

MINUTES OF 1082ND MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2013 AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillor M. Watson.

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 21st October 2013 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:

(A) NEWSLETTER:

The Clerk circulated the latest police newsletter which indicated there had been no reported incidents of crime in Hoghton during October 2013. He also circulated a copy of the Air Support Unit Winter Newsletter.

The next PACT meeting would be held on 4th December 2013.

Councillor Sharratt reported that at the last ASU PACT meeting a representative from the Air Ambulance gave a talk on the use of defibrillators.

He suggested that local communities should be advised of the benefits of their providing such equipment.

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The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) would raise this issue with the Village Hall Management Committee.

Councillor Ms Urry also requested that the Management Committee should consider provision for Disabled Access facilities at the Hall.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) agreed to raise this issue also.

(B). CONSUMER ALERTS – TRADING STANDARDS:

The Clerk circulated copies of the latest consumer alerts from the County Council's Trading Standards Officer together with an urgent consumer alert issued on 18th November 2013.

6. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk reported details of the current newsletter.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) and Councillors Sharratt and Ms Urry reported on the Annual General Meeting of the Association held on 9th November 2013 and on the Lancashire County Council and Parish Councils Conference held on the same day.

The Clerk submitted details of correspondence he had received from the Parish Council's representative on the Three Tier Forum which indicated that the Chorley Forum would be open to attendance by the Public for a trial period.

Councillor Ms. Urry requested that the Three Tier Forum minutes should be circulated to Parish Councils.

The Clerk would make this request.

7. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). FOOTPATH NO 5 - BRINDLE LODGE:

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) reported on the further approach he had made to County Councillor Devaney who had repeated that there were no funds available to do the work and as reported the County Council Footpaths Officer considered that the footpath was in good condition and did not require upgrading.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) informed the Parish Council that a similar situation applied at Cripplegate Lane where an order had been made for the supply stone chippings to improve the road surface. This offer had subsequently been withdrawn.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) reported that he had had discussions with the Bridleways Officer and she was investigating this again.

(B). BUS SHELTERS AT BOARS HEAD BLACKBURN OLD ROAD A675:

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) had met the Street Furniture Officer at Chorley to discuss the installation of the benches in the two bus shelters and he reported the present position.

(C). STATION ROAD:

It was reported that there was still grass growing out of the kerb edgings.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) reported that Station Road needed sweeping.

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The Clerk would ask Chorley again to make arrangements for the kerbs to be treated and request that the road be swept.

(D). FOOTPATH – PARISH CHURCH:

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) reported that the footpath still needed weeding. Councillor Peter had sprayed the weeds.

The Clerk would arrange for Community Payback to do the work

(E). GRASS VERGES - CHAPEL LANE:

The Clerk reported that the grass verges had been cut.

(F). OVERGROWN FOOTWAY - GIB LANE :

The Clerk reported that the overgrown vegetation at Gib Lane had been cut back.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) reported that the footway was still impassable and that the road needed sweeping.

The Clerk had contacted Chorley regarding the road sweeping and Community Payback about the clearance of the footpath.

Councillor Peter suggested that the Parish Council ascertain the present County Council policy relating to footpath maintenance.

The Clerk would write to the County Council about this.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) reported that he had been approached by residents in Gib Lane about the speed of traffic using this road.

The Clerk would ask the police to look into this.

(G). WINTER SERVICE BRIEFING NOTE:

The Clerk circulated a copy of the Winter Service Briefing Note produced by the County Council.

(H). STREET LIGHT - BELL VILLAS GIB LANE:

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) reported that street light no 2 Bell Villas had been repaired.

(I). EAST LANCASHIRE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT MASTER PLAN:

The Clerk submitted details of this plan and no observations were made.

(J). STREET NAMEPLATE - QUAKER BROOK LANE:

The Clerk reported that the Neighbourhood Officer had arranged for the nameplate to be taken away for repair.

