

MINUTES OF 1038TH MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 16TH NOVEMBER 2009 AT THE VILLAGE HALL

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: DISTRICT COUNCILLOR C. HOYLE - PARISH COUNCIL MENTOR – CHORLEY STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND MR. J. PEET – NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER.

1. WELCOME:

The Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council welcomed District Councillor Hoyle to the meeting.

The Parish Council then commenced the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillor Ms Urry and Ms S. Linley Neighbourhood Officer.

3. COUNCILLOR MS URRY:

Councillor Proctor reported that Councillor Ms Urry continued to suffer poor health.

The Parish Council wished 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.

5. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19th October 2009 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

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

7. POLICE REPORT:

In the absence of the Police the Clerk circulated a copy of the police newsletter for October 2009 which showed that there had been one reported incident of crime during the period.

8. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current Newsletter.

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The Clerk had also received a copy of LALC Annual Report for 2008/09 and Councillor Sharratt and the Chairman reported on the LALC AGM held on 7th November 2009.

9. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A) HOGHTON LANE - TRAFFIC SPEEDS:

The Clerk submitted the results of the traffic speeds survey carried out during September/October 2009. This was noted.

(B). FOOTWAY – PARK GATES:

The footway at Park Gates had now been included in a programme of repairs.

(C) FOOTPATH – BRINDLE LODGE:

The Parish Council was reminded that the Public Rights of Way Supervisor had met the local landowner and he had agreed to work being carried out but the County Council was now recommending that this footpath be upgraded to a bridleway. It was pointed out that the footpath was actually located in Brindle and it was suggested that this proposal be reported to them for attention.

It was agreed that investigations be carried out jointly with Brindle Parish Council to establish why the Footpath should be designated a bridleway.

(D) SALT BINS:

The County Council assessment of the current state of salt bin provision had been considered by the Lancashire Local. The Clerk had been informed by County Councillor Devaney that the County Council felt that as the salt bins in Viaduct Road were usable they did not intend to repair the lids. The Clerk had asked that this be reconsidered.

(E) DOG BIN – HOGHTON BOTTOMS:

The Chairman thanked Mr. Peet the Neighbourhood Officer for arranging for the re-siting of the dog bin.

(F). GIB LANE – STREET LIGHTS:

The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) reported that the trees had still not been cut back. The Clerk would ask for the work to be done as soon as possible.

(G) CHANGES TO SPEED LIMITS ON RILEY GREEN SWITCH ROAD AND FINNINGTON LANE

The Lancashire Local had agreed to reduce the speed limit on Finnington Lane. The County Council had now published a notice indicating that the speed limit at Finnington Lane and the recently introduced 50 mph speed limit at Riley Green would also be reduced,

The Clerk circulated copies of the notice and the Parish Council commented on the proposals. The Clerk would submit these comments to the County Council by 2nd December 2009.

(H) SPID DEVICE:

The Chairman referred to the recent article in the Chorley Guardian about the surplus SPID device and suggested that the Parish Council and Brindle Parish Council should try to buy it. He had contacted the Organisation concerned and further inquiries were being made.

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Councillor Sharratt felt that speed enforcement should be a police matter.

Councillor Proctor asked what benefit would be gained as the device did not record speed.

Councillor Peter felt that such devices did have an effect on speed.

It was agreed to explore the idea of buying the device jointly with Brindle Parish Council.

(I). LAND AT BOARS HEAD:

The Clerk submitted details of the County Councils proposals for the small improvements scheme to the land at the Boars Head, Car Park.

10. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman reported on issues affecting the Parish Council.

11. PLANNING REPORT:

DECISIONS:

The following decisions on the undermentioned applications had been taken since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

1. Felling and pruning of trees covered by TPO 1 (Hoghton) 1969 42 Fowler Close App no 09/00501/ TPO Applicant Mrs Anderson. – **Approved.**

2. Listed Building Consent for internal alterations and refurbishment to grade 2 Building Lane Side Farm Blackburn Old Road App no 09/00661/LBC, Applicant The de Hoghton Estate. - **Granted**

APPLICATIONS:

The following applications had been received since the last meeting of the Parish Council and details had been circulated to all Members.

1. Extension to form new bedroom above existing garage 4 Station Road App no 09/00715/FUL Applicant – Mrs. Nichols.

2. Installation of underground sewerage treatment plant and associated infrastructure at rear of graveyard (amendment to previous approval 09/00520/FUL) to include connection to former Methodist Chapel as well as former Sunday School. Methodist Chapel, Chapel Lane. (App no 09/790/FUL) Applicant - The Methodist Property Office

3. Demolition of single storey rear extension and erection of two storey rear extension Lowood Station Road (App no 09/00821/FUL) Applicant – Mr Lawson.

4. Demolition of existing buildings, erection of 15 units for mixed use of office and living accommodation, formation of new access to Finnington Lane, landscaping and laying out of new road and parking areas together with provision of washroom/W.C. for canal boat users Finnington Industrial Estate. App no 09/00825/OUT – Applicant MAS Services.

No observations were made on these applications.

12. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The following accounts were submitted for payment

1. S. Ormerod	Maintenance of War Memorial	£95.00
2. H. Holmes Florists	Wreath – Remembrance Sunday	£35.00
3. BDO Stoy Hayward	Audit Fees (Re-issued Cheque)	£138.00

The Accounts were agreed and cheques signed.

Councillor Sharratt declared an interest in the account for Mr. Ormerod and left the room. He returned after the decision on this account was made.

13. BUDGET PROCESS:

The Clerk submitted a report on the process for the making of the annual budget.

