

MINUTES OF 1058TH MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 19TH SEPTEMBER 2011 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: MR. J. PEET NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER CHORLEY POLICE COMMUNITY BEAT MANAGER M. ETHERIDGE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR D. PLATT – PARISH COUNCIL MENTOR CHORLEY STANDARDS COMMITTEE.

1. WELCOME:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) on behalf of the Parish Council welcomed Police Community Beat Manager Mark Etheridge and District Councillor D. Platt who were attending their first meetings of the Parish Council.

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 18th July 2011 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. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR PLATT RAISED THE FOLLOWING MATTER: -

STANDARDS BOARD;

District Councillor Platt reported on the current situation regarding the proposed abolition of the Standards Board. It would be for individual District Councils to decide whether to adopt a Code of Conduct, Parish Councils would be in a similar position. It was expected that the Localism Bill would become law by the end of the year and come into operation in the Spring of 2012.

5 POLICE REPORT:

The Clerk had circulated two newsletters issued by the Police covering the period July to August 2011. During that period there had been 7 incidents of reported crime.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) read out a letter of apology in respect of one of the recorded incidents in August.

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Pc Etheridge the new Police Community Beat Manager commented on the figures indicated his area of responsibility, and referred to the Rural Crime Initiative currently being undertaken by the police countywide

He also reported that the Wheelton Police Office staff would operate from Chorley Police Station with effect from 7th November 2011 An additional PCSO M. Jones would be added to the Team.

The Clerk circulated the latest Lancashire Constabulary Police Estates and Front Counter Review. this in particular referred to the sale of Wheelton Police Station. The Parish Council at its last meeting had objected to this suggestion and the Clerk circulated the response form the Chair of the Police Authority regarding the comments.

Councillor Sharratt requested that the emergency telephone at Coupe Green Police Post be repaired and PC Etheridge would look into this.

6. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk submitted the current newsletter which included details of the Autumn Conference on 29th October 2011. The Clerk also submitted the Associations accounts for 2010/11 and a copy of the latest bulletin form the National Association dealing with Local Standards and Neighbourhood Planning. The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) would attend the LALC Autumn Conference at the Leyland Hotel on 29th October 2011 and the delegate's fee of £35.00 was agreed and a cheque signed.

The Clerk reported that Brindle Parish Council had agreed to following resolutions to the AGM:-

(a) That in view of its support at the November 2010 meeting and the lack of progress since the last AGM the County Council take urgent action to prohibit the release of Chinese Lanterns from any LCC owned or controlled property. In addition LCC should encourage other Local Authorities to do likewise and through the licensing process inform licensed premises proprietors (particularly function venues) of the dangers of Chinese Lanterns and encourage them to also prohibit their use.

(b) That in view of the recent publicity relating to the spread of ragwort the County Council be asked to take appropriate action to eradicate the spread of the weed from highway verges.

The closing date for resolutions was 2nd September 2011 and the Clerk had therefore submitted them following consultation with Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) The Parish Council supported the action taken.

Councillor Sharratt reported that he had recently seen Chinese Lanterns powered by batteries which represented a significant improvement in safety although the frame work still constituted a hazard to livestock. Councillor MS Urry agreed.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) reported on the Meeting of the Chorley Area Committee held on 25th July 2011, when the issue of representation on the Chorley Three Tier Forum was discussed. The County Council had insisted that Parish Councils in Chorley would only be allowed one representative on the Forum. The matter would be further considered in October.

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The Clerk also circulated results of the Best Kept Village Competition. He would ask for a copy of the judges comments on Hoghton`s entry.

7. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). GIB LANE:

County Councillor Devaney had informed the Clerk that the SLOW markings in Gib Lane had been repainted. The Clerk would write a letter of thanks to County Councillor Devaney

United Utilities had investigated the leak onto the road near the railway bridge and the flow of water had now stopped.

(B). FOOTPATH – FINNINGTON:

Councillor Ms Urry reported that there were still difficulties for walkers but no further progress had been made in this matter. The Clerk would contact the Footpaths Officer for an update.

(C). FOOTPATH – HOGHTON LANE:

The Vice Chairman (Councillor Greenwood) reported that he had been contacted by Community Payback and they had been prevented from clearing the footpath and finishing the work to the benches by the weather. The work would be carried out as soon as possible.

(D) LITTER BIN - HOGHTON BOTTOMS:

The Clerk reported that the litter bin had been repaired.

(E) STREET LIGHT - HOGHTON LANE:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) had reported that the street light opposite the Post Office had been repaired.

(F). POTHoles – PRIVATE ROAD:

The Clerk had asked the Highways Inspectorate to look into this. Councillor Proctor felt that the condition of the road surface on Private Road was becoming dangerous. It was used by a cycling organisation quite frequently and he considered that there would be a serious accident if the carriageway was not resurfaced. He also asked that Brindle Parish Council should support any request for repair.

