

**MINUTES OF 1172ND MEETING
OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 21ST NOVEMBER 2022
AT THE SCOUT HUT BRINDLE
ST. JOSEPH`S PRIVATE ROAD.**

PRESENT: - COUNCILLOR T. GREENWOOD (CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLOR B. MATTOCK (VICE CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLORS Ms J.CATON,A. CULLENS M. GRAHAM,AND Ms M. URRY AND MR. T. HARKNESS (CLERK).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: THREE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

1076.APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:

An apology for absence was submitted from Councillor Ms Y. Hargreaves.

1077. 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.

1078. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 3rd October 2022 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood).

1079. ADJOURNMENT:

THERE THEN FOLLOWED AN ADJOURNMENT TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO DISCUSS ISSUES AND ASK QUESTIONS RAISED VIA PRIOR WEBSITE NOTIFICATION. NO ISSUES AND QUESTIONS HAD BEEN SUBMITTED SO THE PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED WITH THE BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA.

1080. POLICE REPORT:

The police were not present.

Current Police contact details were circulated.

There had been a range of consultations circulated since the last meeting regarding various topics.

(B). CONSUMER ALERTS – TRADING STANDARDS:

The Clerk circulated a copy of the latest consumer alerts from the County Council's Trading Standards Officer.

1081. LALC REPORT:

Various consultation documents had been circulated to the Parish Council together with updates from LALC. The e - newsletter had also been circulated. In particular a consultation on the Government's Spending Review. As a response was required by 8th November 2022 this had been submitted direct to the Government. A copy of the response was circulated.

A member had indicated she would attend a LALC Training Course in November. However the course was full and her name had been included on the list for the next course. This would take place on 17th January 2023

The Annual Lancashire Parish and Town Council Conference was held on Saturday 12th November 2022 in The Exchange at County Hall, Preston. Details of the issues discussed were reported.

1082 .ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

(A) HIMALAYAN BALSAM PICKING.

Arrangements had been made with Ribble River Trust for a Parish Council Balsam pick on Sunday 30 July 2023

It was suggested that the area of the pick should be extended to Black Brook Farm. This would be discussed with the Trust

Full details would be publicised in the Parish Council Newsletter and on its Facebook nearer the time

(B). River Darwen Survey.

The Environment Agency would undertake a short project funded by them to look at the health of the River Darwen. The Agency wanted to know how local communities use the river and what improvements people would like to see. As the River Darwen was such a key local landmark for the residents of Hoghton Bottoms, the Trust had created an online questionnaire. A link to the survey was circulated. Also they had offered to talk about their ideas to the Parish Council..

Details would be published in the Parish Council's Newsletter and on its Facebook page.

(C).DAFFODIL BULBS - PLANTING:

Local residents were thanked for planting daffodil bulbs which had been donated by Chorley Council at the entrance to Chapel Lane.

1083 .HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). FOOTWAYS A675/STATION ROAD:

The footway paths along the A675 from the Boars Head to Hoghton Tower Cottages and along Jack Pits were overgrown and in places impassable. They needed weeding and clearing. This required extensive work to remove them.

The hedges and footpaths along Station Road also required similar work

The question of weed control on the pavements and gulleys in the Parish had

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been referred to Chorley.

They replied they had returned to using herbicides on all adopted roads as they found that treatment through the hot air kits or manual removal was not providing effective control. The treated weeds were often recovering with residents then contacting them for repeated treatment within a matter of weeks. They still aimed to keep glyphosate usage to a minimum so had moved to a product that contains approx. 1/3 the volume of glyphosate compared to herbicides previously used.

The situation with regard to verges on country lanes was mentioned and it was suggested that weed control be used sparingly as sometimes there was no vegetation left after spraying. This was environmentally unsound and it was felt that grass cutters should be used on rural verges so as not to affect wildlife.

The current procedure was being reviewed and alternatives sought. The issue Himalayan Balsam was also under review.

Chorley Council replied that there was some misunderstanding. They were not currently reviewing treatment for Himalayan Balsam. They would continue to treat by either manually pulling or herbicide application as required. They would continue to review weed treatment with view to identifying glyphosate free alternatives that provide similar levels of control. Their current responsibilities towards using herbicides were taken very seriously and only used fully trained and qualified staff who should be following best practice. This meant not spraying verges along country lanes or using the hand lance whilst driving the quad bike. Essentially they would only be treating the curbs edges, walls etc. along pavements and the roads. Grass verges along rural lanes that they were responsible for were cut using the tractor and flail

A recent example of the devastating affect of spraying herbicides was at the North West Electricity Substation site at Green Lane which had been sprayed for no apparent reason.

Chorley Council would be asked to investigate,

In October a Member had reported Chorley had been out spraying weeds by the Parish Church. They had been out twice in a couple of days. It was understood that this was current practice.

(B). FOOTPATHS :

Some work had been done to the footpath in Brindle Lodge.

The Footpaths Officer at the County Council and the Dog Warden at Chorley had been notified.

