

**HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF 1005TH MEETING
HELD ON 16TH OCTOBER 2006
AT THE VILLAGE HALL
PRESENT: -**

COUNCILLOR D. DICKINSON (CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLOR T. GREENWOOD (VICE CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLORS J.BALDWIN E. MILLER-CROOK J. PROCTOR T.SHARRATT, AND Ms M. URRY AND MR. T HARKNESS (CLERK).

The Parish Council welcomed back the Chairman and Ms Urry following their recent operations.

The Chairman and Councillor Ms Urry thanked the Parish Council for their get well messages.

112. 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.

113. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th September 2006 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

114. POLICING REPORT:

As the Community Beat Manager was not present no report on policing in the Parish was made. The Chairman reported details of the Police Authority Community Meeting on 2nd October at Brindle Community Hall to discuss Policing Priorities 2007/08.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) and Councillor T. Sharratt also commented on the meeting.

The Clerk reported that at the recent PACT Meeting discussion took place regarding Area

The Chairman of Wheelton Parish Council suggested that LAPTC might want to consider this.

The Parish Council view was that Parishes should not pay for police equipment and could not support the suggestion.

Councillor Proctor expressed his concern about the ongoing problem of speeding traffic on Hoghton Lane.

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The Clerk would write to the Police about the speeding problem.

115. LAPTIC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current Newsletter of the Association. He gave details of voting procedure at the Annual Meeting, the Community Ponds Warden Scheme, the latest advice on local speed limits and the study into the cost of providing services in rural areas.

The Clerk would acquire details of the Community Ponds Warden Scheme and local speed limits,

The Vice Chairman indicated that he would not now be able to attend the Annual General Meeting. The Parish Council authorised Councillor Ms Urry to vote on behalf of the Parish Council at the meeting.

The Chairman would attend the meeting of the Area Committee to be held on 27th October which would be about highway matters.

116 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:

Following the last meeting the Clerk had contacted the Area County Surveyor regarding the delay in carrying out work in Gib Lane.

He had replied that the branches etc obstructing the height sign fixed to the north side of the railway bridge have been trimmed, the pothole on Gib Lane filled in and the blocked gully cleaned out.

However, it had not yet been possible to trim the tree branches that were obstructing the footway near the "Boars Head" car park or to side back the footway from lamppost 16 to "Rowan Bank" but these works would be completed as soon as the necessary labour was available. This work was still to be done.

The hedge had been swept but the problem relating to the narrowness of the footway had not been solved. It was suggested that the hedge had overgrown and that the landowner be asked to cut the hedge back to its original line.

The Clerk would write to Mr. Forrester about this.

The street nameplate at the junction of the A675 had been relocated on 28th September 2006.

The leak had been reported again to United Utilities.

Another pothole had appeared under the railway bridge, this would be reported to the Area County Surveyor

(C). BUS STOP – RILEY GREEN:

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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 to Chorley Council about this.

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 Events Manager at Hoghton Tower had agreed that the Clerk should speak to the County Councillor about the delay in replacing the sign.

(F) NAMEPLATE – CHAPEL LANE:

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

(G). HEDGE – QUAKER BROOK LANE:

The Clerk had reported contents of the letter was reported from the occupier of Gatesgarth Quaker Brook Lane to the Arboriculturalist at Chorley about the Tree Preservation Order and asked the County Area Surveyor for his views on the roads safety aspects referred to in the letter.

The Arboriculturalist was investigating this and the Area County Surveyor had replied that he had visited the site and spoken to Mrs. Hide about the lack of a sight line when driving out of her driveway. However the sightline from driveway access to "Newlands" was also obstructed by the same hedge and he could not understand why they did not reduce the height of their hedge to improve their sightline.

