

MINUTES OF 1047TH MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 20TH SEPTEMBER 2010 AT THE VILLAGE HALL

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

Also in attendance – County Councillor M. Devaney.

1. COUNCILLOR MS URRY:

The Chairman reported that Councillor Ms Urry was to have an operation on her wrist at the end of the week.

The Parish Council offered her their best wishes for a successful operation and a speedy recovery.

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. No one made a declaration at this stage.

3. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19th July 2010 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. AS THERE WERE NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT THE PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED WITH THE BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA.

5. POLICE REPORT:

The Clerk circulated the police newsletters for July and August which indicated that there had been two incidents of reported crime during the period July to August 2010 and one reported incident in August.

In July a business property was damaged overnight on 02 – 03 July, a male is currently on bail for these pending further enquiries.

Overnight on July 10th some roads around the Houghton area were spray painted with graffiti, the council did attend the following day and the graffiti had been removed.

The Boatyard broken into overnight 16th July and a number of flat screen televisions were taken; the police were currently waiting for forensics result.

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In August the scout hut at Chapel Lane was damaged by 2 local youths. The youths had been dealt with.

Councillor Sharratt suggested that it would be useful to receive more information from the Police as to the outcome of their enquiries into the incidents.

It was further reported that at the August PACT Meeting that the Police Community Beat Manager Evans was to go on a 9 week training course, which could lead to a new assignment. So for the next 3 months PCSO Appleton would be responsible for policing in the area.

PCSOs were to meet with senior staff in August 2010 to discuss their future. Local Authority funding for PCSOs was in place only until October 2010.

The outcome could be that PCSOs were made redundant. This had already happened in some divisions. However, Greater Manchester Police were to retain all their PCSOs.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) referred to the current staffing levels of PCSOs in Chorley

The Clerk would try to ascertain the situation regarding the employment of PCSOs.

The Police Wildlife Officer was Pc D. Thomas and his phone number was 01772 413667.

The Chairman also reported that an accident had occurred on Sandy Lane on Friday 17th September 2010.

The Clerk reported the Lancashire Police Authority now had a new interactive web site to find out what residents thought about policing in Lancashire.

6. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current Newsletter which included details of the Annual Conference, the Annual Accounts, a legal briefing note about internal audit, a pilot scheme regarding winter gritting and various training seminars on leadership and finance.

He reported that the Lancashire Parish Councils Conference and the LALC AGM would now be held on the same day – 6th November 2010.

Councillors Sharratt and Ms Urry both indicated they would wish to attend the Parish Councils Conference and the LALC AGM.

The Clerk would notify the appropriate authorities about this.

He also reported details of the resolution to the Annual General Meeting of the Association proposed by Brindle Parish Council regarding the problems caused by Chinese Lanterns for farmers. The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported that this issue had been debated in Parliament and it was understood that legislation was to be introduced to ensure that these devices would be bio degradable.

Councillor Baldwin felt that these lanterns tended to frighten stock and Councillor Peter felt they were a fire hazard.

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The Parish Council supported the resolution and there were no further resolutions for submission to the LALC Annual General Meeting.

7. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). SALT BINS:

At the last meeting Councillor Peter had suggested that the County Council contact number for the refilling of the salt bins should be put on the boxes.

The Clerk reported that the Area County Surveyor had indicated that the Customer Service Centre telephone number of 0845 053 0011 was the public access point to report all highway maintenance issues including the refilling of bins and this number was advertised on the County Council's website at www.lancashire.gov.uk

The extremely limited highway maintenance budget, targeted mainly towards making safe dangerous trips and potholes, did not allow funding of the requested work of the contact number to be put on the bins.

Councillor Peter referred to previous correspondence regarding the County Council's gritting priorities and the filling of salt bins.

County Councillor Devaney explained the system adopted by the County Council during the recent bad winter.

With regard to the request for a new salt bin on Private Road near St. Joseph's Church an assessment has been carried out and this could not be justified in this location as the major organisation that would benefit was the church. A bin could be provided but the church would have to pay for it.

Councillor Ms Urry referred to her comments at the last meeting about gritting vehicles being on the road whilst empty.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) had raised this at the Liaison Meeting on 21st July 2010 but no response had been made.

The Clerk would investigate this matter further.

