

**HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF 1004TH MEETING
HELD ON 18TH SEPTEMBER 2006
AT THE VILLAGE HALL
PRESENT: -**

**COUNCILLOR T. GREENWOOD (VICE CHAIRMAN IN THE CHAIR)
COUNCILLORS J. PROCTOR AND T.SHARRATT, AND MR. T HARKNESS
(CLERK).**

81 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were submitted from The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) and Councillors J. Baldwin E. Miller-Crook and Ms M. Urry and Pc Evans (Community Beat Manager).

82. CHAIRMAN – COUNCILLOR D. DICKINSON:

The Vice Chairman informed the Parish Council that it was hoped that the Chairman would be out of hospital later this week.

The Parish Council wished him a speedy recovery.

83. COUNCILLOR Ms M.URRY:

The Parish Council was informed of the recent illness of Ms Urry.

The Clerk would write to Ms Urry on behalf of the Parish Council to wish her a speedy recovery.

84. 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.

85. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 17th July 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.**

86. POLICING REPORT:

As the Community Beat Manager was not present no report on policing in the Parish was made. The Clerk reported details of the Police Authority Community Meeting on 2nd October at Brindle Community Hall to discuss Policing Priorities 2007/08. The Parish Council commented that whilst the appointment of the Community Beat Manager was welcomed it was felt that even more resources should be used to create a better police presence in the area.

The latest edition of the Police and Community Newsletter was distributed.

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The Vice Chairman referred to the recent acts of vandalism at the Village Hall and his discussions with the Police on the matter. It was also reported that the Community Beat Manager was hoping to have office accommodation at several locations throughout the area.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) and Councillor T. Sharratt would attend the Police Authority Community Meeting on 2nd October.

87. LAPTC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current Newsletter of the Association. Details of any resolutions to be considered at the Annual Meeting were required by 29th September 2006. Details of future training courses and the 2005/06 Accounts of the Association.

He also reported on the meeting of the Area Committee held on 27th June, and the special meeting on 20th September 2006 to review planning issues. The October meeting would be about highway matters.

Councillor Sharratt referred to the recent Government announcement relating to a review of speed limits on country roads.

The Parish Council welcomed the proposals and agreed that if the issue of speed limits was debated at the Annual Meeting of LAPTC the Parish Council Delegates be authorised to speak in support of the matter.

88. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). TRAFFIC SCHEME – HOGHTON LANE:

There was nothing further to report on this scheme at present. Detailed design work was underway and the Environment Director at Lancashire County Council expected to be able to go to public consultation later this year.

(B) GIB LANE:

Members of the Parish Council had met the Area County Surveyor on 21st August 2006 when it was agreed that the following work would be carried out-

1: Cut back trees and hedge branches that were obstructing 30MPH sign on Gib Lane opposite Cripplegate Lane.

2: Side back the footway on the west side of Gib Lane from lamp post 16 to Rowan Bank.

3: Clean out the blocked carriageway gully on the west side of Gib Lane south of the railway bridge.

4: Infill the pothole on the southbound side of Gib Lane, south of the railway bridge (the pothole would be infilled quickly but more extensive permanent repairs would have to wait until similar highway repairs were programmed in the area at a later date).

5: Trim growth from trees on highway verge on north west side of Gib Lane which was obstructing the footway (from entrance to Boars Head car park to No. 1 Gib Lane).

It was anticipated that the above works would be completed at an early date.

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The tree branches that were obstructing the height limit sign fixed to the north side of the railway bridge would be trimmed but due to the difficulties in undertaking the work this would take more time to organise.

The relocation of the street nameplate at the junction of the A675 was still under investigation.

The leak had been reported again to United Utilities.

The Borough Council had been asked again to deal with the general condition of Gib Lane in particular where the footway was overgrown with brambles and pedestrians were being forced to walk in the road.

The Clerk would write again about the timing of the work, the relocation of the street nameplate the repair of the leak and the general condition of the footway.

(C). LAND ADJACENT TO THE BOARS HEAD:

This area of land had been sold to Mitchell and Butlers Breweries and Mr. Forrester on behalf of the de Hoghton Estate had contacted the new owners asking them to tidy up the land.

(D). BUS STOP – RILEY GREEN:

The Environment Directorate's Transport Co-ordination Section who had notified the Clerk that the bus stop had been replaced. It did not appear that this was the case. The Clerk would write again about this.