(C). STREET SIGNS:

Chorley were still to replace the sign by the Boars Head. The sign at The Straits had been replaced but a sign needed replacing at Station Road.

(D). SLOW DOWN SAVE LIVES RESOURCES:

An additional banner had been placed near the Post Office and the small signage put on the grass verges.

(E).STREET SCENE STRATEGY:

Officers from Chorley Council would attend the next meeting of the Parish Council on 16th January 2023 to discuss Chorley Council's Streetscene Strategy 2022-2025 as well as other related matters.

(F). ROAD MARKINGS - BOLTON ROAD/RILEY GREEN SWITCH ROAD:

The County Council had agreed to re paint the road marking but nothing had been done. They would be asked to expedite the matter.

(G).SPIDS - POLICY AND PROCEDURES:

The latest update on the County Policy regarding the use of SPIDS was circulated.

Following the recent site inspection of Hoghton Bottoms the deploying a SPID device to monitor traffic was discussed..

Whilst these were reasonably expensive and required a trained operative to erect LALC had three of these devices,

It was suggested that the possibility of using such devices at Valley Road should be explored as well as a location on Blackburn Old Road /Hoghton Lane.

The question of parking on Viaduct Road was raised this was considered a matter for the County Council police. It was understood a review of the issue was being undertaken by the County Council.

The County Council should also be asked to consider a 30 mph speed limit on Chapel Lane relating to the built up area.

(H).GRIT BIN VALLEY ROAD:

The bin was still to be replaced.

(I). WINTER SERVICE BRIEFING:

The current briefing note from the County Council regarding their winter service for highways was circulated.

(J). HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2023/24:

The County Council would be considering projects to be included in next year`s programme on 7th December and had asked Parishes to submit projects to be included in the Programme. It was agreed that a scheme to alleviate flooding on Private Road should be submitted as a project to be included in the Programme.

Members were requested to submit any further suggestions to the Clerk.

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(K). MOVING TRAFFIC OFFENCES:

The County Council was undertaking a 6 week Public Engagement exercise that would run until 26th November on their intention to apply for new powers to enforce moving traffic contraventions.

(L). STREET LIGHTING COLUMNS - ATTACHMENT:

The County Council had issued a statement of its policy relating to the attachment of objects to lamp posts. A copy was circulated.

(M).HOGHTON TOWER EVENTS:

At a previous meeting a Member had reported the problems with car parking for local residents arising from events at the Tower. The Land Agent for the Tower authorities was contacted. He had replied that The Hoghton Tower Preservation Trust wished to meet with representatives of the Parish Council regarding the issue on Friday 25 November 2022..

In the event that the Parish Council was able to attend the meeting, they wanted them to prepare an agenda to cover the comments that have been made about the events and circulate it in advance of the meeting so that the Preservation Trust were fully briefed and could respond.

The Parish Council was unable to meet on the date suggested and felt that having made their observations it was for the Tower Preservation Trust and police to resolve the issues.

(N).TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS:

Details of the temporary Closure of Station Road from 11`0clock on New Years Eve until 8`o clock on New Years Day to allow repairs to the level crossing and at Mintholme Level Crossing on 11th to 12th December at similar times to Station Road.

(O).PUBLIC REALM AGREEMENTS;

The Scrutiny Task Group at the County Council was undertaking a review of Public Service Agreements with District Councils. The Clerk would seek details of Chorley`s comments on the matter.

1084. .CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

Details of the matters affecting the Parish Council were reported including the proposals regarding car parking on the Flat Iron at Chorley, Grants to local organisations.

Details of the grants scheme would be put on Facebook.

0 1085. PLANNING REPORT:

(A).Decisions:

The following decisions had been made since the last meeting of the Parish Council:-

1.Barracks Farm Chapel Lane Application to discharge condition 6 (bat roost method statement and Natural England licence) attached to planning permission ref 19/00903/FUL(Conversion of existing farmhouse to 2 three bedroom dwellings)(App 22/010092/DIS).- Granted.

42. Fowler Close Single storey side extension/front extension (App No 22/009911/FULHH). - Granted.

3.Strathknoll Station Road Tree works to protected trees (Chorley Rural District Council TPO (Hoghton) 1969, (App no 22/00945/TPO) - Granted.

4.The Bungalow Ricroft Nurseries Quaker Brook Lane - Application for a certificate of lawfulness for an existing use in respect of condition no 2 attached to planning permission dated 20 /09/68 and condition no 1 attached to reserve matters consent ref 4/3/3456 (Site of a detached dwelling) restrictive occupancy conditions -agricultural -agricultural worker) - Granted..

5.103 Chapel Lane Part two storey /single Single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing conservatory) two storey side extension side extension and elevational alterations (resubmission of planning application ref22/00134/FULHH)(App no 22/00836/F ULHH) - Granted.

(B) APPLICATIONS.

The following applications had been received since the last meeting:-

1.Straits Farm The Straits Tree Works Chorley BC TPO (Hoghton) 1969 (App no 22/01100/TPO).