Under the terms of the Highways Act 1980 he could serve Notice where a boundary hedge overhangs the highway and obstructs pedestrians, vehicles or the sightlines of highway users, but he could not use this legislation to get property owners to reduce the height of their boundary hedge to improve sightlines from accesses to other private properties. As there appeared to be a highway verge in front of "Newlands" which the hedge overhangs, he could serve Notice on them to trim their hedge back to the highway boundary, but it was unlikely that this would greatly improve the sightline problem. He regretted that he could take no effective action to resolve the problem.

The Chairman would meet the occupier of Newlands to discuss this matter with him.

(H). POTHOLE - CHAPEL LANE:

It was reported that there was a large pothole in Chapel Lane near Long Barn Row. The Area County Surveyor would inspect this and appropriate repairs undertaken.

(I). HOGHTON SIGNS:

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The concerns of a local resident regarding the newly erected Hoghton boundary signs had been reported to Chorley Borough Council and the Chairman informed the Parish Council of the current situation with regard to the changes to the name and signage throughout Chorley Borough.

Councillor Mille–Crook indicated that there was no Hoghton Boundary sign on Bolton Road and that the boundary sign from Feniscowles was obscured.

The Clerk would contact Chorley Council and the Area County Surveyor about these matters.

(J). 40.MPH SIGN BOLTON ROAD:

Councillor Miller-Crook reported that this sign required attention.

The Clerk would contact the Area County Surveyor about this matter.

(K). TELEPHONE EXCHANGE – STATION ROAD:

The land round the exchange had been tidied up but the BT owned land at the junction of Station Road had not the Clerk would contact BT about this.

(L). FOOTPATH –THE STRAITS TO ST. JOSEPH’S CHURCH:

Councillor Proctor reported that the footpath was overgrown and suggested that the scheme to lay stone chippings be completed.

The Clerk would contact the Community Service Agency about this.

117. CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT:

The Clerk reported on issues affecting the Parish Council.

118. PLANNING REPORT:

The Clerk reported that the application for the erection of conservatory to rear Hilltop Moulden Brow (app no 06/00793/FUL) had been refused.

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

1. Rear and side elevation 14 Viaduct Road for Mr. and Mrs McIntyre (app no 06/00973/FUL)
2. Single storey all weather garden Hoghton Arms Chorley Road for Pathfinder Pubs (App no 06/001081/FUL)

No observations were made on these applications.

It was also reported that there was no record of any application for residential development of land opposite the Boatyard.

119. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following accounts for payment.

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|-----------------|---|---------|
| 1. T. Harkness | Plaque for Bench | £38.95. |
| | | |
| 2. Village Hall | Room Rental August and September 2006 | £18.00 |
| | | |
| *3.Brinscall | Supply and Fitting of Commemorative Bench | £182.13 |

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| Building and Plumbing Merchants | | |
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* Payment made in accordance with the authorisation approved under urgent matters at the meeting in July 2006.

The Accounts were agreed and the cheques were signed.

120. HALF YEARLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

The Clerk submitted a half-yearly financial statement (circulated) to 30th September 2005 indicating deposits of £7716.76 and expenditure of £3351.74 leaving a balance of £4138.97. A forward projection of expenditure to the year-end would amount to £5311.26 and give an estimated balance of £2379.45.

The financial statement was accepted referred to the Independent Financial Auditor and the Accounts Book was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

121. BOROUGH PARISH LIAISON – MEETING HELD ON 19TH JULY 2006:

Councillor Ms Urry gave a report on the meeting held on 19th July 2006 and the Clerk reported that the next meeting would take place on 18th October 2006.

The Chairman and Councillor Ms Urry would attend the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.

122. WREATH LAYING CEREMONY SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2006:

The Parish Council had received an invitation from the Churchwardens of Holy Trinity Church for the Parish Council to attend the Remembrance Day Service. The arrangements for the wreath laying ceremony were as in previous years. The party would assemble on the car park of Holy Trinity Church leaving at 9.50 a.m. to walk in procession down to the cenotaph for a short service. After the Act of Remembrance the party would return to the church for the service at 10 30 a.m. The Chairman of the Parish Council would read a lesson during the service. Councillor E Miller Crook would arrange for the wreath. The Clerk had contacted Mr Ormerod to ask him to tidy up the War Memorial before the Remembrance Day Service and would contact the de Hoghton Estate regarding the use of their temporary car park .

