

**HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF 1006TH MEETING
HELD ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2006
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).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: ONE MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC.

133. 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.

134. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th October 2006 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

THERE THEN FOLLOWED AN ADJOURNMENT TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO RAISE ISSUES AND QUESTION THE PARISH COUNCIL REGARDING MATTERS DEALT WITH. THE MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT RAISED THE FOLLOWING MATTER: -

135. VILLAGE HALL:

Mr. Atkinson on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee spoke about the future of the Village Hall. He circulated copies of the current accounts for the Hall and indicated the problems facing the Committee these were;- escalating running costs because of the age of the building and competition from other similar venues.

He suggested that a solution could be that a significant part of the Hall running costs should be met annually from the Parish Precept. The Management Committee would prepare a business plan for the future development of the Hall facilities.

Councillor Sharratt felt that before any decision was taken on this issue that there should be full and urgent consultation with Council Tax payers in the Parish.

The Village Hall Management Committee agreed to undertake this consultation and prepare a business plan for consideration by the Parish Council.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) declared an interest in this matter and was allowed to speak but did not vote.

AT THIS POINT MR. ATKINSON LEFT THE MEETING AS THERE WERE NO FURTHER MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THE PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED WITH THE BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA.

136. POLICING REPORT:

As the Community Beat Manager was not present no report on policing in the Parish was made.

137. LAPTC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current Newsletter of the Association.

Councillor Sharratt reported on the proceedings of the LAPTC Annual General Meeting and in particular to the voting arrangements introduced at the AGM. He considered that these disadvantaged small rural parishes in favour of urban parishes. He felt that LAPTC should look into this issue again.

The Chairman would raise it at the next Executive Committee meeting.

The Clerk submitted details of the Community Ponds Warden Scheme and local speed limits, He also referred to a scam about parcel deliveries; the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act ,The Commons Act (Section one of this Act dealt with the registration and updating of common land since the Commons Act 1965.) Registration Authorities would be responsible for publicising re-registration.)

He also reported on the White Paper on Strong and Prosperous Communities and its affect on the Parish.

The Clerk would ensure that the Pinfold was registered as common land under the Commons Act 2006.

138. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). TRAFFIC SCHEME – HOGHTON LANE:

The detailed drawings for the scheme were due to be completed by the end of October. These would then need to be Safety Audited after which the scheme would be put out for consultation. It was hoped that this would be early in 2007.

(B) GIB LANE:

The Clerk reported that due to more urgent problems, the Area County Surveyor had stated that it had not been possible to side back the footway and, trim back the growth that was obstructing signs on Gib Lane although this work would be undertaken as soon as the necessary labour was available, with the present backlog of work it could be some time before it was completed.

The potholes on Gib Lane to both sides of the railway bridge had been filled in.

The de Houghton Estate had been contacted about the cutting back of the hedge to its original line.

(C). BUS STOP – RILEY GREEN:

The Environment Directorate's Transport Co-ordination Section had confirmed that the damaged stop near the Royal Oak was the one which had been replaced and had asked for details of other signs requiring attention. The bus stop had been repaired but the shelter continued to lean.

The Clerk would write again to Chorley Council about this.

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The bus stop on Bolton Road and on the Preston side of the A675 at Riley Green should be looked at

The Clerk would write again about these bus stops.

(D) PUBLIC FOOTPATH 22 RILEY GREEN:

The public footpath leading down to the canal at Riley Green would be inspected and any action necessary undertaken by the Footpaths Officer at Lancashire County Council.

(E). HOGHTON TOWER INFORMATION SIGN. - BRINDLE BAR:

The County Councillor Mrs Livesey had asked the Environment Director at Lancashire County Council to expedite the replacing of the sign.

(F) NAMEPLATE – CHAPEL LANE:

Chorley Borough Council had been informed and asked to replace the damaged nameplate.

(G). HEDGE – QUAKER BROOK LANE:

Following talks with the Chairman the occupier of Newlands who had cut back the hedge. He would contact the occupier of Gatesgarth about this.

(H). HOGHTON SIGNS:

The Environment Director had informed the Clerk that if the Parish Council wished to have a boundary sign on Bolton Road it would have to pay for the supply and erection at a cost of £400.00.

The Area County Surveyor considered that the Chorley Borough Council/Hoghton boundary sign on Moulden Brow was reasonably visible and there was no need to trim back tree branches at the present time.

(I). 40.MPH SIGN BOLTON ROAD:

The Clerk had contacted the Area County Surveyor about this matter and his view was that whilst the 40MPH sign on Bolton Road at Riley Green was leaning slightly its' two supporting posts were firmly bedded in the ground and he did not propose to reset them.

(J). LAND AT JUNCTION OF STATION ROAD:

The Clerk had contacted the Area County Surveyor about the tidying up of the land at the junction of Station Road.

(K). FOOTPATH –THE STRAITS TO ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH:

The Clerk had contacted the Community Service Agency about this and they had agreed to do the work to the footpath in April 2007.

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139. CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT:

The Clerk reported on issues affecting the Parish Council.

