

MINUTES OF 1044TH MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 17TH MAY 2010 AT THE VILLAGE HALL

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

1. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:

An apology for absence was submitted from Mr J. Peet (Chorley Neighbourhood Officer).

2. 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.

3. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 26th April 2010 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. 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.

5. POLICE REPORT:

The Clerk circulated the current police newsletter which indicated that there had been one incident of reported crime during the period April to May.

Councillor Ms Urry reported that another shoot had taken place to the rear of her property on 29th April 2010. She had reported this to the police and Chorley Council and the police had attended the scene.

Councillor Peter referred to a similar incident at Moulden Brow.

6. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk referred to matters raised by the Association in their current Newsletter. Three things were mentioned one was an increase in car allowances from 1st April the second was the Visit to Lancaster Castle by LALC on 10th October the cost was £10 per person the other was the Annual Conference at the Leyland Hotel on 18th September delegates fees were £33.00.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) was appointed a delegate to the Annual Conference. The payment of the delegate fee was agreed and a cheque signed.

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The Clerk also submitted an invoice for the Association's Subscription Fees for 2010/11 amounting to £151.43 compared with the figure for 2009/10 of £145.56 which was a slight increase from last year of £4.87.

The Parish Council agreed to continue its membership of the Lancashire Association of Local Councils, to the payment of the annual subscription fees in the sum of £151.43 and the cheque was signed.

7. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). SALT BINS:

The Clerk reported that Brindle Parish Council had agreed to request that a salt bin be provided at St. Joseph's Church.

Councillor Proctor suggested that this be located at the Parish Hall. The Clerk would inform Brindle Parish Council of this suggestion.

The County Council had yet to give an assurance that the salt bins would be replenished.

(B). GIB LANE – STREET LIGHTS:

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) reported on the action to be taken following further discussions with the Land Agent for the de Hoghton Estate about this.

(C). HOGHTON LANE:

The Chairman reported his discussions with County Councillor Devaney regarding the work required to the carriage way and the flooding problem were ongoing.

(D). FOOTPATHS - HOGHTON BOTTOMS:

The Clerk reported on the latest position regarding the repair of the footpaths by the Environment Directorate at Lancashire County Council.

The Environment Directorate appreciated this problem predated 2009 but was presently confident of completing work during late summer this year, this was subject to Environment Agency consents and as such a firm date was difficult to predict however, indications from the EA to draft designs was favourable.

The Clerk circulated a Progress notices which had been placed at the site this notice indicated that there was an agreed way forward to deal with drainage and restoration of the two collapsed footpath sections.

Some landscaping of the main collapse would take place in May/June followed by submission of detailed designs for both sections to the Environment Agency (EA) for appraisal and approval.

In anticipation of this approval (which took about 4 weeks) – contractors would be asked to tender for works during July. The formal tender process took a minimum of 6 weeks (2 weeks reply – 4 weeks for contractors to clear existing commitments) so a start was forecast at some point in August.

The specification for the main collapse involved transportation and placement of large quarry boulders, access for which would be via Long Lane from Sandy Lane. Residents would be contacted nearer the time to discuss ways of minimising disturbance.

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These timescales were based on first time approval by the Environment Agency and were to some extent dependent on reasonable summer weather.

Another update would be posted in July when it was hoped a firm start date would be announced.

The details had been posted round the site and the Clerk and County Councillor Sharratt would be sent any further information.

(E). BOUNDARY SIGN – MOULDEN BROW:

At the last meeting Councillor Sharratt felt that Moulden Brow should be clearly identified as being within the County Council area and suggested that the Chorley Council should be asked to mark the boundaries in a highly visible form so that future errors would not occur.

The Clerk was awaiting a response from the County Council about this.

(F). STREET SWEEPING:

Councillor Proctor referred to the provision of a skip at the Village Hall Car Park. Mr. Peet Neighbourhood Officer was arranging this to tie in with the arrangements for the scheme at the Pinfold.

(G). LAND AT BOARS HEAD:

At the last meeting Councillor Baldwin reported that the brambles needed cutting back. The Clerk had contacted the Countryside Service to do this.

A reply had been received to the effect that the Countryside Service did not intend to cut back the brambles in the hope that it would create a small wildlife haven again. It may be the intention of the new owner to maintain a cut strip on the inside of the fence, and the County Council would continue to cut a 1m swathe along the pavement.

The letter to the Boars Head, copied to Sir Bernard De Hoghton made it clear that this was a one off project (the site was sold 30 years ago) and after the works were done, management was down to the owner – Mr Savage (Boar's Head).

The only work the County Council intended to undertake was the spraying of noxious weeds, Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed if they appeared in the first two years. The Clerk would notify the de Hoghton Estate about this.

(H). PLANTING OF DAFFODILS – GRASS VERGES:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the Women's Institute had requested permission of the County Area Surveyor that they be allowed to plant daffodils in the grass verges by the Village Hall. This was to commemorate the 90th year of the Lancashire Organisation of Women's Institutes.