The Clerk circulated a copy of the Assessment Form used by the County Council for the provision of grit bins

The Clerk referred to the LALC Consultation letter which he had previously circulated regarding the introduction of a pilot scheme by the County Council to assist with winter gritting. The pilot envisaged that where parishes indicated their willingness they would be provided with a lockable grit box and a supply of sand/grit.

Parish Councils were asked to express their interest and provide information regarding the person to contact, the location of any proposed grit box and its benefit, to the community, details of the person to carry out the gritting, what additional resources the parish could provide, the indemnity to be provide by the Parish Council and any other possible requirements of the Parish Council.

Councillor Sharratt felt that the County Council was delegating its responsibilities to other authorities and this was not the solution to the problem.

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County Councillor Devaney explained the thinking behind the idea.

Discussion took place regarding the County Council's statutory responsibility to grit roads.

Other members felt that there was insufficient information about the conditions suggested and asked for more information.

The Clerk would indicate the Parish Council's interest in the pilot scheme and in the meantime would seek clarification regarding the operation of the scheme.

(B). HOGHTON LANE:

The resurfacing of a section of Hoghton Lane had been completed satisfactorily but it was felt that further sections particularly near Brindle Lodge required attention however this was within South Ribble. Some minor work was required to the footpaths but this was in hand.

(C). BOUNDARY SIGN – MOULDEN BROW:

The Clerk reported that the County Council consider that Moulden Brow was in Blackburn with Darwen and the Borough Council should provide the signs.

The Clerk had contacted them to ask them to check the precise location of Moulden Brow.

He had also informed County Councillor Devaney who would be raising this issue with the appropriate officers.

(D) FINGER POST SIGN – BOARS HEAD:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) indicated the progress being made on this matter.

(E) QUAKER BROOK LANE HEDGE:

The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) reported no work had been done on the overhanging hedges in Quaker Brook Lane near Beeston Villa.

The Clerk had contacted the Environment Directorate at the County Council to request that the hedges be cut back as soon as possible. County Councillor Devaney would follow this up with the County Council.

(F) HOGHTON BOTTOMS – FOOTPATH RESTORATION

Councillor Proctor reported that work to restore the footpaths at Hoghton Bottoms had commenced on 23rd August 2010 and was expected to be finished by the end of September.

(G) SPEED LIMIT SIGNS:

Councillor Ms Urry reported that the speed limit signs at Riley Green and Finnington Lane were still blanked out nearly seven months after the introduction of the Traffic Regulation order imposing new speed limits.

County Councillor Devaney indicated that the final legal procedure would be completed in the next few weeks and the signs would then show the speed limit.

(H) ROAD CLOSURE ORDER:

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Councillor Sharratt circulated a copy of a statutory notice relating to the temporary closure of a road referred to as Mintholme Road Brindle. On closer investigation of the description of the road he felt it was in fact Private Road part of which was in Houghton and part of which was in Brindle. He asked if either of the Parish Councils had been notified of the proposals.

They had not. Nor had the proposals been advertised locally

He felt that the Parish Council should have been informed and that clarification should be sought as to the precise name of the road in question and in particular the problems caused to emergency vehicles by the confusion over the name.

The Clerk would write to the Environment Directorate to ask why the Parish Councils had not been informed and to establish what the proper name of the road is.

8. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman reported on issues affecting the Parish Council.

9. PLANNING REPORT:

(A). APPLICATION:

The following applications had been received since the last meeting of the Parish Council copies had been circulated to all members.

1. Erection of a single storey side/rear extension to create additional living space 42 Fowler Close (App no 10/00570/FUL) Applicant Mr and Mrs. Waddington.
2. Change of use on north wing from single dwelling to holiday accommodation Houghton Tower, (App no 10/00589/FUL) Applicant Lady R. de Houghton
3. Conversion of the north wing from single dwelling to holiday accommodation including internal alterations Houghton Tower (App no 10/00622/LBC) Applicant Lady R. de Houghton

No planning observations were made on these applications.

Councillor Peter declared a prejudicial interest in the applications for Houghton Tower and took no part in the debate or voting thereon.

(C) PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL GARDEN DEVELOPMENT – PROPOSED INTERIM POLICY:

The Clerk submitted the revised interim policy relating to changes to the Planning policy aimed at resisting garden development in Chorley.

The Parish Council welcomed the changes to the policy and supported the proposals.

