mr Ormerod would be asked to include the area of land at the rear of 5 Green Lane in the maintenance work to be carried out at the Pinfold.

23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 16th June 2008 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50. p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

16th June 2008