

**MINUTES OF 1092ND MEETING OF  
HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 20TH OCTOBER 2014  
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).**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS L. LUCAS AND M. GREEN AND TWO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

**1. COUNCILLOR D. DICKINSON:**

The Parish Council welcomed back the Chairman (Councillor D.Dickinson) following his recent illness.

**2. COUNCILLOR J.BALDWIN:**

The Parish Council also welcomed back Councillor J. Baldwin following his recent illness.

**3. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:**

An apology for absence was submitted from Councillor M.Watson.

**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. No one made a declaration at this stage.

**5. MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 15th September 2014 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**6. ADJOURNMENT:**

**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 MATTERS:**

**STATION ROAD:**

The Members of the Public raised concerns regarding the site lines at the junction of Station Road and the A675 Blackburn Old Road and the problems relating to the

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sign advertising the Sirloin Public House.

The Clerk explained the current situation regarding this.

He would contact the County Council regarding the site lines and the Enforcement Officer at Chorley Council regarding the advertisement sign.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER MATTERS THE PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED WITH THE BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA.**

### **7. POLICE REPORT:**

#### **(A). NEWSLETTERS:**

The Police circulated a copy of the current newsletter which indicated that there had been one reported incident in Houghton during September/October.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) reported on the Police Air Support PACT Meeting held on 16th October 2014.

#### **(B). CONSUMER ALERTS – TRADING STANDARDS:**

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

### **8. LALC REPORT:**

The Clerk reported details of the current newsletter. He also submitted a copy of the LALC Annual Accounts for 2013/14.

### **9. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:**

#### **(A). FLOODING - CHAPEL LANE :**

Councillor Peter reported the current situation regarding attempts to speak to the relevant officer at the County Council regarding the structure of the drain near Barracks Farm on Chapel Lane.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) would speak to County Councillor Devaney regarding this matter.

#### **(B). SAMLESBURY FINGER POST SIGN:**

Chorley Council had agreed to replace the sign and it would be erected in the next six weeks.

#### **(C). FOOTPATH 44:**

Councillor Ms Urry reported that whilst broken stiles had been repaired they were not suitable for use by the elderly, disabled and children.

Councillor Sharratt stated that when he was a County Councillor he had campaigned for the replacement of step stiles on public footpaths with kissing gate stiles and this had been accepted.

Councillor Peter asked if this was now County Council policy.

The Clerk would ask the County Council regarding the provision of kissing gate stiles where possible on public footpaths in the Parish.

#### **(D). CRIPPLEGATE LANE- POND:**

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) reported on the progress at the pond.

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Councillor Peter reported that he had been told that a large log was obstructing vehicular traffic. This was located just after Hazel Cottage.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) would investigate this matter and notify the Clerk.

### (E). HEDGE - STATION ROAD:

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) reported that the overgrown hedge had been cut back.

### (F). BLOCKED GULLIES:

At a previous meeting Councillor Sharratt reported that the gullies on the A675 Blackburn Old Road from the railway bridge to the Straits were blocked.

The County Council had indicated that once it rained the gutters would be cleared of silt.

Councillor Baldwin was of the opinion that this had been done.

The Clerk would check this with the County Council.

### (G). RESURFACING BLACKBURN OLD ROAD:

At the last meeting Councillor Ms Urry had reported that a section of the carriageway from the War Memorial to Lane Side Farm had not been completed during the recent resurfacing work.

The Clerk had contacted the County Council about this.

Councillor Ms Urry reported that no work had been done and the problems was getting worse. The edge of the resurfacing work was breaking up and was becoming more extensive. It now extended to the Parish Church and was also occurring on both sides of the road. It was a hazard for cyclists and motorcyclists.

The Clerk would contact the County Council again about this.

### (H). QUAKER BROOK LANE:

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) reported that a local resident had asked about the current situation regarding the introduction of the 20mph limit and also asked for better signing indicating the Lane is unsuitable for HGVs similar to the one at Hoghton Bottoms. She asked if they could be sited past the entry to Beeston Manor and at the junction near the Post Office.

She also suggested that some signs had wording on them warning vehicles not to follow their Satellite Navigation Systems as the road was unsuitable for certain vehicles.

