

DRAFT MINUTES OF 1026TH MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 15TH SEPTEMBER 2008 AT THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: - COUNCILLOR D. DICKINSON (CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLORS J. BALDWIN, N. PETER, J. PROCTOR, T.SHARRATT, Ms M. URRY AND MR. T HARKNESS (CLERK).

69. ELECTION OF CO-OPTED MEMBER:

All the Members of the Parish Council with the exception of Councillor J. Proctor who was not present at the interviews declared an interest in that they knew at least one of the candidates, having declared this interest the selection process continued

Two of the three candidates did not attend and following the interview of the third Mr. N. Peter was appointed to serve as a Co-opted Member of the Parish Council for the period ending May 2012. Councillor Peter then joined the Parish Council. Arrangements would then be made for him to sign a declaration of acceptance of office.

Councillor Ms Urry wished her dissentient vote to be recorded.

70. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:

An apology for absence was submitted from The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood).

71. 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 declared an interest at this stage.

72. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21st July 2008 have been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

73. ADJOURNMENT:

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

74. POLICE REPORT:

Copies of the Lancashire Police newsletter were circulated. Councillor Sharratt referred to the duplication regarding the Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings and the Police and Communities (PAC) meetings. It was reported that following the October meeting of PAC these would cease.

Councillor MS Urry reported she had not been successful in appointment to the Police Authority. Councillor Peter reported on police training in the Finnington area.

75. LALC REPORT:

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The Clerk submitted the current Newsletter, which included details of a Training Course on Chairmanship and a workshop on issues affecting Clerks. There was an additional work shop arranged for 29th October on Planning costing £20.00. Copies of the Associations Annual Accounts were circulated.

He also reported on the legal topic note dealing with the power under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to call the Parish Council a parish council or a community council or a neighbourhood council or a village council. The Parish Council agreed to retain its existing title.

76. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). TRAFFIC SCHEME – HOGHTON LANE:

The scheme was due to be completed by 1st October and Councillor Ms Urry reported on comments which had been made to her regarding the red markings near the bus stop at the Boars Head and that a slow sign and a stop sign were still to be erected. The right turn into the Village Hall car park was also mentioned. It was agreed to await completion of the scheme before commenting further.

(B). LAND ADJACENT TO THE BOARS HEAD:

Councillor Sharratt reported that the County Council had informed him that the responsibility for the removal of the rubbish was that of the Brewery. The problem had been raised during the Ward Walk on 11th September 2008. Chorley Council had agreed to look into this

(D) GIB LANE - POTHOLES:

The Clerk had contacted United Utilities who had inspected the drainage system and found that it was not the cause of the running water. They had suggested blocked culverts or land drainage systems and the Clerk had contacted the Area County Surveyor about this.

Councillor Ms Urry asked about the delay in the resurfacing work from Roach Bridge to Gib Lane this was due to the weather conditions. The Chairman reported that several potholes in Gib Lane had been filled in recently.

(E) FINGER POST SIGNS:

The finger post sign at the Boars Head was currently being repaired.

(F) FOOTPATH – BRINDLE LODGE:

Councillor Proctor reported that following the recent heavy rain the footpath needed attention. This would be reported to the Footpaths Officer.

(G) INFORMATION SIGNS - RILEY GREEN:

The County Council had indicated that the sign was the responsibility of Hoghton Tower/and Blackburn with Darwen Council. Councillor Peter reported that Mr.Forrester was dealing with this on behalf of the Hoghton Tower Estate. The Clerk would contact these organisations and ask what action was proposed.

(H) BUS SHELTER - THE STRAITS:

The Chairman would speak to Chorley about providing sides to the bus shelter .this.

(I) RESURFACING OF HIGHWAYS.

The County Council's current programme of resurfacing work did not contain anything in Hoghton. It was agreed to consider suitable projects for road resurfacing in Hoghton and that the County Council would be asked to put these in a future

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programme. Councillor Ms Urry reported that some resurfacing work had taken place at Lane Side Farm on Hoghton Lane.

(J) STREET LIGHT THE STRAITS:

The Chairman reported that the street light had still not been fixed.

(K) GRASS VERGES – WAR MEMORIAL:

The Area County Surveyor had been asked to explain why the verges either side of the War Memorial had been left when the grass verges on Hoghton Lane were cut.

Councillor Peter referred to the standard of cutting which had taken place and for the need to undertake spraying to prevent weeds.

(L) LANCASHIRE LOCAL – HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT;

The Clerk reported that Lancashire Local on 17th September was to consider a scheme to resurface the carriageway and footway and rekerbing of Riley Green Switch Road Bolton Road to Finnington Lane A6061. The cost was estimated at £376,000.

77. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman reported on issues affecting the Parish Council and in particular he mentioned that as part of the Neighbourhood Working proposals in Chorley he had undertaken a Ward Walk in Brindle and Hoghton on Thursday 11th September 2008 where he had been asked to identify issues of concern in these Parishes. With regard to Hoghton he had raised the problem regarding maintenance of the Pinfold the clearance of the land at the Boars Head and the future of the Village Hall and the general untidiness of the Parish.

Councillor Proctor reported that some street sweeping had taken place recently. It was agreed that Chorley Council should arrange street sweeping before judging takes place on the Best Kept Village Competition and also before Remembrance Sunday.