The Area County Surveyor had no objections subject to the comments of the Parish Council.

Councillor Sharratt suggested that the bulbs should be planted in clumps rather than rows.

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The Parish Council subject to Councillor Sharratt`s comments welcomed this initiative and the Clerk would notify the Area Surveyor of the views of the Parish Council.

8. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman reported on issues affecting the Parish Council. He referred to the Executive and Electoral Arrangements Review and the proposed adoption of a system of a strong leader with cabinet arrangements from May 2011.

Councillor Sharratt did not agree with the arrangement as he felt it removed government further from the people. The Parish Council supported this view.

9. PLANNING REPORT:

(A). APPLICATION:

Felling of two trees covered by TPO1 (Hoghton) 1969 42 Fowler Close (App no 10/00337/TPO) Applicant Mrs Waddington.

No observations were made on this application.

Councillor Peter reported that the mulberry tree at Straits Farm required removal.

(B) DISABLED ACCESS – BOARS HEAD:

At the last meeting Councillor Baldwin asked what provision had been made for disabled access to the Boars Head.

It was understood that a planning application had been made sometime ago but this had been rejected.

The Chairman Councillor Dickinson reported on his discussions with the Enforcement Officer at Chorley about providing access.

10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

There were no accounts for payment

11. AUDIT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the Audit for 2009/10 would take place on 9th July 2010.

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 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 governance that the accounts had been undertaken in accordance with prescribed regulations. A copy of the Annual Return Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and the Independent Auditors Report 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 2009 were true and correct and that they had considered the statement of governance in connection with those accounts.

The Chairman then signed the Annual Return where appropriate.

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12. PINFOLD:

The Clerk reported the latest position regarding the scheme for the Pinfold.

He was awaiting a suitable date from the de Hoghton Estate for a site meeting to explain the proposals to Sir Bernard de Hoghton.

The Land Agent had requested a copy of the Insurance Certificate confirming the amount of the public liability in place. This was £10,000,000 and a copy of the document had been sent to him.

He also submitted details of a quotation he had received from J. P. Savage listing two options for the refurbishment of the Pinfold.

The Parish Council discussed which of the two options to accept.

Councillor Ms Urry objected to the removal of the fruit trees on the site.

Councillor Peter offered to try to save as many of them as possible and relocate them elsewhere.

It was agreed that option two should be adopted. The cost of the work amounted to £1550.00.

It was agreed to further consider this at the next meeting following notification to local residents of the proposals and a request for suggestions as to the provision of amenities at the site such as benches. In the meantime the Clerk would contact the contractor to advise him of the situation.

The Clerk would post notices to this effect and invite suggestions from Members of the Public.

Councillor Ms Urry indicated she would provide a memorial bench.

Councillor Sharratt suggested that the Lancashire Environmental Fund be approached for a grant.

The Clerk would make the necessary application.

Councillor Peter suggested that the Royal Oak be asked to provide a bench in exchange for them retaining the advertisement sign on the Pinfold.

The de Hoghton Estate as the landowners would be asked for their views on this.

13. LIBRARY SERVICE:

At the last meeting Councillor Ms Urry referred to changes to the mobile library service instituted by the County Council and felt that the Parish Council should protest to the County Council and Chorley Council about the changes proposed.

She informed the Parish Council that the facility would cease on 3rd July 2010.

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The Clerk had contacted County Councillor Otter requesting him to ask the County Council to reconsider the matter. He had referred this to County Councillor Devaney.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) would speak to County Councillor Devaney about this.

14. VAT REPAYMENT:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the VAT for 2009/10 had been reclaimed amounting to £78.52.

15 TACKLING FUEL POVERTY:

Chorley Council would run workshops on this on 18th May. Councillor Ms Urry said she would attend if possible.

16. TRAVELLERS:

The Lancashire Police Authority has informed me that the review of its policy towards Travellers was ongoing. However, they had assured the Parish Council that unauthorised encampments remain high on the agenda of the Constabulary and they were working with local police in producing an updated policy to address issues affecting all communities.

17. LOCAL MEMBER GRANTS:

Councillor Sharratt reminded the Parish Council of the system whereby each County Councillor had a sum of money for grants to local organisations.

He felt that this scheme would be subject to Government cut backs and he urged Members of the Parish Council to notify local organisations in the Parish to apply for grants as soon as possible and not to leave it until the end of the financial year.

18. WEATHER FORECASTS FOR COASTAL LANCASHIRE:

Councillor Sharratt indicated that the weather for coastal waters in Lancashire and Cumbria was not covered by the regional coastal weather forecasts. He had made representations regarding this to several different authorities and he sought the views of local farmers as to whether it would help to have such forecasts. He requested Members of the Parish Council to canvas opinion locally on this and suggested the matter be considered at the next meeting.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 21st June 2010 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall

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

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

21ST JUNE 2010.