10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following accounts for payment

1 T. Harkness	Clerk – Salary (£312.50) and Expenses (130.96) June – September 2010	£443.46.
2. CPRE	Annual Subscription 2009/10	£29.00

The accounts were agreed and the cheques signed.

11. AUDIT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2009/10:

The Clerk reported that the Annual Audit of the Accounts for 2009/10 has been completed and an administrative issue had been highlighted which had been verified and required no further action. (details were circulated). The completion of the audit would be now publicised. A fee of £120.00 plus £21.00 VAT was payable for the audit.

The report was accepted the audit opinion approved and adopted and a cheque for £120.00 plus VAT was signed.

12. PINFOLD:

The Clerk circulated the draft heads of agreement for the lease of the Pinfold from the de Hoghton Estate.

The proposed works to the Pinfold would take place once the lease had been agreed and signed.

The Parish Council was concerned about the costs involved and deferred any final decision pending further information on costs. In the meantime the Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) would discuss the matter with Sir Bernard de Hoghton.

13. LIBRARY SERVICE:

The Parish Council considered the latest position regarding this matter.

Councillor Ms Urry commented on the current situation

Councillor Sharratt had written to the Head of the Library Service and gave details of his correspondence with the person concerned which he considered to be totally unsatisfactory.

Councillor Ms Urry had also received correspondence from the County Council and Chorley Council.

A question on this matter had been submitted to the Borough/Parish Liaison Meeting on 21st July 2010 without response.

It was agreed to await further developments.

14. WAR MEMORIAL:

At the last meeting Councillor Peter felt that the cobbled area required repointing and this would alleviate the weed problem to some extent. He had looked into this and reported on the work which was required. Detailed estimates of the cost were now needed.

The Clerk reported concerns about the deterioration of the stone plinths.

The Clerk had investigated the potential for the funding of rural projects referred to at the last meeting by Councillor Sharratt. This funding was not available to Parish Councils.

The Clerk also reported that arrangements had been made to store the board for the wreaths at the Parish Church. The joiner had agreed to put the board up at the Memorial in time for the annual Act of Remembrance.

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The Chairman suggested a letter of thanks should be sent to Mr. Fowler for his assistance in the storage of the board and his offer to install it for Remembrance Day.

Councillor Peter referred to the bulb planting currently being undertaken by Hoghton Women's Institute and suggested that following discussion with the President of the Women's Institute daffodils should be planted around the War memorial.

This suggestion was agreed.

The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) declared a prejudicial interest in the reference to the board for the wreaths and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

15. BOROUGH PARISH LIAISON:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported on the meeting of the Committee held on 21st July 2010.

16. PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO CHORLEY:

The Clerk reported that a pilot project to run a regular bus service direct to Chorley from Brindle and Hoghton had started on 31st August 2010.

Councillor Sharratt reported on the details of the times, fares and concessions on the route and expressed his dismay at the lack of publicity from the County Council and Chorley Council regarding the introduction of the service.

He had published details locally and Councillor Ms Urry had been interviewed by the Chorley Guardian.

The Chairman and Councillor Ms Urry reported on the current use.

County Councillor Devaney explained the background to the provision of the service and would discuss the lack of publicity with the appropriate officers.

17. CHARGES FOR SCHOOL TRANSPORT:

The Clerk circulated a copy of the consultation documents issued by the County Council regarding proposed charges for the cost of pupils entitled to transport on denominational grounds.

Councillor Sharratt also circulated a copy of a letter from the Liverpool Archdiocesan Centre for Evangelisation objecting to the County Council Proposals.

Councillors Proctor Sharratt and Ms Urry reported their views on the proposals.

Councillor Sharratt also referred to the situation where a family chose a denominational school which was oversubscribed and if the child was offered the second choice it would still be denied transport costs. He also said that for some families it could cost over £1000.00 per year extra to send their children to a denominational school.

The Parish Council strongly opposed these proposals and the Clerk would inform the County Council accordingly. It also supported the views set out in the letter from the Liverpool Archdiocese.

18. HELICOPTER FLIGHTS:

At the last meeting Councillors Peter and Ms Urry referred to problems with Chinese Lanterns and noise and fireworks at Beeston Manor at Samlesbury. They also referred to problems from helicopter training at this location. Councillor Sharratt referred to the flight path of the helicopters.

