

# **MINUTES OF 1036TH MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2009 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT: - COUNCILLOR D. DICKINSON (CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLOR T. GREENWOOD (VICE CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLORS J. PROCTOR, T.SHARRATT, AND Ms M. URRY AND MR. T HARKNESS (CLERK).  
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: MR. J. PEET – NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER CHORLEY AND ONE MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC**

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors J. Baldwin and N. Peter.

## **2. 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.

## **3. MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 20th July 2009 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **4. ADJOURNMENT:**

**THERE THEN FOLLOWED AN ADJOURNMENT TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO RAISE ISSUES AND QUESTION THE PARISH COUNCIL REGARDING MATTERS DEALT WITH. THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT RAISED THE FOLLOWING MATTER: -**

### **HOGHTON LANE - TRAFFIC SPEEDS:**

The Member of the Public raised the problems he had encountered relating to traffic speeds on Hoghton Lane particularly near his property and by the bend near Quaker Brook Lane. Councillor Ms Urry informed him that the Parish Council had considered this issue on many occasions and it had been discussed frequently with the County Council and the police. Particularly when the traffic scheme was implemented in May 2008.

Councillor Sharratt indicated that this matter had been raised both at a public meeting and at the Lancashire Local – Chorley but no reduction in the speed limits had been agreed. However, the County Council had agreed to review the speed limits in 2011.

The Member of the Public was also concerned about the manoeuvring in and out of his property and informed the Parish Council that the traffic mirror opposite his property was obscured by trees. The Chairman knew the residents on whose land it was sited and would contact them about cutting back the trees.

Following the last meeting the Chairman had invited the new County Councillor to the meeting but he was unable to attend he had agreed to attend a future meeting.

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Councillor Proctor referred to the monitoring of traffic speeds by the police. The Clerk had contacted the Road Safety Partnership regarding the use of mobile speed cameras on this road.

He had been informed that each year the Partnership considered a list of roads in the County where it was intended to provide mobile speed enforcement cameras. Hoghton Lane was not on the list during the current year. The Clerk had asked the Road Safety Partnership to consider putting Hoghton Lane on this list next year.

**5. POLICE REPORT:**

In the absence of the Police the Clerk circulated a copy of the police newsletter for August 2009 which showed that there had been three reported incidents of crime during the period.

He had also previously circulated the summer issue of Dialogue the Police Authority Magazine, copies of the Police Pledge, Neighbourhood Policing Policy and details of the Smart Water Crime Preventative.

Councillor Sharratt referred to an issue and the lack of a response from the police.

**6. LALC REPORT:**

The Clerk submitted the current Newsletter which included details of the Annual Conference the Annual Accounts, a questionnaire relating to devolved government and various training seminars.

**7. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:**

**(A). SIGNS – HOGHTON LANE:**

The branches of a tree which obscured the speed limit sign at Park Gates had been reported to the County Council Highways Department for action but no action had been taken. The Clerk would contact the County Council about this again.

**(B). FOOTWAY – PARK GATES:**

The footway at Park Gates had been damaged during recent highway repair work.

The County Council had been asked to re-instate the footway.

**(C) FOOTPATH – BRINDLE LODGE:**

The Public Rights of Way Supervisor was looking to see if there was funding to undertake a more substantial surface for the path.

**(D) SALT BINS:**

The County Council had completed its assessment of the current state of salt bin provision, and a report on this would be submitted to the November meeting of the Lancashire Local – Chorley. There was concern that the bins at Hoghton Bottoms would not be replaced before the winter.

The Chairman would speak to the Chairman of the Lancashire Local – Chorley about this.

**(D) DOG BIN – HOGHTON BOTTOMS:**

The Dog Warden at Chorley had met the landowner and agreed his request that the dog bin be relocated. A site meeting had been held and the revised location agreed. It was expected that the work would be carried out shortly

**(E) LITTER PICK:**

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A litter pick and gulley cleaning exercise had taken place at the end of July. Councillor Proctor reported that the Parish was as untidy as ever.