140. PLANNING REPORT:

The following applications had been submitted to Chorley Council since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

1. Single storey side extension.105 Chapel Lane Hoghton Preston PR5 0RY
Applicant: Mr D Potter. (App no 06/1160/FUL)
2. Crown lift and remove trees covered by TPO 10 (Hoghton) 1991 The Old Orchard Quaker Brook Lane.
Applicant Beardwood Tree Services Bury Lane Withnell. (App no 06/01261/TPO)

No observations were made on the applications.

He also reported the change in policy by Chorley Council relating to smaller housing developments of up to nine dwellings. The Chairman reported that following discussions with the Planning Officer this policy change would not affect the Parish.

141 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following account for payment.

1. J. Whiteside	Repair of Wall Pinfold	£383.00.

* Payment made in accordance with the authorisation approved under urgent matters at the meeting in October 2006.

142. PARISH COUNCIL ESTIMATES 2007/08:

The Clerk submitted a report (circulated) dealing with the Parish Council's Estimates for 2006/07, the report gave details of actual spending in 2005/06 together with an update of spending in the current financial year and set out the proposed estimated spending for 2007/2008.

Consideration of the Estimates was deferred to the next meeting pending the Consultation exercise by the Village Hall Management Committee.

143. BOROUGH PARISH LIAISON – MEETING HELD ON 18TH OCTOBER 2006:

Councillor Ms Urry gave a report on the meeting held on 18th October 2006.

144 WREATH LAYING CEREMONY SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2006:

The Chairman and other Councillors reported to the Remembrance Day Service. The general arrangements, police presence and provision of the wreath all merited favourable comment.

He also submitted an account from Mr. Ormerod for the tidying up of the War Memorial amounting to £144.00. The account was agreed and the cheque signed.

The Chairman complimented Mr Ormerod on the quality of the work he had done.

The Clerk also reported that the de Hoghton Estate had agreed to allow the use of the car park field for the Remembrance Day Service subject to terms and conditions.

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It had not been possible to agree the terms for this year. Discussions about the car park had taken place with Sir Bernard de Hoghton personally and he had indicated that an informal arrangement could be made in future years.

It was suggested that a direct approach be made to Sir Bernard de Hoghton next year.

The Clerk would send a letter of thanks to the police.

145. PINFOLD:

The Council's Insurers had confirmed that the Pinfold was covered by under the public liability section of the policy and the property damage section. The extra premium would be £26.70 payable from next year but the wall was covered by the Insurance policy with effect from 31st October 2006.

The damaged wall had been repaired satisfactorily following the car accident but an inspection had revealed that the wall was in need of repair and repointing along the whole of its length.

He had discussed the matter with the contractor and it had been agreed that an estimate of cost would be provided for a phased programme of work.

The Parish Council would need to consider this when dealing with next year's budget.

With regard to the area of the Pinfold which was used by a local resident for a private garden with the permission of the Parish Council. The Land Registry had advised that the land had not been registered to the property.

The Clerk would write to the resident regarding the status of the land.

146. POST BOX – GIB LANE:

As a result of the petition Postwatch had confirmed that Royal Mail had now agreed to replace the post box subject to the grant of planning permission. It was expected that the replacement box would be erected in January 2007.

147. GIRL GUIDES – APPLICATION FOR GRANT:

Further details of the Guides financial situation were submitted and it was agreed to make a grant of £200.00. A cheque for this amount was signed.

148. DONATION – AUTUMN CLUB

A request was submitted from Chairlady of the Autumn Club for a donation towards their funds.

The Parish Council agreed a donation of £35.00 and a cheque was signed.

149. LANCASHIRE LOCAL CHORLEY:

A report on the Lancashire Local meeting held on 24th October 2006 at St. Georges Hall Chorley at 6.15.p.m was presented.

150. CHORLEY CIVIC SOCIETY AWARD:

Councillor Sharratt presented framed certificate and a photograph commemorating the event to the Parish Council for display at the Village Hall.

The Parish Council thanked Councillor Sharratt for his kind donation.

151. NORTH WEST IN BLOOM COMPETITION.

The Clerk submitted details of this scheme.

152. MINERALS AND WASTE UPDATE:

The Clerk circulated details of the update.

153. SAVE THE LOCAL POST OFFICE:

The Parish Council had been approached by the Countryside Alliance for its support in their campaign regarding Post Offices.

The Clerk would write to Jim Fitzpatrick the Minister responsible saying how important our post office was and what role it played in the local community.

154. BLACKPOOL AIRPORT EXPANSION:

A resident of Brindle had asked the Parish Council for its views on the expansion of the airport and possible increases in the number of flights over Brindle and Hoghton. The matter would also be considered by Brindle Parish Council.

Subject to the views of Brindle Parish Council. the Clerk would approach the Civil Aviation Authority about this.

155. CHEQUE SIGNATORIES:

The Parish Council agreed to the Clerk making the necessary arrangements for the number of persons authorised to sign cheques on behalf of the Parish Council to be increased to ensure that every Member could sign.

156. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 15th January 2007 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.