(E). TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE:

The level crossing at Mintholme would be closed on Sunday 12th November to Monday 20th November 2006 between the hours of 1.00 a.m. and 5.00 a.m. to upgrade the level crossing.

An alternative route would be signed via Gregson Lane, Hillhouse Lane Sandy Lane, and Hoghton Lane and vice versa.

(F) PUBLIC FOOTPATH:

The public footpath leading down to the canal at Riley Green was overgrown. The Clerk would write to the Footpaths Officer at Lancashire County Council about this.

(G). HOGHTON TOWER INFORMATION SIGN. - BRINDLE BAR:

The Events Manager at Hoghton Tower had notified the Clerk that the replacement sign was on a list of signs awaiting replacement by the County Council.

(H) NAMEPLATE – CHAPEL LANE:

Councillor Miller – Crook had reported a damaged sign to the Clerk and Chorley Borough Council had been informed and asked to replace it.

(I). HEDGE – QUAKER BROOK LANE:

A letter was reported from the occupier of Gatesgarth Quaker Brook Lane referring to the high hedge adjoining her property which obscured the vision of traffic entering or leaving the house. It was suggested that a tree located in the hedge was subject to a tree preservation order.

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The Clerk would contact the Arboriculturalist at Chorley about the Tree Preservation Order and ask the County Area Surveyor for his views on the roads safety aspects referred to in the letter.

(J). TELEPHONE EXCHANGE – STATION ROAD:

The land round the exchange needed tidying up and the Clerk would contact BT about this.

(K). POTHOLE - CHAPEL LANE:

It was reported that there was a large pothole in Chapel Lane near Long Barn Row. The Clerk would notify the Area County Surveyor.

(L). HOGHTON SIGNS:

The Vice Chairman reported the concerns of a local resident regarding the newly erected Houghton boundary signs. The Clerk would ask Chorley Borough Council why the Parish Council had not been consulted about the design of the signs.

89. CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT:

The Clerk reported on issues affecting the Parish Council.

90. PLANNING REPORT:

The Clerk reported that the following applications had been granted

1. Rear conservatory at 6 Bell Villas (app no 06/00603/FUL)
2. Erection of rear conservatory, 8 Willowfield Chase (App no 06/00670/FUL)
3. Change of use of existing disused stable block to visitor reception/shop etc Houghton Tower Blackburn Old Road (Apps nod 06/00292/LBC and 06/00293/COU respectively).
4. The retrospective application for erection of two floodlights on overflow car park Boars Head Hotel Blackburn Old Road (App no 06/00323/FUL) had been withdrawn
- 5 The application for a change of use of existing barn to farm workers cottage Home Farm Houghton Lane (app no 06/00309/COU).was refused on the grounds that the site is in the Green Belt and no special circumstances were demonstrated in support in that it was not proven that there was a functional need for a second dwelling.

Reference was made to a possible application for residential development on land opposite the Boatyard. The Clerk would look into this.

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91. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following accounts for payment.

1. T. Harkness	Clerk Salary and Expenses June – September 2006	£403.40.
2. CPRE	Annual Subscription	£26.00

The Accounts were agreed and the cheques were signed.

92. 1000TH MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL - BENCH:

The cost of partially clearing the site by Mr Ormerod was £75.00. The remainder of the work had been done by Mr. Whiteside for £356.00; the bench had been delivered and erected at a cost of £175 plus VAT. The accounts were agreed and cheques were signed.

Arrangements are now being made for the plaque to be made.

92. PINFOLD:-

The damaged wall had been repaired the cost would be met by insurers of the car driver. had agreed to the cost of repairing the This work had now been carried out.

The clearing and maintenance work to the Pinfold had been carried out by Mr. Ormerod at a cost of £288.00. It was also suggested that area be sprayed with weed killer to avoid the amount of clearing required in the future. The account was agreed and a cheque was signed.

The Parish Council agreed this suggestion and considered that the land should be maintained three or four times a year. The Clerk would discuss this with Mr. Ormerod.

The County Council had confirmed that the site was designated as common land.

Part of the site was used by a local resident for a private garden with the permission of the Parish Council and concern was expressed that if the property was sold in the future this land could be sold as well.

The Clerk would discuss the situation with the County Legal Officer and then write to the local resident about the land.

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the Pinfold was not insured under the Council's Insurance Policy. Steps would be taken to ensure the Pinfold was covered by the Council's Insurance.