Councillor Sharratt felt that there was a disparity of provision of services between the urban areas of Chorley and rural areas. He considered that rural areas were entitled to the same provision as the centre of Chorley.

Chorley Council should be asked to carry out more regular cleansing of the Parish.

The Neighbourhood Officer would make a fortnightly check on the tidiness of the Parish and arrange for more frequent litter picks if required.

**(F) HOGWEED - FINNINGTON LANE:**

Following a complaint by the Chairman that hogweed was growing on Finnington Lane the County Surveyor had placed an order for its removal on 2nd July 2009.

The Chairman would look to see if the weed had been removed.

Councillor Sharratt referred to the hogweed on land adjacent to the Boars Head car park. The Chairman would also investigate this.

**(G) HEDGES – CHAPEL LANE:**

The Chairman had received a complaint that the hedges in Chapel Lane needed cutting back as people had to walk in the road and cars were going over into the wrong lane. The Clerk had contacted The County Council and the enquiry has been logged and forwarded to the Highways Inspector for investigation. Hedges vested within the Highways Authority would be pruned as required.

It was also reported that most hedges along the highway were under private ownership and in these cases the Highway Authority could not take arbitrary action on private property. The Highway Authority must service notice of at least 21 days on the owner of the offending property, giving them notice to remove the danger. If they did not respond positively within the prescribed period the Highway Authority could do the work and charge them.

The Vice Chairman reported that work was ongoing regarding the cutting back of the hedges.

**(H). DUMPING OF RUBBISH – PRIVATE ROAD:**

Chorley Council had removed the rubbish in Private Road following a request from the Chairman.

**(I) FOOTPATHS - HOGHTON BOTTOMS:**

Councillor Sharratt reported that in May 2009 he had informed the Parish Council that the County Council had proposed a solution to the problem of Footpaths at Hoghton Bottoms. It was hoped to do the work in the summer. He had put up notices informing people of the repair work.

He had now been informed that the footpath closures had been extended to February 2010 he did not know why the repair work had been delayed. He had displayed notices to that effect.

The Chairman would speak to County Councillor Devaney to see why the delay had occurred.

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**(J). TRAFFIC SURVEY:**

Councillor Ms Urry reported that a traffic survey had been carried out at Riley green but she was not aware of the reasons.

The Clerk would contact the Environment Directorate about this.

**8. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:**

The Chairman reported on issues affecting the Parish Council.

**9. PLANNING REPORT:**

The following decisions on the undermentioned applications had been taken since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

**DECISIONS:**

1. Erection of a single storey front and rear extension Newlands Quaker Brook Lane App no 09/00477/FUL Applicants – Mr and Mrs Heeney. Withdrawn

2. Proposed replacement dwelling Gatesgarth Quaker Brook Lane App no 09/00572/FUL Applicants – Mr McDonnell. Withdrawn

3. Provision of balcony at second floor level to the west facing elevation Higher Mill Viaduct Road App no 09/00506?FUL Applicant Mr. Mathias. Approved.

4. Installation of underground sewage treatment plant and associated infrastructure at rear of graveyard to serve occupants of former Sunday School Chapel Lane. App no 09/00520/FUL Applicant Mrs N. Kellett. Approved.

**APPLICATIONS:**

The following applications had been received since the last meeting of the Parish Council and details had been circulated to all Members.

1. Pruning of 2 Oak Trees covered by TPO 1 (Hoghton) 1969 24 Fowler Close App no 09/00589/TPO Applicant Mr. Deakin.

2. Felling and pruning of trees covered by TPO 1 (Hoghton) 1969 42 Fowler Close App no 09/00501/ TPO Applicant Mrs Anderson.

3. Listed Building Consent for internal alterations and refurbishment to grade 11 Building Lane Side Farm Blackburn OLD Road App no 09/00661/LBC, Applicant The de Hoghton Estate.

No observations were made on these applications.

**(C). REVIEW OF BIODIVERSITY DUTY:**

The Clerk reported that DEFRA was undertaking a review of the duty of local authorities under the Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. The report was noted.