The Clerk would contact the County Council about these matters.

Councillor Peter asked whether the weight restriction order was still in force.

The local residents also mentioned that a similar order existed in Station Road.

The Clerk would ask the County Council about these orders.

## 10. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) reported on the Council proceedings.

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### **11. PLANNING REPORT:**

#### **(A). DECISIONS.**

The Clerk reported that he had not been informed of any decisions on applications since the last meeting.

#### **(B). APPLICATIONS:**

The Clerk reported that the following applications had been received since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

##### **(1). LONGSTEPS STATION ROAD - AMENDED PLANS:**

Following the last meeting when residents had raised concerns about traffic and highway safety the Parish Council had supported the local residents and notified Chorley of the objections to the proposal and suggested that this could set a precedent for further expansion.

Since then two minor amendments had been made to the application neither of which had changed the Parish Council's views.

The Clerk reported the current position regarding the application and Members of the Public commented on it.

The Clerk had informed Chorley of their continuing objections to the development.

##### **2. Felling of 4 Oak Trees and their replacement covered by TPO 42 Fowler Close (App no 14/01009/TPO) Applicant Apex Tree Works.**

Details had previously been circulated to all Members of the Parish Council and no observations had been made.

The Clerk had informed Chorley Council.

##### **3. Removal of tree branches and reduction in height of Oak Tree Heatherdale Quaker Brook Lane. (App no 14/01033/TPO) Applicant Mr Allen.**

Details have been circulated to all Members of the Parish Council and The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) reported that a local resident had commented that her view was that the Lane's appearance was greatly enhanced by the Oak Trees which were particularly beneficial to wildlife.

He commented that only one tree was involved.

The Parish Council made no observations on the application. The Clerk would inform Chorley Council.

##### **4. Erection of two/part single storey side/rear extension The Glen Gib Lane (App no 14/01056/FUL) Applicant Mr Ralph.**

Details had been circulated to all Members of the Parish Council.

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The Parish Council made no observations on the application. The Clerk would inform Chorley Council.

### **(C). SIGN - SIRLOIN:**

At the last meeting the Member of the Public present reported that the landlord of the Sirloin had erected a very large sign at the junction of Station Road and wished to know if planning permission was required.

The Clerk had contacted Chorley for their views on the sign and to determine whether planning permission had been granted.

The Enforcement Officer had visited the site and confirmed that planning permission was required and a retrospective application had been requested.

Further developments were awaited.

Previously Councillor Ms Urry had asked about the decking at the front of the Sirloin and the Clerk reported that a retrospective application was required.

She asked what progress had been made. The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) informed the meeting that currently no application had been submitted.

The Clerk would ask Chorley whether any progress had been made on the issue.

### **(D). MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN NEWSLETTER:**

The Clerk circulated a copy of the newsletter.

### **(E). CHORLEY LOCAL PLAN - SITES FOR TRAVELLERS:**

The Clerk reported that he had been notified of changes to the Local Plan to include a site for travellers at Cowling Chorley. The Parish Council were asked for their observations. No comments were made.

## **12. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:**

The Clerk submitted the following accounts for payment

1.Hoghton Village Hall	Hire of Room July and September 2013	£20.00
*2.Douglas Tonks Ltd	Clerk Salary and Expenses July - September 2014, Payroll Administration*	£634.02

\* Direct Debit

## **13. HALF YEARLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT:**

The Clerk submitted a half-yearly financial statement (circulated) to 30th September 2014 indicating deposits of £9265.04 and expenditure of £2480.00 leaving a balance of £6785.04. A forward projection of expenditure to the year-end would amount to £8808.00 and give an estimated balance of £461.00.

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The financial statement was accepted and referred to the Independent Financial Auditor. The Accounts Book signed was by the Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) the Vice Chairman (Councillor T.Greenwood) and Clerk.

Councillor Ms Urry reported that at a recent meeting she had attended she had been informed that following the combination of the litter and dog waste bins there would no longer be a rental charge for dog waste bins as all bins were emptied on a fortnightly basis.

The Clerk would note this when preparing the Council's Estimates.

