

**MINUTES OF 1162ND MEETING
OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 16TH AUGUST 2021
AT HOLY TRINITY PARISH
CHURCH HALL.**

PRESENT: - COUNCILLOR T. GREENWOOD (CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLOR N. PETER (VICE CHAIRMAN) COUNCILLORS B. MATTOCK, AND Ms M. URRY AND MR. T. HARKNESS (CLERK).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: CHORLEY COUNCILLOR S. CHAPMAN AND TWO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

891. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Ms A. Ball and Ms Y. Hargreaves.

892. COUNCILLOR S. CHAPMAN:

The Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) on behalf of the Parish Council welcomed Chorley Councillor Chapman who represented Chorley East, Brindle and Hoghton on Chorley Council and was attending his first meeting.

893. 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.

894. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 5th July 2021 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood).

895. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:

PINFOLD:

When questioned during the meeting, one of the residents present confirmed they were recording the meeting in audio and video formats.

One of the residents thanked the Parish Council for changing the story board and for posting the dates of Council meetings.

A question was asked by one of the residents regarding the strimming behind the properties to the rear of the Pinfold. It was understood that this was paid for by one of the occupiers of the properties. It was not part of the Parish Council maintenance contract.

Reference was also made to the cutting of the hedges at the Pinfold and the

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dumping of garden waste. This also was not part of the Parish Council maintenance contract.

At the last meeting a request was made that an individual resident should give their name and this request was not made to any other person present.

This was for identification purposes only and for clarity relevant to the response.

One of the residents referred back to the complaint raised in respect of the meeting on 25th January 2021.

The Parish Council confirmed this was dealt with as contained in their statement as minuted in the meeting of 5th July and the matter was closed.

The resident concerned did not accept this and intended taking the matter further.

AS THERE WERE NO FURTHER MATTERS THE PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED WITH THE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

896. PARISH COUNCIL - VACANCY:

Following the local elections in May 2021 there remained a vacancy on the Parish Council. The position would now be advertised asking any eligible person who wished to stand to submit their names to the Parish Council.

897. POLICE REPORT:

(A). LIAISON:

The police officer responsible for Hoghton submitted his apologies.

There had been a range of consultations issued by the Police and Crime Commissioner since the last meeting regarding various topics. Details had been circulated.

(B). CONSUMER ALERTS – TRADING STANDARDS:

The Clerk submitted the latest consumer alerts from the County Council's Trading Standards Officer.

898. LALC REPORT:

Updates from LALC on current issues had been circulated since the last meeting together with various consultation documents.

The 77th LALC AGM would be held on 20th November 2021 via Zoom.

Notification of delegates was required by 15th October 2021 and details of any resolutions to be considered at the Annual Meeting were required by the same date.

These matters would be considered at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

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899. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). QUAKER BROOK LANE/THE STRAITS - TRAFFIC:

The Parish Council considered the response of the Highways Engineers regarding traffic speeds in this location and suggested that as there had been no major accidents there was no need to carry out any significant works but had offered to put yellow lines in this location.

Following a site meeting with County Councillor Cullens details of a proposed traffic management scheme had been sent to him. These would now be discussed with the Cabinet Member for Highways.

The County Council would be notified of problems with deer on the highway in this location and reminded of the fatal accident at the Post Office in the past.

(B). PRIVATE ROAD - FLOODING ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL:

County Councillor Cullens had also visited this site and had agreed to submit the Parish Council's suggestions regarding alleviating the flooding to the Cabinet Member for Highways at the County Council.

(C).HIGHWAYS FOOTPATH SCHEME:

The County Council had asked if the Parish Council wished to participate in their Annual Rights of Way - Local Delivery Scheme.

It offered a grant of £500.00 towards the upkeep of rights of way.

In the past it had been decided not to participate as the work involved was extensive to secure a small amount of grant.

The Parish Council was hoping to carry out its own footpaths scheme.

It was decided not to participate in the County Council Scheme.

(D). GIANT HOGWEED:

The Clerk submitted the views of the Environment Agency relating to infestations of giant hogweed.

Giant hogweed was not reportable to them. It was the landowner's responsibility to control these plants.

They only offered advice on its management and treatments which were available to eradicate the growth and spread.

It was an offence to plant or cause Giant Hogweed to spread in the wild under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and was reportable to the local police (wildlife liaison officer).

Landowners were required to control any [giant hogweed](#) on their land, but they did not have to remove it as the natural growth and spread was not illegal. However, allowing invasive non-native species to spread onto land outside of

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the ownership or control of the landowner could be seen as an offence. Also causing invasive non-native species to spread by removing or disposing of it incorrectly would be illegal.

The Police and Local Authorities may take enforcement action if a landowner caused or allowed invasive non-native species to spread to land outside their boundaries. They had the power to issue notices for invasive non-native species like [giant hogweed](#).

(E). HIGHWAY FAULTS:

The County Council had issued a poster giving contact details for reporting highway faults which had been put on the notice boards.

(F). HIGHWAYS WINTER BRIEFINGS:

The Clerk circulated the latest bulletin. This would be the last until October 2021.

(G). FOOTPATHS :

At the last meeting it was reported that Footpath no 5 Brindle Lodge was overgrown and needed cutting back.