**(D). LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – COMMUNITY SURVEY:**

The Chorley Preston and South Ribble Councils were preparing a plan for Central Lancashire and had previously sought suggestions for sites for housing and commercial development. The Team Co-ordinator was now seeking suggestions for sites which were suitable for other uses such as public open space cemeteries

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community uses, education and health care facilities. The Chairman referred to the opposition to developments in the Green Belt

No sites were identified for other uses. However it was felt that the Co-ordination Team should be reminded of the need to retain the Green Belt and that the Parish Council is opposed to any development in it.

### **(E). NORTH WEST PLAN PARTIAL REVIEW:**

The Clerk submitted consultation documents dealing with this review. The consultation period was until 19th October 2009. The partial review was mainly concerned with the provision of sites for Travellers and revised car parking criteria.

The Parish Council reiterated its view that the Green Belt should be preserved and no developments allowed within it.

### **10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:**

The Clerk submitted the following accounts for payment

1 T. Harkness	Clerk – Salary (£312.50) and Expenses (138.27) June – September 2009	£450.77.
2. CPRE	Annual Subscription 2009/10	£29.00
*3. Harry Fowler Joinery	Provision of extra boards to rear of notice board near Post Office <i>The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion thereon but did not vote on this matter.</i>	£70.00*
*4. P. Whitehead Stone Mason	Cleaning of War Memorial base and repainting of plaques	£200.00*

\* Prior payment approved by Clerk in consultation with Chairman.

The Accounts were agreed and the cheques signed.

### **11. AUDIT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2008/09:**

The Clerk reported that the Annual Audit of the Accounts for 2008/09 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 £120.00 plus £18.00 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.

### **12. GRANT APPLICATIONS:**

#### **(A). GUIDES:**

The Clerk submitted a request from the Houghton District Rainbow Guide Leader for a contribution towards their Centenary Event. They had also submitted a request to the appropriate County Councillor for a grant under the County Council Scheme of Local Awards.

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A grant of £50.00 was agreed and a cheque signed.

**(B). CHORLEY AND SOUTH RIBBLE SHOPMOBILITY:**

The Clerk submitted a request from the Secretary of this scheme for a grant.

A grant of £50.00 was agreed and a cheque signed.

**13. PINFOLD:**

The Parish Council was informed that under the Neighbourhood Action Plan Chorley Council were of the opinion that the Parish Council was applying for adverse possession of the site. They had also allocated £1.500 for the tidying up of the site.

The Chairman reminded the Parish Council that discussions were taking place with the de Houghton Estate regarding the lease of the land by the Parish Council and that it had not applied for adverse possession.

If the land was not leased by the Parish Council the grant allocation could be lost.

The Neighbourhood Officer would look into the timescale involved in the development of the scheme for the tidying up of the land.

The Parish Council agreed to secure the long term future of the Pinfold as soon as possible. The Estate's Land Agent would be approached about this.

**14. VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK:**

The Clerk reported on the legal position regarding the public use of the car park. The Vice Chairman explained the action currently taken by the Village Hall Management Committee regarding the use of the car park by visitors to the Hall.

The Clerk would inform the Village Hall Management Committee of the position.

*The Vice Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) declared an interest in this matter took part in the discussion thereon but did not vote on this matter.*

**15. NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN – BRINDLE AND HOGHTON:**

The Clerk reported on the current position regarding the implementation of the plan. The Neighbourhood Officer would send an update of the programme to the Clerk.

A further information exchange event would take place on 22nd October at 6.p.m. at the Town Hall Chorley. The Chairman and Councillor Ms Urry would attend.

**16. CHORLEY STANDARDS COMMITTEE/STANDARDS BOARD NEWSLETTER:**

The Clerk reported that Chorley Standards Committee would offer training in the autumn on the revised Code of Conduct. The Committee had appointed District Councillor Mrs C. Hoyle as the mentor for Houghton and she would be attending a future meeting of the Parish Council.

The Annual Report of the Standards Committee was also circulated.

The Clerk also circulated a copy of the current Standards Board newsletter for information.

Councillor Sharratt referred to the Newsletter and in particular mentioned the paragraph on written apologies and the section on intimidation.