### **14. BUDGET PROCESS:**

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

### **15. AUDIT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2013/14:**

The Clerk reported that the Annual Audit of the Accounts for 2013/14 has been completed and a minor issue relating to the grant element had been highlighted.

He explained the reasons for error.

The completion of the audit had been publicised and following the introduction of new audit arrangements no fee was payable.

The audit opinion was noted and the Annual Return approved and adopted.

### **16 REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WORK:**

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) reported that the benches in the bus shelters at the Boars Head were currently being repainted and submitted the estimate of cost of repairing the damp problem in one of them.

The estimate was accepted and the Clerk would arrange for the work to be put in hand.

### **17. WAR MEMORIAL:**

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting he had contacted the Local MP about the lack of response from the War Memorials Trust about the assessment on the suitability for grant. They had now responded to the effect that a grant application could be made.

The Clerk reported on the next steps in the procedure and indicated that grant applications were considered quarterly the next being the end of December 2014.

It was felt that the work involved meant that applying for a grant in December was not feasible and it was agreed to make an application in March 2015.

The De Houghton Estate would also be asked for an early decision on the question of ownership.

Councillor Ms Urry agreed to process the application, the Clerk would contact specialist Companies regarding a structural survey and consideration would be given to the type of work to be undertaken following the survey

### **18. NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT :**

The Clerk reported that National Savings and Investments had requested that the authorised signatories to the account should be updated.

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He submitted a declaration form and the Parish Council authorised the Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) the Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) and the Clerk (Mr. T. Harkness) be the signatories to the Parish Council's National Savings Account. Councillors J. Baldwin, N. Peter and Ms M. Urry were the three Members who signed the Declaration Form.

### **19. THREE TIER LIAISON MEETING:**

Councillor Ms Urry reported on the meeting of the Forum held on Wednesday 17th September 2014 at the Town Hall Chorley.

### **20. CHAMPION FOR RURAL AREAS - CHORLEY COUNCIL:**

The Clerk submitted a letter from District Councillor Whittaker following his appointment by Chorley Council.

### **21. WREATH LAYING CEREMONY SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2014:**

The Parish Council had been informed that the Police considered that a Temporary Closure Order was required for the section of Blackburn Old Road A675 which would be used during the Remembrance Day Service.

The Clerk was consulting Chorley Council about the order.

### **22. ANNUAL COMMUNITY SAFETY CONFERENCE:**

The Clerk submitted an invitation to this Conference to be held at Chorley at Chorley Town Hall from 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on 29th October.

### **23. EQUALITY FORUM:**

Councillor Ms Urry reported on the meeting of the Forum which she had attended earlier. In particular she referred to the introduction of a Meals on Wheels Scheme by Chorley Council and the change to the name of the Forum which would be known as the Equalities Group in future.

### **24. VILLAGE HALL:**

The Clerk submitted a letter from the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee requesting financial support from the Parish Council by increasing the annual precept by a penny per household per day. This would mean householders paying an extra £3.65 a year to support the Village Hall.

The Parish Council debated the issue and Councillor Sharratt suggested they seek a grant from the local County Councillor.

It was felt to agree to this would set a precedent for other organisations to make similar requests for financial support.

The Parish Council was asked whether they were prepared to increase the precept as requested by the Management Committee to make an annual contribution to the Village Hall.

The Parish Council unanimously declined the request.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) and the Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) declared an interest in this item being representatives on the Village Hall Management Committee and did not vote on the matter.

### **25. REVIEW OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY:**

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the Lancashire County Council was starting work on a revised Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) for Lancashire. They would be consulting on the draft in due course but in the meantime if

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any consultee wished to make a representation to support the assessment of need they would take this into account when preparing the draft.

### **26. EASTERN PARISHES - PROJECTS:**

The Clerk reported that the new Neighbourhood Team Manager had requested the Parish Council to identify projects in the Parish to be undertaken under the Neighbourhood Initiative.

The Parish Council felt that projects be undertaken at the War Memorial , the provision of a Story Board at the Pinfold and the Village Hall.

### **27. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Monday 17th November 2014 at 7.45.pm at the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) declared the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

**SIGNED  
CHAIRMAN**

**17TH NOVEMBER 2014**