This had now been done.

The stile on the footpath from Higher Barn had been closed due to Housing development in South Ribble and there was no notice of the closure relating to access to Houghton Lane. This had been the situation for 10 months and was causing confusion for walkers,

This would be reported to County Councillor Cullens.

(H). HEDGE - BLACKBURN OLD ROAD:

At the last meeting it was reported that the hedge from the railway bridge to the entrance to Gib Lane was overgrown and required cutting back.

The County Council had now done this.

(I). STATION ROAD:

At the site inspection with County Councillor Cullens his attention was drawn to the overgrown hedge which was owned by Openreach. It was agreed that this would be drawn to the attention of the County.

There was also a hazard caused by the long grass at the Blackburn Old Road junction with Station Road. The field had recently been cut but the verge was still very overgrown and was a hazard for traffic leaving Station Road.

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District Councillor Chapman would raise this with Chorley Council.

(J). GIB LANE:

The road by the railway bridge needed attention and the overgrown footpaths. County Councillor Cullens would take this up with County Highways.

(K). ROAD SIGN HOGHTON LANE:

In the past a warning sign regarding deer had been located on Hoghton Lane this had been removed by the County Council during street works and had not been replaced. There had been incidents recently when deer had been seen in the area.

It was also reported that Hedgehog Signs had been erected near the Village Hall.

The County Council had been asked to replace the deer sign but there had been no progress.

County Councillor Cullens would be asked to discuss this with the County Council.

(L). CYCLE LANE:

The County Council would be asked to construct a cycle lane on the A675 (Blackburn Old Road) from the boundary with South Ribble to the one with Blackburn with Darwen.

900. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

Neighbourhood Working was to restart in November which allowed small projects to be carried out in parishes.

901.PLANNING REPORT:

(A) DECISIONS:

The following decision had been made since the last meeting

Single storey side/rear extension (following demolition of existing conservatory) 5 Willowfield Chase (resubmission of planning permission 19/01181/FULHH single storey side/rear extension) (App no 20/01196/FULHH). - Granted.

(B). APPLICATIONS:

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

1. Conversion of existing garage to form granny annexe accommodation and associated elevational alterations Hoghton Hall Valley Road (App no 21/00940/FULHH).

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2.Erection of five dwellings and gardens Straits Farm The Straits (App no 21/00965/FULHH).

Details had been circulated to all Members and no observations were made regarding the application at Hoghton Hall.

With regard to the application at Straits Farm the following observations were made:-

1. If approved the development would set a precedent for further development in the area.
2. This is an over development of the site.
3. There are highway health and safety issues resulting from another access to the busy Blackburn Old Road with increased traffic from the site.This access is a short distance from Quaker Brook Lane where there are significant highway problems.
4. A new access is to be constructed as a result of development at Wise Mary`s Farm which will add to the number of accesses to Blackburn Old Road

902. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following accounts for payment

1.Holy Trinity Parish Church.	Hire of Hall August 2021.	£20.00.
2.Whitehead and Aldrich	Payroll Administration April - June 2021	£54.00.

The accounts were approved and cheques signed.

903. REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT SYSTEM:

The Clerk circulated a report dealing with a review of the Parish Councils Internal Audit System.

The review was accepted

904. RISK ASSESSMENT:

The Chairman (Councillor T.Greenwood) and the Clerk had made a health and safety risk assessment inspection of the notice boards, benches, and the War Memorial and the Pinfold in July 2021.

The notice boards and the benches were generally in good condition but three benches at Chapel Lane, the Pinfold and the Village Hall required attention.

Estimates had been sought for the work and it was suggested that there would be an annual maintenance programme next year from April 2022.

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In view of this it was agreed that minor refurbish work should be carried out at a cost of £165.00.

Mr D.Savage was asked to carry out this work.

The Clerk also submitted a risk assessment report in respect of the Council's Financial Systems which was accepted.

905. GRANTS AND DONATIONS - NEWSLETTERS

The Parish Council were reminded that they made annual grants to Holy Trinity Parish Church and Brindle St. Joseph`s RC Church towards the cost of printing the Parish Council newsletter.

It was agreed that donations of £100 be made to Hoghton Holy Trinity Parish Church and £25.00 to Brindle St. Joseph`s RC Church to reflect the way the Parish Council newsletter is published and cheques were signed.

906. WAR MEMORIAL:

The Vice Chairman (Councillor N. Peter) reported that work was expected to start to rectify the ponding issue at the War Memorial in the week commencing 23rd August 2021 and Chorley Council had confirmed the funding.

907. COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE:

Consultations had been circulated to the Parish Council from the CPRE on various initiatives such as building in the Green Belt and preservation of hedgerows. The CPRE had also invited the Parish Council to their their Virtual On-line AGM on Friday 24th September from 2.00 p.m.

908. CHORLEY LIAISON:

Councillor Ms Urry reported on the zoom meeting held on 20th July 2021.

909. VAT REPAYMENT:

VAT for 2020/21 had been reclaimed amounting to £108.33 and had been paid into the Parish Council`s Bank Account.

910. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 27th September 2021 at 7.30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church Hall Blackburn Old Road.

There being no further business the Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) declared the meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

27TH SEPTEMBER 2021