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) had reported that the helicopter problem was currently being dealt with by South Ribble Borough Council.

Following the meeting the Clerk had contacted South Ribble Council to complain about the helicopter training and also to report the problems of Chinese Lanterns, noise and use of fireworks at the restaurant.

With regard to the problems of Chinese Lanterns, noise and use of fireworks at the restaurant. The Borough Council had replied that Environmental Health Officers would look into the noise issues and would visit the Restaurant to discuss the issues of noise nuisance.

For the authority to take formal action they would need to undertake noise monitoring to verify that the noise was disturbing residents in their home. Therefore they would need contact details of the residents affected and ask them to produce monitoring logs of the event in order to verify the nuisance.

The Firework Regulations 2004 prohibited the use of fireworks at night (11.00 pm - 7.00 am) in England and Wales, with extensions for the following festivals:

- Until 1.00 am on the night on the Chinese New Year
- Until 1.00 am on the night of Diwali
- Until 1.00 am on New Years Eve
- Until midnight on 5th November.

These regulations were enforced by the police and not the local authority and therefore the residents should contact them directly during an event.

With regard to the helicopter flights. The South Ribble Enforcement Officer had spoken with the owner and the helicopter belongs to the owner and was used solely for his own purposes.

He had assured the South Ribble Enforcement Officer that he abided at all times to the Air Navigation Order 2005 and did not fly below 500ft over open country and below 1000 ft over built up areas the only exception to this being Rule 5 taking off and landing.

The landing pad at the hotel was regularised at the same time the hotel was given planning permission.

The Clerk had spoken to the Enforcement Officer and had also been informed that the Swallow Hotel Samlesbury operated helicopter pleasure flights and these flights were the one taking place over Houghton. Councillor Ms Urry had been informed and she reported on the current situation.

Councillor Peter referred to the notice about flying lessons in Houghton Post Office and indicated that pleasure flights took place from Huntleys Restaurant at Samlesbury.

Councillor Ms Urry reported that the flights had reduced considerably recently.

19. CHORLEY STANDARDS COMMITTEE:

Councillor Sharratt reported on the outcome of his interview for the vacancy as a representative of Parish Councils on the Chorley Standards Committee.

The Clerk reported that Chorley Standards Committee had appointed a new mentor he was Parish Councillor Mason from Euxton Parish Council. The Clerk would contact him regarding his attendance at future meetings.

20. LANCASHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY PERFORMANCE REPORT AND ACTION PLAN 2010:

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.

21. CHORLEY AND SOUTH RIBBLE COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE-NEWSLETTER:

The Clerk reported details of the newsletter including a warning about energy saving bulbs, a survey on support for disabled people a reference to the Chorley Strategy – How Can We Make You Smile, plus copies of the NHS Central Lancashire Your Guide to Local Health Services and Care For Life A vision for local Health over the next five years.

The report was noted

22. LITTER RECYCLING PROJECT:

The Clerk reported Lancashire County Council recently asked for bids from District Councils for funding to help raise waste and recycling performance. Chorley Council had been successful in its bid for funding to purchase four segregated hand carts for Parish and Town Councils to use to litter pick their area.

The matter was noted.

23. NO NEED FOR NUCLEAR:

The Clerk reported that he had been sent a copy of the campaign newsletter from an organisation opposed to any new nuclear power stations being built.

They wanted the Parish Council to support an early day motion in Parliament calling for an inquiry into whether these were needed. It was decided that no further action be taken on this matter.

24. FUNDING NOMINATE A CHARITY

The Clerk reported that the Chorley District Officer had informed him of the RBS Community Fund which aimed to support local charities and projects.

From July 2010, the Parish Council could nominate charities and projects which were making a big difference in the local community. All eligible nominations would be reviewed by panels made up of staff, local people and community leaders, who would decide on a shortlist of three for each local area.

The Community would then be given the chance to vote for the charity or project which deserved to benefit most from the Community Fund. The results of the voting would be announced in November and the winning charity or project from each local area would receive £3,000, with the two runners up receiving £1,000 each.

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It was decided that no further action be taken on this matter.

25. AUTUMN CLUB – GRANT:

This matter was deferred to the next meeting.

26. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 18th October 2010 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.05.

p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

18TH OCTOBER 2010.