It was also reported that the local scout group would be picking some of the fruit from the fruit trees for a charity event. Councillor Ms Urry had offered to let the Scouts have some of the fruit from her orchard should there not be sufficient from the Pinfold. Councillor Ms Urry was thanked for her offer and the Clerk would contact the Scouts about this.

94. POST BOX – GIB LANE:

The stolen post box in Gib Lane replaced the Clerk had written to Postwatch about this as well as the Royal Mail and the local MP.

95. WAR MEMORIAL:

The war memorial had been inspected by the Conservation Officer at Chorley A scheme had been prepared, specialist contractors had been asked for estimates and permission from the de Hoghton Estate to do the work.

When available the estimates would form part of an application to English Heritage.

In the meantime it was felt that regular tidying up of the site should be carried out from within the Council's resources. This work could be included in the Maintenance Contract proposed for the Pinfold.

Mr. Ormerod had carried out some work to the War Memorial at a cost of £71.00. The account was agreed and a cheque was signed.

Councillor Sharratt referred to the County Council Scheme of grants to help local community organisations and that it may be a possible source of funds towards the refurbishment of the War Memorial. The Clerk would look into this.

96. LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY:

A guide for Parish Councils for improving the local environment prepared by the Tidy Britain Group was submitted for information. Copies of the Litter and the Law publication were circulated.

97. GAMBLING ACT:

The Clerk submitted a letter from the Chief Executive at Chorley indicating that the Borough Council would become the licensing authority for this Act.

It was agreed that the Borough Council be asked to consult the Parish Council on issues relating to the licensing of premises.

98. CHORLEY AND SOUTH RIBBLE PRIMARY CARE TRUST:

The Clerk submitted the current newsletter and the 2005/06 Public Health Report from the Chorley and South Ribble Primary Care Trust.

99. LANCASHIRE LOCAL TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL PROTOCOL:

The Senior District Partnership Officer – Chorley had submitted a draft protocol and asked for comments.

In January 2006 a response had been sent to the Draft Parish and Town Council Charter and the views expressed in that correspondence was appropriate to the views regarding the Protocol.

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

This matter was deferred until the next meeting.

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101. CHORLEY BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2006/07

The Clerk submitted this plan for information.

**102. 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 15th November 2006.

No comments were made on the Plan.

103. AUDIT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2005/06:

The Clerk reported that the Annual Audit of the Accounts for 2005/06 had been completed and that no issues had been highlighted.

The completion of the audit had been publicised and he had taken the required action. A fee of £50.00 plus £8.75 VAT was payable for the audit.

It was agreed to accept the report note the audit opinion and approve and adopt The Annual Return

The account was agreed and a cheque signed.

104. CHORLEY CIVIC SOCIETY AWARD:

The Civic Society had commended the Parish Council for its support of Action Darwen Valley project at Hoghton Bottoms. The letter of commendation would be presented by the Mayor of Chorley at the Town Hall on Thursday 28th September 2006. The Vice Chairman and Councillors E. Miller–Crook and T. Sharratt would attend.

Councillor Sharratt suggested that Mrs C. Price who took a lead role in the cleaning up of the River Darwen be asked to attend also give a brief resume of the project and accept the letter of commendation.

The Clerk would make the arrangements.

105. CLOSURE OF MASSEY HALL SCHOOL THELWALL WARRINGTON:

The Parish Council had been asked for its comments on the suggested closure of this school which catered for children with special needs. It was a residential secondary school and took pupils from all areas within Lancashire.

The closure was noted.

106. GRANT – NORTH WEST AIR AMBULANCE:

The Air Ambulance North West had requested a donation. It was agreed to donate £100.00 to the Air Ambulance and a cheque was signed.

107. LANCASHIRE OLDER PEOPLE STRATEGY – CONSULTATION:

The Clerk submitted consultation document about this strategy prepared by the Lancashire Partnership for comments. The Strategy was endorsed.

108. COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME:

Community Cars was a Lancashire County Council supported scheme providing door to door service for people who could not use public transport.

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The County Council was launching a new campaign to recruit more volunteer drivers from within the local community and had asked the Parish Council to promote the campaign.

109. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION RESULTS;

The results of the competition were circulated.

110. DUMPING OF RUBBISH:

A refrigerator had been dumped in the hedge in Cripplegate Lane. The Clerk would report this to the Refuse Collection Service at Chorley.

Reference was also made to the publicity given to the siting of a skip on the Village Hall Car Park on 9th September 2006. The Clerk would discuss this with the Borough Council.

111. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 16th October 2006 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.