The Mayor of Chorley had also invited representatives of the Parish Council to the Remembrance Day Service in Chorley. In view of their attendance at the Hoghton Ceremony the invitation was declined.

123. PINFOLD:-

The Council's Insurers had confirmed that the Pinfold was covered by under the public liability section of the policy but not the property damage section. He had contacted them to discuss this with them and was awaiting their response.

The work to the damaged wall following the car accident had been completed and paid for by the vehicle owner's insurers.

Members felt that the work had not been completed in its entirety. The Clerk had would discuss this with the contractor.

With regard to that part of the site which was used by a local resident for a private garden with the permission of the Parish Council. The County Council had advised

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the Parish Council to seek independent legal advice and check to see if the land had been registered to the property with the Land Registry.

The Clerk would contact the Land Registry and then speak to the resident regarding the status of the land.

The only concern the County Council would have, was if someone felt that they could not exercise their rights on their village green because of the garden and at present this did not appear to be the case.

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the another part of the wall at Pinfold was unsafe and had required urgent treatment at a cost of £383.00 following discussions with the Chairman he had asked Mr. Whiteside to do the work.

The Parish Council agreed to delegate power to the Clerk to arrange for a cheque to be signed subject to satisfactory completion of the work.

124. POST BOX – GIB LANE:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that Royal Mail had now stated that the post box would not be replaced. He had objected to this on behalf of the Parish Council and had asked for the post box to be replaced.

Royal Mail did not agree to this request. He had therefore notified the MP and the County Councillor to ask for their help in getting the box replaced.

The Vice Chairman submitted a petition of objection from local residents and this would be forwarded to Royal Mail, the local MP and County Councillor Mrs. Livesey.

125. AIR AMBULANCE – LETTER OF THANKS.

The Air Ambulance North West had sent a letter of thanks for the donation given by the Parish Council.

126. LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE. – CAROL SERVICE:

The Fire and Rescue Service had invited the Parish Council to the Family Carol Service at Blackburn Cathedral on Wednesday 6th December 2006. The Parish Council accepted the invitation and the Clerk would inform the Fire and Rescue Service of those Members attending

127. CHORLEY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK HOUSEHOLDER DESIGN GUIDE;

The Parish Council was consulted on this guide the objective was to assist householders when applying for extensions to property and raise standards.

128. TRANSPORT ACCESSIBILITY STUDY.

The Head of Planning and Regeneration was carrying out a study to identify areas of the borough where people found it difficult to go food shopping and use services such as health and leisure facilities employment and education. They had identified five barriers in accessing services. These were:-

1. The availability and physical accessibility of transport
2. Cost
3. Services and activities located in inaccessible places.
4. Safety and security.
5. Narrow travel horizons.

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The Parish Council gave consideration as to whether there were areas or categories of people who might be experiencing social exclusion.

The main problem identified related to disabled access particularly to public buildings in Chorley. This concern would be reported to Chorley Council.

129. GIRL GUIDES – APPLICATION FOR GRANT:

This proposal was deferred to the next meeting.

130. LANCASHIRE LOCAL CHORLEY:

The next meeting would be held on 24th October 2006 at St. Georges Hall Chorley at 6.15.p.m. The Chairman had been invited to attend.

131. CHORLEY CIVIC SOCIETY AWARD:

The Vice Chairman reported on the Awards Ceremony he had attended Civic along with Councillors E. Miller–Crook and T. Sharratt and Mrs C. Price at the Town Hall on Thursday 28th September 2006. Councillor Sharratt stated that I that he intended to present a framed photograph commemorating the event to the Parish Council for display at the Village Hall.

The Parish Council thanked Councillor Sharratt for his kind donation.

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132. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 20th November 2006 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall

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