14. PARISH COUNCIL ESTIMATES 2010/11:

The Clerk submitted a report (circulated) dealing with the Parish Council's Estimates for 2010/11, the report gave details of actual spending in 2008/09 together with an update of spending in the current financial year and set out the proposed estimated spending for 2009/2010.

It was agreed: - That the Estimates for 2010/11 as set out below be approved and that the Parish Council's precept on Chorley Borough Council for 2010/11 amount to £4,400.00

ESTIMATES 2010/2011

LAST YEAR 2008/09	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT YEAR 2009/10		ESTIMATES 2010/2011
ACTUAL £		ORIGINAL £	CURRENT £	PROJECTED
RECEIPTS				
2256.98	B/FWD	1128.86	1128.86	1128.86
4400.00	PRECEPT	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00
55.59	VAT	93.22	93.22	55.00
31.47	INTEREST	10.00	0.9.	10.00.
6744.04	TOTAL RECEIPTS	5632.08	5622.17	1721.00
PAYMENTS				
1250.00	CLERK – SALARY	1250.00	937.50	1250.00
216.62.	EXPENSES	300.00	181.51.	300.00

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120.00	GRANTS AND DONATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 137 PAYMENTS	300.00	100.00	300.00
35.00	PLAQUE FOR BENCH	NIL	NIL	NIL
722.84	INSURANCE AND EXCESS	800.00.	581.93	650.00
2098.00	REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	600.00	270.00.	500.00
38.00	FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	280.00	174.56	300.00
58.75	AUDIT FEES	140.00	138.75	60.00
174.22	PHONE RENTAL	200.00	123.06	220.00
90.00	HIRE OF ROOMS	90.00	54.00	90.00
242.00	STATIONERY AND EQUIPMENT	225.00	192.85	225.00
NIL	TRAINING	NIL	NIL	15.00
45.00	WREATH	45.00	NIL	45.00
90.00	COMPUTER RENTAL	80.00	60.00	80.00
434.75	ELECTIONS	100.00	NIL	100.00
5615.18	TOTAL	4485.00	2813.41	4135.00

15. WREATH LAYING CEREMONY SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2009:

The Parish Council reviewed the arrangements for Remembrance Day. The general arrangements, police presence and provision of the wreath all merited favourable comment. The Chairman complimented Mr Ormerod on the quality of the work done.

The Clerk would send letters of thanks to the Police and Mr Ormerod.

16. LAND ADJOINING WAR MEMORIAL:

It was reported that some trees at this site required attention.

The Clerk would ask Mr. Ormerod for an estimate of the cost of doing this work and report to the next meeting.

17. GRANTS

This item was deferred for further information.

18. PINFOLD:

The Clerk reported that Sir Bernard de Houghton`s Land Agent had informed him that the Estate were prepared to grant the Parish Council a 100 year lease of the land at the Pinfold at a peppercorn rent.

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Chorley Council had informed him that In the event that the Parish Council secured a letter of intent from the landowners that they were prepared to grant a lease of the land, the budget would be available to spend on the Pinfold.

The Clerk would discuss the drawing up of any agreement with the De Hoghton Estate, notify Chorley Council of the proposed lease and would resubmit the proposals agreed by the Parish Council for the development of the Pinfold to them.

19. LANCASHIRE LOCAL:

The Parish Council received a report on the proceedings of the Lancashire Local – Chorley held on 11th November 2009 including details of the Budget Process currently being undertaken by the County Council and the grants to local organisations by County Councillor Devaney. The Parish Council had been asked to indicate its priorities for spending by the County Council in future years. The Clerk would submit these to the County Council.

20. NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN – BRINDLE AND HOGHTON:

The Neighbourhood Officer gave an update of the programme for the implementation of the plan including grant aid for the Village Hall and developments at the Pinfold.

21. RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT:

The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) reported on the present position regarding the pilot project proposed for Hoghton following the public meeting held on 22nd October 2009.

Chorley Council would now review the position. The next steps following the meeting with residents was to assess the level of interest from residents in receiving an energy audit from Groundwork, whether they wished to find out about grants for home insulation and for domestic renewable technologies and also whether they were interested in developing energy solutions for a community building in Hoghton and in investigating the possibility of a community owned renewable energy source.

Groundwork Wigan and West soon, the lead partner in taking forward this project to would assess the level of response and agree the most appropriate way forward.

22. RURAL HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY:

Chorley Council was to undertake a study of rural housing needs covering Brindle and Hoghton as well as five other Parishes. A consultation meeting would take place on 23rd November 2009. The Chairman and Clerk would attend.

23. POST OF CLERK:

The Chairman reported that in accordance with current legislation it was necessary to re-appoint the Clerk as result of me reaching the statutory retirement age in January.

The Parish Council confirmed the re-appointment of Mr. T. Harkness as Clerk.

24. LCC/PARISH COUNCILS CONFERENCE:

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This conference would take place on 21st November 2009 at County Hall. The Chairman and Councillor Sharratt would attend.

25. BYELAWS:

In September 2008 the Parish Council was consulted on a government white paper regarding allowing local councils more power to make their own byelaws and to make the system more transparent and accountable to local residents. The Parish Council commented that it felt that it should have the right to be consulted on the making of any future byelaws. The Government had now published its responses to the consultations and Parish Council was to be given the right and adequate time to respond to new byelaws.

26. CODE OF CONDUCT:

Chorley Council had arranged a training session on the Code of Conduct for Parish Councillors on 30th November 2009. It was also reported that a revised code of conduct would be introduced in May 2010.

27. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 18th January 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**

18TH JANUARY 2010