**17. SELRAP NEWSLETTER:**

The Clerk submitted the current newsletter. He reminded the Parish Council that they had previously agreed to sign a petition and send it to the Number 10 website.

The petition stated “If this line was re-opened there would be a direct link to Manchester and Preston, thereby potentially removing hundreds of cars from the roads. This 11.5 mile line was closed in the 1970s.”

The Parish Council had received an acknowledgement and a reply to the effect that the Department for Transport had agreed to work with Pennine Lancashire partners to develop a process to take forward the Colne to Skipton Rail Reinstatement, through the Pennine Lancashire Multi Area Agreement

But ultimately, Lancashire County Council, North Yorkshire County Council working alongside the Government regions of the North West and Yorkshire and Humberside would need to decide if the re-opening of the Skipton – Colne line was the best way to meet local transport needs, and to prioritise capital funding from the Government’s Regional Funding Allocation to the regions.

The newsletter and the response to the petition were noted.

**18. FINNINGTON LANE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE:**

The Clerk reported the current position regarding the clearing up of the site. The Neighbourhood Officer was looking into the dumping of rubbish and other activities at the site and the Chairman reported that the planning application to develop the site had been withdrawn.

The police would be asked again to monitor the speed of traffic on Finnington Lane.

**19. LANCASHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY PERFORMANCE REPORT AND ACTION PLAN 2009:**

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.

**20. PARISH CHAMPION:**

Councillor Sharratt reported that a new Parish Council’s Champion had been appointed by the County Council and he suggested that he should be invited to a future meeting of the Parish Council to discuss issues of concern.

The Parish Champion was congratulated on his appointment and invited to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

**21. LANCASHIRE LOCAL- CHORLEY:**

The Clerk reported on matters affecting the Parish Council from the meeting of the Lancashire Local held on 16th September. 2009. In particular he reported the comments of the Highways Authority regarding the speed limits on the B5256 (Sandy Lane) and Dover Lane where they adjoined the A657 Blackburn Old Road following the observations made by Councillor Sharratt. He also reported that the traffic survey of rural roads was being carried out and the speed limit on Finnington Lane was being reduced to 50 mph.

Councillor Ms Urry asked if the proposed imposition of a 30 mph limit on rural roads had been introduced. It was understood that these proposals were contained in a

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White Paper issued by the Government in 2007 but nothing further had occurred since then

**22. LEADERSHIP COURSES:**

The Neighbourhood Action Team had sent details of community leadership courses. These were noted.

**23. NHS QUESTION TIME:**

The Clerk circulated a notification of this event in the Lancastrian Suite at Chorley Town Hall on 14th October 2009 at 6.30 p.m.

**24. PLAYGROUND AUDIT:**

Chorley Council was undertaking a wholesale review of play area provision across the borough. This piece of work would consider the future of current sites as well as examining the future delivery of new sites and the potential for partnership working.

They were also seeking information on the usage and value of non-council play areas.

The Clerk would submit copies of the Audit Questionnaire to local community sports groups for reply to Chorley.

**25. BOROUGH /PARISH LIAISON:**

The Clerk reported the next meeting of the Liaison Committee would be held in the Town Hall Chorley on Wednesday 14th October 2009 at 6.30 p.m.

The Chairman and Councillor Ms Urry would attend.

Councillor Ms Urry noted that this clashed with the NHS Question Time Event. The Clerk would raise this with Chorley Council.

**26. REFUSE COLLECTION:**

The Clerk reported the latest position regarding the refuse collection service following a site meeting with the Contractor.

Details of a contact officer had been agreed and had been published on the Parish Council Notice Boards.

Councillor Greenwood (Vice Chairman) reported on the arrangements for the collection of refuse at Cripplegate Lane. Councillor Ms Urry asked why the Assisted Collection Scheme for Residents had not been implemented in this case. Councillor Greenwood stated that this was due to health and safety concerns and the accessibility of Cripplegate lane.

**27. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Monday 19th October 2009 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35. p.m.

**SIGNED  
CHAIRMAN**

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