

# **MINUTES OF 995TH MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 19TH SEPTEMBER 2005 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

## **PRESENT: -**

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

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE ONE MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC.**

### **81. MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th July 2005 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **82. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST:**

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct the Clerk asked if any Member wished to declare an interest in any matter to be considered by the Parish Council at the meeting. No one declared an interest.

**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 MATTER: -**

### **83. SERVICES FROM THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL:**

The Member of the Public present expressed is dissatisfaction with the current level of services provided by the County Council and Chorley Borough Council for the people of Hoghton. There had been a distinct lack of action in keeping the area tidy, there was a problem with speeding traffic and a lack of policing. The introduction of the new refuse collection arrangements by Chorley had resulted in a decline in the service.

The Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council responded to the comments and agreed to relay these concerns to the appropriate authorities.

**84. LAPTC REPORT:**

The Clerk submitted the current Newsletter of the Association. He also reported details of the Association AGM. Notification of delegates and details of any resolutions to be considered at the Annual Meeting were required by 14 October 2005. A proposed workshop on planning issues was to be held on 8 October 2005 at Preston College Fulwood. The cost was £55.00 per delegate. Details of two further evening training courses were reported.

Councillor Sharratt suggested that a resolution should be sent to the AGM exhorting the County Council to persist in its efforts to remove ragwort from roadside verges.

(1) The newsletter was accepted and the Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) was appointed the Council's delegate to the Annual General Meeting of LAPTC to be held on 5th November 2005.

(2) The resolution relating to Ragwort would be forwarded to LAPTC for consideration at the AGM.

**85. OVERGROWN FOOTWAYS:**

The Clerk reported that he still had not had any response to the Parish Council's request for a site visit from the Lancashire Highways Partnership (Area County Surveyor) about the state of the overgrown footways on Hoghton Lane and Gib Lane.

(1) The Chairman as a matter of urgency would speak to Mr Walsh at the Lancashire Highways Partnership (Area County Surveyor) to express again the concern of the Parish Council about the state of the footways and the need for urgent action and to request a site visit.

(2) Members of the Parish Council would be informed of the date of the site visit.

**86. TRAFFIC SPEEDS – HOGHTON LANE:**

The Chairman reported that County Councillor Mrs Livesey had informed him that the Environment Department at Lancashire County Council would be discussing the question of speeding traffic in Hoghton in the autumn and a decision on what action to take would be made in the spring of 2006.

Councillor Proctor referred to the fact that the location of speed cameras were reported each week in the Lancashire Evening Post and to the comments made by a Royal Mail Delivery driver to the Post Office in Hoghton Lane suggesting that the 40MPH limit should be extended beyond the Post Office.

The Parish Council agreed to await further developments.

**87. EXIT ROAD M65 HOGHTON ARMS ROUNDABOUT:**

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Reference was made to the lack of road markings at this roundabout and that there was no warning of the end of the slip road from the Motorway. It was also reported that the road markings on the M65/M6 were worn and required repainting.

The Clerk would write to the Highways Agency about these problems.

**88 CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT:**

The Chairman presented a report on issues affecting the Parish Council.

**89. PLANNING REPORT:**

The application for the erection of single storey rear extensions at 103 Chapel Lane (App no 05/00668/ FUL).had been granted.

Two applications had been submitted since the last meeting these were:-

1. Road level parking spaces with under storage access from lower garden Land diagonally opposite 22 Viaduct Road (App no 05/00780/ FUL). .

No observations were made on the application.

2. Formation of access road and car park and erection of grave diggers store and toilet Methodist Chapel in Chapel Lane (App no 05/00813/FUL).

The Chairman reported that the second application had since been amended.

He also reported that new arrangements had been made for the Planning Service in Chorley from October 2005 and that the Planning Department had been combined with Economic Regeneration. The Head of the new department would be Jane Meek the present Head of Economic Regeneration

It was agreed that the Jane Meek be invited to a future meeting of the Parish Council to discuss planning issues in the Parish.