78. PLANNING REPORT:

A. DECISIONS

The following decisions had been made by Chorley Council on the applications reported since he last meeting of the Parish Council.:

1. Change of use of shop and forecourt to residential Cleveland Filling Station Station Road App no 08/00532/COU Applicants Mr. and Mrs. Murray. **Approved.**
2. Erection of a first floor extension to create bedroom, en suite and the erection of a single storey rear sunroom 61 Chapel Lane App no 08/00616/FUL. Applicants The de Hoghton Estate. **Approved.**
3. Revised application to raise the ridge height to create first floor accommodation, erection of rear dormer and demolition of external staircase and repositioning of existing porch 1 Viaduct Road App no 08/00498/FUL Applicants Mr and Mrs Redfearn . **Approved.**
4. Felling of Beech Tree covered by TPO. No 1(Hoghton) 1969 Woodleigh Station Road App no 08/00566/TPO Applicant J. Benson. **Approved.**

B. APPLICATIONS

No applications had been received since the last meeting.

(C) FINNINGTON LANE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE:

The Chairman reported that an application to demolish existing buildings erect 5 office units with ancillary residential use , erect 5 affordable housing units, form new access to Finnington Lane ,landscaping new road and parking areas including provision of washroom/WC building for canal boat users. Finnington Lane Industrial Estate App no 08/00796/FUL/MAJ Applicant Mark Swindlehurst A decision was awaited.

79. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following accounts for payment

1 T. Harkness	Clerk – Salary and Expenses June – September 2007	£419.07
2. CPRE	Annual Subscription 2007/08	£28.00

The Accounts were agreed and the cheques signed.

80. CHEQUE SIGNATURES:

The Clerk circulated an Additional Party/Party Removal Form for signature by the Members who were being added to the list of those who could sign on behalf of the Parish Council. On completion it would be submitted to the bank for verification and their agreement would be awaited.

81. ELECTION FEES:

The Clerk reported that he had received the invoice from Chorley Council for the administration of the uncontested election in May. It amounted to £434.75 and provision for this had been made in the Parish Council's 2008/09 Estimates. The Parish Council wished to record that it deplored this charge. The invoice was reluctantly agreed and a cheque signed.

82. BUDGET PROCESS:

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

83. PINFOLD:

The Chairman reported that he had been advised by Chorley Council on the legal status of the Pinfold and that it was correct for it to be designated a village green and not common land, and that the Parish Council was responsible for the Pinfold and that any structures on or adjoining were also its responsibility. The present condition of the pinfold was mentioned on the Ward Walk and Chorley Council would review the matter.

Councillor Peter referred to the planting of trees on the site and the presence of a culvert. The Parish Council noted this and agreed to await further developments

84. DOGS – 55 CHAPEL LANE:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the landlord had visited the premises and found no reason to take any action on the situation.

85. CHORLEY EQUALITY FORUM:

Councillor Ms Urry reported on the meeting of the Chorley Equality Forum on 10th September 2008. Following her comments Councillor Sharratt suggested that she

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attend the next meeting and if this is unsatisfactory the Parish Council should consider withdrawing its representation.

86. CODE OF CONDUCT:

The Clerk submitted information relating to the Code of Conduct submitted by Chorley Council. This included confirmation of the Membership of the Parish Council an invitation regarding Parish Council representation on the Chorley Standards Committee, the Complaints Form, the Standards Mentoring Scheme and the latest advice on declarations of interest. The Clerk also circulated details of the training session held at Chorley Town Hall in July 2008

Councillor Sharratt had been appointed the representative of Brindle Parish Council on the Chorley Standards Committee and the Chairman had agreed to Councillor Sharratt also representing Hoghton. He referred to correspondence from Chorley regarding Membership of the Standards Committee. The Chairman would seek clarification of this issue.

87. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT:

The Clerk had circulated the current newsletter relating to the introduction of the Act. The Local Works Organisation had asked Parish Councils to request District Councils to opt in to the provisions of the Bill.

The request of the Local Works Organisation was supported and District Councillor Dickinson was asked to convey the views of the Parish Council to the Chief Executive at Chorley.

88. EARLY DAY MOTION - PARISH COUNCILS;

The local MP had tabled an Early Day Motion in Parliament offering thanks to Parish Councils in Chorley for the work they do and acknowledging the important work they did. The information was noted.

89. PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES:

The signed copies of the Minutes from May 1990 to June 2004 to March 2008 had been placed at the County Records Office. He also reported on what Parish Council documents were deposited at the Records Office. A copy of the list would be circulated to all Members.

90. PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE:

The Co-operative Insurance Society and the Norwich Union had offered to submit a quote for providing the Parish Councils Insurance. The Clerk would seek quotations early in 2009 and submit them to the Parish Council.

91. LANCASHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY PERFORMANCE REPORT AND ACTION PLAN 2008:

The Clerk submitted this report for the information of the Parish Council which outlined the Fire Authority Performance over the past year. provided an updated risk profile and explained proposed changes to service delivery.

92. PARISH CHARTER:

The Clerk submitted the draft Parish Charter and made observations on the initiative. Comments were required by 17th October and the Charter would be approved at the Special Conference of LALC on 8th November 2008. Members were invited to comment and submit them to the Clerk. The Chairman would submit the comments of the Parish Council to the Association.

93. AUDIT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2007/08:

The Clerk reported that the Annual Audit of the Accounts for 2007/08 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.

94. DEVELOPMENT OF LANCASHIRE LOCALS;

The Leader of Lancashire County Council had informed the Parish Council of the intention to review the role of Lancashire Locals. The proposals included developing and strengthening including how much they could spend and on what. The County Council also wanted to expand their role to include links with the Local Strategic Partnership and the Community Partnership. Detailed consultations would take place during October.

95. LANCASHIRE CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD

The Board was to hold its annual question and answer session on the work of the Board on Tuesday 21st October 2008 at 6.00 p.m. The Parish Council had been invited to the event .Councillor Sharratt agreed to represent the Parish Council.

95. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 20th October 2008 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25. p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

20th October 2008