Councillor Peter referred to the recent patching work which had taken place on Quaker Brook Lane.

(K). RESURFACING A675 BLACKBURN OLD ROAD:

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Councillor Ms Urry asked whether any resurfacing work was proposed to Blackburn Old Road. The road surface was particularly bad from The Straits to Riley Green.

The Clerk would ascertain the current position from the County Council.

(L). BROKEN STILE:

Councillor Ms Urry reported that there were two stiles on the footpath which ran between properties 243 and 245 Hoghton Lane. The second stile was broken and in need of repair.

The Clerk would notify the Footpaths Officer.

8. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

It was reported that the next meeting of Chorley Council would be held on 28th November 2013.

9. PLANNING REPORT:

(A). DECISIONS.

The Clerk reported that no decisions on planning applications had been made since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

(B). APPLICATIONS:

The Clerk reported the following planning applications had been made to Chorley Council since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

1. Demolition of existing industrial units and erection of 18 (14 Semi detached and 4 detached three bedroom houses Finnington Industrial Estate Finnington Lane. (App no 13/00948/FULMAJ - Applicants Units to Let Northern Limited.

Details had been circulated to all Members.

The following observations were made.

Councillor Sharratt referred to possible provision of cycle racks as part of the Development.

Members expressed concerns regarding highway safety arising from the development particularly with regard to access to the development.

The Parish Council felt that objections should be made concerning inadequate access and road safety.

The Clerk would inform Chorley Council of the comments made concerning road safety.

2. Felling of beech tree protected by TPO12 (Hoghton) 1983 Woodland Grange Private Road. (App no 13/00972/TPO). - Applicant Mr. Towers.

Details had been circulated to all Members and no observations were made.

(C) BEESTON WOOD:

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Councillor Ms Urry reported ash tree die back to three trees in Beeston Wood as this was in South Ribble she would notify this authority about them.

(D) CHORLEY LOCAL PLAN:

The Clerk reported that the Planning Inspectors Partial Report on the Local Plan had been published and was legally compliant and sound with the exception of matters relating to Travellers. The Plan could not be adopted until this issue had been considered and further assessments were being made. These findings would be considered in January 2014.

10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following accounts for payment

1.H. Holmes Florists	Wreath - Remembrance Day 2013	£35.00
*2. T. Harkness	Clerk Salary and Expenses Quarter ended 30th September 2013	£531.19
*3 Douglas Tonks Ltd	Payroll Administration Fees	£23.40
4. Garden Care	Annual Maintenance Fees for Pinfold	£250.00

The accounts were agreed for payment and cheques signed as appropriate

* Payment by Direct Debit.

11. PARISH COUNCIL ESTIMATES 2014/15:

The Clerk submitted a report (circulated) dealing with the Parish Council's Estimates for 2014/15, the report gave details of actual spending in 2012/13 together with an update of spending in the current financial year and set out the proposed estimated spending for 2014/15.

The report revised the allocations for the Pinfold, the cost of a story board, and the cost of investigations into the refurbishment of the War Memorial, increased grant allocations and maintenance costs, the cost of local elections, and the Clerk's salary

He indicated the amount of increased expenditure required if the Parish Council was to meet these targets and in view of the anticipated balance at the end of the year suggested that the Parish Council precept should be the same as last year.

The Estimates for 2014/15 as set out below were approved and the Parish Council's precept on Chorley Borough Council for 2014/15 would amount to £5,000.00.