**90. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:**

The Clerk submitted the following account for payment.

T. Harkness	Clerk Salary and Expenses June – September 2005.	£378.81
CPRE	Annual Subscription 2005/6	£25.00

The Parish Council agreed to pay these accounts and the cheques were signed.

**91. LIAISON MEETING BOROUGH/PARISH COUNCIL:**

The Chairman reported that following the Liaison meeting on 13th July 2005, the Chorley Area Committee had complained about the lack of communication with the

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Planning Department at Chorley. The Borough Council had called a special meeting regarding planning issues. The meeting would be held on 21st September 2005.

The Chairman would attend on behalf of the Parish Council and report to the next meeting.

**92. REVISED REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE:**

Following the comments made at the last meeting relating to the revised arrangements for the collection and recycling of rubbish by the Borough Council the Clerk had contacted Chorley and he submitted a response which had been submitted to Brindle Parish Council but which was relevant to this Parish Council.

The Members indicated that despite the response they were still concerned about the adequacy of the service.

Councillor Sharratt referred to the operation of the refuse collection service in other areas and felt that it would be helpful if there was standardised practice in all authorities.

**93. POLICE PRESENTATIONS:**

The Clerk reported that the Lancashire Constabulary at Chorley were arranging a Crime Awareness Day on 11th October 2005 in Chorley and a Bogus Official Presentation on 17 November 2005 at a venue to be decided. They had requested support from Parish Councils regarding the staging of the event on 17 November and that the local branch of the Women's Institute and Mother's Union should be notified.

The Clerk would consult with representatives of the Village Management Committee with view to offering to stage the Bogus Official Presentation at the Village Hall, the Chairman would attend the Crime Awareness day at Chorley and the local branches of the Mothers Union and Women's Institute and any other interested organisation would be informed about the presentations

**94. LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT DRAFT YEAR THREE ACTION PLAN:**

The Clerk reported that the Lancashire Fire and rescue Service had submitted its year three action plan relating to integrated risk management and responses were required by 11th November 2005.

No comments were made on the Plan.

**95. CHORLEY AND SOUTH RIBBLE COMPACT:**

The Clerk submitted details of the local compact signed by Chorley and South Ribble Borough Councils South Ribble NHS Primary Care Trust and local voluntary, community and faith sectors. The Compact was an agreement that committed its participants to improve relations for mutual advantage. It was a practical framework document which set values, principles and commitments as to how the various

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partner organisations could best work together with and for the local community. It was launched on 9 July and a steering group would monitor progress on the achievement of its goals. To improve relations between the local bodies, voluntary and faith groups to mutual advantage.

Copies of the Compact were circulated.

**96 BLACKBURN AND DARWEN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a consultation document on the Blackburn and Darwen Draft Statement of Community Involvement. Comments were required by 30th September 2005. The document was about how Blackburn and Darwen Planning Department intended to consult people about planning in the Borough including the deciding of planning applications. It set out a procedure for consultation on planning applications.

The Consultation Document was noted.

**97 SOUTH RIBBLE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a consultation document on the South Ribble Draft Statement of Community Involvement. Comments were required by 20th September 2005. The document was about how South Ribble Planning Department intended to consult people about planning in the Borough including the deciding of planning applications. It set out a procedure for consultation on planning applications.

The Consultation Document was noted.

**98 CHORLEY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:**

The Clerk submitted the work programme chart in connection with the Chorley Borough Local Development Framework. Documents were also submitted regarding the submission to the Secretary of State regarding the public consultation procedure in connection with the local development framework.

The timetable and submission documents were noted

**99. CHORLEY DRAFT CUSTOMER FOCUSED ACCESS AND SERVICE DESIGN STRATEGY:**

The Clerk submitted the consultation document dealing with the Borough Council's proposals for making the Council more accessible efficient and proactive for its customers. The Borough Council wished to see that the effective delivery of services particularly in rural communities.