Councillor Sharratt confirmed that the road was in an appalling condition.

Councillor Peter referred to the 20mph sign which had appeared on Private Road near Holly Bank.

The Clerk would contact the Highways Engineers regarding the condition of Private Road seek the support of Brindle Parish Council and investigate further the location of the 20 mph sign.

(G). SALT BIN - PRIVATE ROAD:

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) reported he had been contacted by a resident who asked him to press for a salt bin near the Church on Private Road. The Clerk contacted the County Council again and their view was that a grit bin could not be provided on Private Road as it was on a precautionary salting road so it would be gritted by the gritting wagons. They could not provide a grit bin for the use on the road leading down to St Joseph`s church as this road was privately

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maintained and the County Council could not provide a grit bin for these streets, the residents would need to contact the land owner or developer to obtain one.

The Clerk then suggested that a bin be purchased jointly with Brindle Parish Council but was told that the County Council could not agree to this and would not maintain any bin which was put on the unadopted road.

County Councillor Devaney had been consulted on this matter and had replied in similar fashion.

(H) TEMPORARY CLOSURE LEVEL CROSSING STATION ROAD:

The Clerk circulated details of the proposed closure of the level crossing from 22.50 hours on Monday 25th October 2011 to 5.50 hours on Tuesday 26 October 2011 to allow maintenance work to take place. The alternative route would be via A675 Hoghton Lane.

(I). ACCIDENT AT FOOTPATH:

Councillor Sharratt reported that a walker had sustained injuries whilst walking on a footpath in the Parish. Councillor Ms Urry indicated that this had required the attendance of the Air Ambulance. The Clerk would undertake further investigations.

(J) NOTIFCATIONS TO CHANGS IN THE SPEED LIMIT:

Councillor MS Urry informed the Parish Council that notices had been displayed on lampposts on Hoghton Lane indicating proposed changes to the speed limit at Methuen Avenue Bells Lane and Hoghton Lane. As this area was in South Ribble the Parish Council had not received any notice of the proposals.

The Clerk would investigate further.

8. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported on issues affecting the Parish Council

9. PLANNING REPORT:

(A) DECISIONS.

The Clerk reported that the following planning applications had been granted planning permission by Chorley Council since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

1. Erection of a 1.5 storey rear extension to form study 2 Long Barn Row (App no 11/00528/FUL) Applicant Mr. Graham

2.. Erection of a two storey side extension and single storey attached garage following demolition of existing garage 5 Green Lane. (Application No 11/00622/FUL) Applicant Mrs Arnold.

3. Application to extend the time limit for implementation of extant planning permission 08/00616/FUL for the erection of a first floor rear extension to create bedroom, one ensuite and the erection of a single storey rear sun room. 61 Chapel Lane (Application No 11/00662/FUL) Applicant The de Hoghton Estate.

The Clerk reported that the planning application for the erection of a single storey side and rear extension following demolition of the existing garage/utility room and erection of a detached garage Newlands Quaker Brook Lane (App no

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11/00631/FUL) Applicant Mr. and Mrs Heeney. had been withdrawn and then resubmitted since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

No observations were made on the application.

(B). APPLICATIONS:

The following applications had been received since the last meeting of the Parish Council

1 Erection of a front porch extension 1 Green Lane (Application no 11/00717/FUL) Applicant Mr. Weston.

Copies had been circulated to all members and no observations had been made. But Councillor Sharratt had referred to the question of the policy regarding development in front of the building line of properties.

The Clerk had notified Chorley Council.

(C). DEVELOPMENT AT QUAKER BROOK LANE:

The Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) reported that work on a property in Quaker Brook Lane had been stopped by Chorley Planning Department.

10. ACCOUNT FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following account for payment

1. CPRE	Annual Subscription 2009/10	£29.00
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The Account was agreed and a cheque signed.

11. AUDIT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2010/11:

The Clerk reported that the Annual Audit of the Accounts for 2010/11 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 £75.00 plus VAT was payable for the audit.

The report was accepted the audit opinion approved and adopted and a cheque for £75.00 plus VAT was signed.

12. PINFOLD:

The Clerk reported that the work had started on the Pinfold and following consultation with Councillor Peter notices had been posted and the de Hoghton Estate, local residents and the Royal Oak had also been informed.

Discussion took place regarding the problems relating to the disposal of tree roots and Councillor Peter indicated the solution. Mr Peet the Neighbourhood Officer would inform the Clerk of the disposal arrangements.

The Parish Council would consider the next step on completion of the work.

One local resident had suggested that the public must be made aware that the area of grass, 'The Pinfold', was an area of historical interest for it to have any chance of being treated with respect and not simply seen as an odd bit of spare land into which rubbish, cans and paper can be tossed by passers by. He felt that a 'title board' or 'story board' is placed in a prominent position to explain this.