ESTIMATES 2014/15

LAST 2012/13	YEAR	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT YEAR 2013/2014	ESTIMATES 2014/15

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ACTUAL £		ORIGINAL £	CURRENT £	£
RECEIPTS				
3070.01	B/FWD	2879.63	2879.63	1863.00
5000.00	PRECEPT	5000.00	5000.00	5000.00
93.90	VAT	162.98	162.98	125.00
150.00	GRANTS	NIL	NIL	NIL
4.23	INTEREST	1.60	0.3	2.00.
8318.14.	TOTAL RECEIPTS	8044.21	8042.64	1995.00.
PAYMENTS				
1450.00	CLERK – SALARY	1650.00	775.00	1650.00
183.85	EXPENSES	200.00	76.00	200.00
780.00	PINFOLD	750.00	26.00	350.00
175.00	GRANTS AND DONATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 137 PAYMENTS	200.00	75.00	200.00
559.66	INSURANCE AND EXCESS	625.00	549.00	625.00.
347.64.	REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	200.00	NIL	300.00
197.51	FEES	260.00	184.00	250.00
144.00	AUDIT FEES	145.00	NIL	NIL
135.00	PHONE RENTAL	230.00	135.00	270.00
100.00	HIRE OF ROOMS	100.00	60.00	100.00
167.20	STATIONERY AND EQUIPMENT	250.00	212.00	300.00
40.00	WREATH	30.00	NIL	40.00
80.00	COMPUTER RENTAL	80.00	40.00	80.00
400.00	ELECTIONS	400.00	NIL	600.00

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155.00	NOTICE BOARDS	250.00	NIL	250.00
86.15	DOG BIN RENTAL	87.00	NIL	100.00
39.00	PAYROLL ADMIN.	80.00	40.00	100.00
550.00	WAR MEMORIAL	500.00	NIL	800.00
5590.01	TOTAL	6037.00	2172.00	6265.00

12. WREATH LAYING CEREMONY SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2013:

The Parish Council reviewed the arrangements for Remembrance Day. The general arrangements, police presence and provision of the wreath all merited favourable comment.

The Clerk had sent letters of thanks to the Police and Community Payback .

It was agreed that the revised arrangements for the fixing of the wreaths to the War Memorial as suggested by Councillor Peter be adopted.

13. WAR MEMORIAL:

The Parish Council discussed the condition of the War Memorial.

The Clerk had contacted the War Memorials Trust to ask for an inspection of the War Memorial to see what work was required. Councillor Peter reported that he had asked a stonemason who specialised in the upkeep of monuments to look into the condition of the War Memorial.

In the meantime the situation would be publicised and volunteers invited to discuss the matter with the Parish Council.

Councillor Ms Urry indicated the problems in establishing a charitable trust. She also would be contacting the War Graves Commission regarding possible funding.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) suggested an approach be made to Parish Councils Champion at the County Council for grant aid.

Councillor Peter suggested a further approach to the de Houghton Estate regarding the condition of the War Memorial and to resolve the question of its ownership with the view to seeking further grants towards its restoration.

14. COMMEMORATION OF START OF WORLD WAR ONE:

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) requested the views of the Parish Council on the suggestion regarding whether the Parish Council should encourage local organisations and residents to plant poppy seeds as part of the national campaign. The suggestion was adopted and the Clerk would make further enquiries about the proposals.

15. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2012:

The Clerk circulated a copy of the judges comments on Houghton`s entry.

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The Judges Report would be further considered when that invitation to enter the 2014 Competition was received and in the meantime the Clerk would circulate a copy of the report to the various bodies referred to.

16. SHALE GAS EXPLOITATION:

The Clerk circulated a copy of the presentation made by the Environment Agency to the County Council regarding shale gas exploitation.

17. CRIPPLEGATE LANE POND:

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) a Neighbourhood priority scoping document to Chorley Council in respect of the undertaking of a wildlife survey, de-silting, clearance of vegetation, fencing and seating at the pond area at Cripplegate Lane.

18. VILLAGE HALL - REDEVELOPMENT:

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) reported that the meeting with user groups to discuss the redevelopment of the Hall on 28th October 2013 did not take place and a further meeting would be held on 3rd December 2013.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 20th January 2014 at 7.45.p.m at the Village Hall.

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

SIGNED
CHAIRMAN

20TH JANUARY 2014