The initiative was welcomed.

**100. PROVISIONAL LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN FOR LANCASHIRE 2006/11:**

The Clerk submitted details of the plan which would replace the current plan from next year its objectives were to develop detailed transport proposals at local level i.e. County Council/District Council level. There were seven objectives  
Reduce Road Casualties

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Improve Access to jobs and services.  
Improve Air Quality  
Improve the transport infrastructure  
Reduce Delays on Journeys  
Increase journeys by bus and rail  
Increase active travel

The most important points from the Parish Council's point of view were the improvement of access to jobs and services, reducing delays and interactive travel this they meant bicycle routes and improved footpaths for walking both including recreational use.

No comments were made on the consultation document

**101. PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT FOR CHORLEY AND SOUTH RIBBLE  
2004:**

The Clerk submitted for the information of the Parish Council the Chorley and South Ribble Primary Care Trust Annual Report on the health of the population of Chorley and South Ribble in 2004.

The report was noted.

**102. CAMPAIGN FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES:**

The Parish Council was asked to support the bill going through Parliament which aims to force the Government to help to reverse the decline in local communities. A draft resolution was submitted.

The resolution was supported and the Clerk would notify the appropriate organisations of the agreement of the Parish Council.

**103. AUDIT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2004/05:**

The Clerk reported that the Annual Audit of the Accounts for 2003/04 had been completed and that no issues had been highlighted.

It was now necessary to publicise the completion of the audit and he would take the required action. A fee of £50.00 plus VAT was payable for the audit.

It was agreed to accept the report and the audit opinion was noted and the Annual Return approved and adopted.

The Fee was of £50.00 plus £8.75 VAT was accepted and a cheque signed.

**104. CPRE CAMPAIGN AGAINST GOVERNMENT HOUSING PROPOSALS:**

The Clerk submitted details of the CPRE campaign against the Government's proposals to make changes to the planning system to allow for the building of more houses.

The Parish Council supported the campaign.

**105. INSPECTION:**

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The Chairman and Clerk had made a health and safety risk assessment inspection of the notice boards and benches on 8th September 2005. Following the inspection the Clerk had written to Care Village about the repair of the notice boards and the treating of the wooden slats on the benches.

Discussions took place about the adequacy of some of the notice boards in view of the number of notices appearing on them.

The Clerk would write again to Care Village requesting an estimate for the provision of larger notice boards particularly the one near the Post Office and at Riley Green.

**106. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION:**

The clerk reported that he had been notified of the winners in this competition.

**107. STANDING ORDERS AND CHAIRMANSHIP:**

The Clerk had enquired about the cost of acquiring copies of the booklet issued by NALC they were £6.00 each.

The Parish Council felt that the Chairman and Clerk should have a copy of the booklet each and as these were already in the possession of the Clerk no further copies should be obtained

**108. APPLICATION FOR GRANT:**

The Houghton Branch of the Women's Institute had requested a grant towards the cost of a project commemorating life in Houghton during 2004/05 and to mark the 85th Year of the Women's Institute nationally.

The Parish Council agreed to make a grant of £65.00 towards the project.

*(Councillor Proctor declared a non prejudicial interest in this matter in respect of his wife being a member of the Women's Institute)*

**109. WATER QUALITY – RIVER DARWEN:**

Councillor Sharratt reported that he had attended a meeting on the Ribble Catchment Area organised by the Mersey Basin Campaign at which improvements to the River Darwen had been discussed. He asked if the Parish Council had been notified of the meeting. The Clerk had not been told.

The Clerk would write to the Mersey Basin Campaign to ask them to put the Parish Council on its mailing list for future meetings

**110. WAR MEMORIAL:**

The Clerk would write to Care Village to ask them to tidy up the war memorial before the Remembrance Day Service and make any other arrangements regarding the service.

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**111. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Monday 17th October 2005 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.