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The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) suggested that a litter bin and a dog bin should also be provided on the site. The Clerk would make some enquiries regarding the suggestions.

One letter of objection had been received from a resident of Bamber Bridge.

13 WAR MEMORIAL:

The Clerk had approached Sir Bernard de Hoghton regarding funding sources and a reply was awaited.

14. BRITAIN IN BLOOM

The Clerk circulated a copy of the Britain in Bloom Information Pack. The information would be sent to Hoghton Women's Institute.

15. DOG BIN –CHAPEL LANE:

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) reported that he had been approached by local residents regarding the provision of a dog bin at Chapel Lane. The Clerk had contacted Chorley Council and he had been informed that the suggested location was not suitable and a better location was the Village Hall Car Park Chorley Council only put dog bins on recreational spots.

It was also reported that the Council was moving away from dog bins as the waste could go in normal litter bins and this was being promoted.

A litter bin may be more appropriate for this location and the appropriate officer had been notified.

16. BOROUGH/PARISH LIAISON MEETING:

The Chairman (Councillor D. Dickinson) and Councillor Ms Urry reported on the meeting of the Liaison Committee held on 20th July 2011.

17. QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE:

At the last meeting the Parish Council considered whether to hold an event to mark the Diamond Jubilee Councillor Sharratt had suggested the possible holding of an event with Brindle Parish Council.

Brindle Parish Council had indicated that it was to hold a joint event with the Brindle Community Hall Management Committee and did not wish to hold another event with this Parish Council.

It was suggested that a commemorative bench be located on the Pinfold to mark the Jubilee and that further investigations regarding funding be made at the next meeting when the Parish Council's financial position is known.

18 LANCASHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY PERFORMANCE REPORT AND ACTION PLAN 2011:

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. The views of the Parish Council had been requested on proposals to withdraw the turn table ladder equipment based in Preston, changes to the Fire Service Protection Unit and the Business Continuity Plan.

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The Clerk would inform the Fire Authority that the Parish Council is opposed to the withdrawal of the Aerial Ladder Platform for the Preston area and requests that this proposal be looked at again in view of the size of the area it covers.

19. UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS:

The Clerk referred to the consultation document entitled draft policy for managing unauthorised encampments on County Council owned land and on highways for which the County Council was responsible. The document set out what the County would do and the procedures to be followed in dealing with unauthorised encampment.

Councillor Sharratt commented that in the draft policy, the county and district councillors for the area would be informed (of a decision to evict). He considered that the parish council for the area should also be informed.

The Clerk had consulted both the Chairman of Brindle Parish Council and of this Council and they had agreed to the suggestion. The Clerk had passed the observation to the County Council.

20. REVIEW OF CHORLEY ASSETS:

The Clerk reported that Chorley Council was undertaking a review of all its assets and the review would run until October. In the meantime the Chief Executive had asked if Parish Councils would be interested in taking on and maintaining such things as grass cutting letter bins emptying etc. and had asked for the Parish Councils views on this suggestion.

The Clerk would inform Chorley Council that whilst the Parish Council would welcome any opportunity of keeping the Parish tidy it is felt that this would involve costs it cannot afford.

21. DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

The Clerk circulated the consultation document relating to the County Council's Local Transport Plan 2010-2021, covering the years up to 2014.

No observations were made on the Plan.

22. LANCASHIRE LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORK:

The Clerk reported an approach from about their work and how becoming a member could benefit the Parish Council and local community.

The organisation gave local people a voice in health and social care was independent of the NHS or social services. and provided a way for people to give their opinion, anonymously, on local health and social care services. These views were then passed on to the commissioners of services with the aim of bringing about improvements.

The Parish Council agreed to register membership of the scheme.

23. LANCASHIRE COUNTY ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE – COMMISSIONING PLAN:

The Environment Directorate' had produced a plan which changed its focus in the way it would work in the future from a centralised base to towards a more localised service. To this end they had written a plan for each of the County Districts which set out the priorities for the area, the funding available and provides a clear mechanism

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for service delivery and monitoring across the Directorate. It would be part of the three tier forum idea.

Councillor Sharratt informed the Parish Council of his concerns regarding the operation of the Forums and reported details of his correspondence with the Leader of Lancashire County Council. He was undertaking further investigations and would report to the Parish Council at the next meeting.

24. LETTER OF THANKS:

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter of thanks from Hoghton Autumn Club in respect of the Parish Council's donation.

25. RURAL SERVICE EVENT:

The Clerk circulated details of the event to be held on 22nd September 2011 at Samlesbury War Memorial Hall.

26. CHORLEY EQUALITY FORUM:

The next meeting of the Forum would be held on 5th October 2011 and the Chairman (Councillor Dickinson) and Councillor Ms Urry would attend.

27. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 17th October 2011 at 7.30.pm at the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

17TH OCTOBER 2011