

**MINUTES OF 1150TH MEETING
OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 17TH FEBRUARY 2020
AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL.**

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

711. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence was submitted by Councillors J. Baldwin and Mrs S.Long.

712. 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.

713. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 20th January 2020 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (Councillor T.Greenwood).

714. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:

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

715. POLICE REPORT:

(A). LIAISON:

The police were not present.

The Clerk reported that Police Constable Barff-Lewis based at Chorley Police Station was the current police liaison officer for the Parish.

(B). CONSUMER ALERTS – TRADING STANDARDS:

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

716. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk circulated details of training courses in 2020, the amended constitution of the Association as agreed at the AGM in November 2019, details of the NALC Annual Conference in March 2020, the Safer Road Users Free Event for the over 60s and the Association Spring Conference on 25th April 2020.

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717. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:

(A). CHAPEL LANE - FLOODING:

Chapel Lane continued to flood, the County Council had been asked to deal with the flooding. The Vice Chairman (Councillor N. Peter) referred to the extensive road subsidence which had occurred in Bells Lane recently.

(B). FOOTPATHS:

The Clerk circulated the current map of footpaths and bridleways in the Parish and informed the Parish Council that the Chorley Ramblers Association was undertaking a survey of the condition of the footpaths.

The County Council had been notified of the overgrown hedge near the former telephone box on Station Road.

(C). HEDGE - QUAKER BROOK LANE/THE STRAITS:

Following the request from the Parish Council for a site meeting. County Councillor Snowden was consulting the Highways Department regarding the possible removal of the hedge to improve visibility at this junction.

(D) BLACKBURN OLD ROAD (A675) - ROAD SURFACE:

At the last meeting a Member indicated that the condition of the road surface from the Village Hall to the traffic lights at Moulden Brow was deteriorating rapidly and needed urgent attention. The County Council was currently investigating this. The County Council had undertaken some repair work to potholes mainly near the Village Hall but further extensive work was required.

(E). HIGHWAYS WINTER BRIEFINGS:

The Clerk circulated the latest bulletin.

(F). FLOODING:

The drains on Dover Lane had been cleaned but there was extensive flooding near the church hall on Private Road. Flooding was also occurring on Quaker Brook Lane. The Clerk would report these to the County Council.

(G). TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE:

Quaker Brook Lane would be closed temporarily on 30th March 2020 to allow Openreach to carry out overhead cabling work.

718. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

A report was presented on matters affecting Chorley Council.

719. PLANNING REPORT:

Planning permission was granted for two developments at The Straits and no further applications for developments within the Parish had been submitted since the last meeting.

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It was also reported that a planning application for the development of land south of The Straits had been dismissed on appeal.

720. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following accounts for payment.

1. Whitehead and Aldrich	Payroll Administration quarter ended 31st December 2019	£48.00
2. D.Metcalf	Website Security Upgrade	£115.18

The accounts were agreed and cheques signed.

721. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION:

The Competition Organisers were holding an information evening for this years competition on Monday 24th February at 7.30 p.m. at Samlesbury Memorial Hall. The Parish Council had been invited to send representatives to the event.

Entry forms for this year`s competition had also been circulated.

722. WAR MEMORIAL:

Following a site visit with a contractor, the Vice Chairman (Councillor N. Peter) reported the current situation regarding the ponding issue at the War Memorial.

He would discuss the findings with representatives of Chorley Council.

723. CRIPPLEGATE LANE:

The Pest Control Officer had leafleted the area asking people not to feed the ducks but this was unenforceable.

An officer from Chorley Council had also visited the site and indicated that the bait bin on site was regularly baited but the rats were not taking the bait due to the volume of food in the area. Monthly inspections would take place.

The Ecology Officer was completing his report on the proposals for improving the site.

It was reported that a tenant was ignoring the advice and continuing to feed the ducks which was exacerbating the rat problem.

The Housing Association responsible for the properties would be informed of the matter.

724. CONSULTATIONS:

The Clerk circulated the Lancashire County Council Budget Consultation 2020/21 documents. The County Council was proposing an increase in the precept of 3.99% of which 2% would be allocated to adult social care.

The Police were to increase their precept by 5.9%.

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725. PROPOSED NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM:

Representatives of the Parish Council had attended a meeting called by South Ribble Council regarding the establishment of a Neighbourhood Forum for parts of Brindle Gregson Lane and Hoghton.

The implications for the Role of the Parish Council was discussed.

It was felt there would not be an appetite at the moment to support a Neighbourhood Plan or joining forces with the Forum.

726. CHORLEY/PARISH LIAISON MEETING:

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on 15th March at 6.30 p.m. at Chorley Town Hall.

727. PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS:

At the last meeting the Parish Council agreed to review its current cycle of meetings, The Clerk had drawn up a schedule of six weekly meetings from May 2020 for discussion at the meeting.

The public would be consulted on the introduction of a six weekly cycle from May 2020.

728. WEST PENINE VILLAGES:

A request was submitted from the West Pennine Villages U3A which was recently formed. It was a non profit making organisation for retirees and the semi retired. It operated from Withnell Fold Sports and Social Club and covered all local villages.

They had requested publicity for the organisation and the Clerk would arrange for this to be done.

729. NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA MEETING - EASTERN PARISHES:

The Clerk circulated an update on the priorities, adoptions and empty properties for Eastern Parishes.

730. NOTICE BOARDS:

A Member requested an update on the notice boards.

The Clerk would investigate this.

731. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 16th March 2020 at 7.30. p.m. at Holy Trinity Parish Church Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood) declared the meeting closed at 8. 40 p.m.

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**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

16TH MARCH 2020.