2.Ferndale Quaker Brook Lane Section Construction of replacement detached dwelling and detached garage following demolition of existing detached dwelling and detached garage (App no 22/01033/FULHH).

3.Thistle Brook House Riley Green Single storey front/side extension and garage. (App no 22/01033/FULHH).

4.Heatherdale Quaker Brook Lane Tree works (Chorley BC TPO) (1991).(App no 22/01057/TPO).

Details had been circulated to all Members and no comments had been received.

(C). PLANNING ARTICLE 16 AND PARAGRAPH Q:

Brindle Parish Council had requested a meeting with the Planning Officer at Chorley regarding their interpretation of the provisions of Article 16 and Paragraph Q of the planning regulations and it was suggested that this be a joint meeting with this Parish Council.

(D). M65 INDUSTRIAL PARK:

Proposals to construct an industrial park in Withnell which could have a significant affect on Hoghton were reported. Chorley Council would be asked for details.

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5311085; ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The Clerk reported the following accounts for payment .

1.A.Harkness	Clerk Salary and Expenses Quarter ended 30th September 2022	£932.76.
2.HMRC	Tax	£218.90
3.D. Metcalfe	Website Renewal	£43.48
4.Whitehead and Aldrich	Payroll Fees	£57.60.
5 5.T.Greenwood	Remembrance Day Wreath	£65.00
6 6. A.Harkness	Commemorative Roses	£78.50.
7.J.Savage	Road Safety Markings	£200.00.

The accounts were approved and cheques signed.

1086.BUDGET PROCESS:

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

1087. HALF YEARLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND ESTIMATES 2023/24:

A half yearly financial statement and report was circulated dealing with the Parish Council's Estimates for 2023/24 the report gave details of actual spending in 2020/21 together with an update of spending in the current financial year and set out the proposed estimated spending for 2023/24.

The Clerk indicated the amount of expenditure required if the Parish Council was to meet these targets and the anticipated balance at the end of the year.

The Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood reminded the Parish Council that last year they had agreed that the Clerk should receive an annual increase in his salary.

The Parish Council then decided what the precept should be for next year.

The financial statement was accepted

The Estimates were approved and the Parish Council's 2023/24 precept on Chorley Council remain the same as last year.This would be £6000.00. Including the Clerk`s annual salary increase of £300.00.

1088.WREATH LAYING CEREMONY SUNDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2022:

The Parish Council reviewed the arrangements for Remembrance Day.It was considered that the event should be better organised next year as the plans for this years were not suitable despite the police presence and provision of the wreath.Former Councillor Peter was thanked for arranging to fly the flag and would be asked to arrange for the fixing of the wreaths.

1089. LAND ADJACENT TO HOGHTON POST OFFICE:

Following correspondence with the Land Agent for the Tower Trustees and he had replied In the spirit of cooperation the Trustees were content to bear their own costs in the matter was not usual practice. However if the Parish Council required any professional advice the Council would need to bear their own costs. The Trustees wanted some recognition that they were dedicating the land and perhaps a small sign would be appropriate. The Trustees would like this publicising via local news networks,

The Legal Officer at Chorley Council had been asked for his views on this and for an estimate of costs involved,.

We need to know how much it would cost us and we should ask Chorley Legal Department for an estimate'

1090.CHRISTMAS 2022:

The current situation regarding the provision of a Christmas Tree and lights at the Pinfold and the Boars Head .

A 1091 .REPLACEMENT BENCH;

The Clerk reported the current cost of acquiring a bench to replace the one at Chapel Lane.

The revised cost was agreed and the order would be placed,

1092. COMMUNICATIONS:

Consultation documents from the CPRE had been circulated.along with details of the consultation by Chorley Council regarding Affordable Housing

T the County Council`s Member Grant Scheme were reported and the current situation regarding the Parish Council`s Facebook Page.

It it was agreed that the Facebook address be placed on future agendas.

. 10931.CIL HALF YEAR PAYMENT:

The half yearly CIL Payment of £1221.72 had been paid into the Parish Council`s bank account .

1094.BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW:

A A review of Parliamentary boundaries would commence on 8th November 2022;

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1095. CENTRAL LANCASHIRE LOCAL PLAN.:

Chorley Council was to consider Identified Local Sites at a special meeting in December and would then consult Parishes until February 2023.

1096.EVENT:

An event to discuss Lancashire`s Culture and Sport would be held on 30th November at 4.30 to 6.45p.m. at Chorley Town Hall.

1097.PLAY AND OPEN SPACES FUND:

The Parish Council had been notified of grants available from Chorley Council under this fund.details would be displayed on the notice boards.

1098.LANCASHIRE PARISH CHAMPION:

The current County Council Parish Champion Newsletter was circulated which gave details of grants available to Parishes.

1 1099. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 16th January 2023 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman of the Meeting (Councillor T. Greenwood) declared the meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

SIGNED

CHAIRMAN

16TH JANUARY 2023.

