**HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES of the 1,195th Meeting of held on 19 May 2025 at Holy Trinity Church Hall**

**Present:** Councillors J Caton (in the Chair), B Mattock (Vice Chair), S Fawcett, M Urry,

T Greenwood, A Martin and M Graham (Clerk to the Council)

**Apologies for absence:** Councillor Y Hargreaves

**Also in attendance:** Eight members of the public were present

Our new Chair of the Parish Council welcomed councillors and residents to her first meeting. She thanked Trevor Greenwood for his excellent service as Chairman.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Agenda****Item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| 1434:**Declarations of Personal/****Prejudicial Interest**  | The Chair 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. |  |
| 1435: **Minutes** | The minutes and action points of 24 March 2025 meeting were agreed and signed as a true and correct record. |  |
| 1436:**Adjournment** | There then followed an adjournment to allow members of the public to raise issues and ask questions raised by prior notification.**St Jospeh’s RC Church, Brindle** - A debate took place on the closure of the local church. The meeting expressed concern at the announcement and the impact on the church community and the wider community. It was agreed to write to the Abbot, Liverpool Archdiocese and Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP with our concerns.  | MGTGSF |
| 1437:**Police Report** | None present. |  |
| 1438:**LALC Report** | It was agreed that J Caton and A Martin attend the LALC Conference at Preston on 7 June. |  |
| 1439: **Environmental Issues and Concerns** | **Parish Community Garden** - It was agreed to fund signage for the garden and the sign should be placed close to the garden rather than the roadside. The final choice of sign should be sent to John Forrester for approval from the Hoghton Estate.**Himalayan Balsam Bash** - This has been agreed with the Ribble Rivers Trust to take place on 24 June 2025 from 10am to 1pm. Advertising material would be produced and placed on all notice boards, website and social media.**River Darwen** - J Caton, B Mattock and A Martin had met with the Ribble Rivers Trust. Concern was expressed at physical waste in the river along with invasive Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed. JC had reported these concerns to the de Hoghton Estate. The Clerk had also recently reported other outbreaks of Japanese Hogweed off Gib Lane to the de Hoghton Estate. | BMMGMGMG |
| 1440: **Highways and Footpaths** | **Public Footpaths** - The Clerk had written to LCC regarding the broken stiles on the footpath between 243 and 245 Hoghton Lane.**TTRO’s** - Quaker Brook Lane had a TTRO for emergency utilities work. Residents had raised concerns about the amount, weight and the size of vehicles using the lane when either the M6 or M65 was closed. The Clerk and S Fawcett had discussed this, and it was agreed to work with the neighbouring Samlesbury and Cuerdale PC on a joint resident’s survey to seek ideas on how to alleviate some of the issues. **Bus Stops** - The Parish Council are awaiting a start date for work to commence. The Clerk had followed this up and was awaiting a work method statement to forward to the de Hoghton Estate. **Blackburn Old Road Benches** - The two benches have been repaired to a high standard. BM reminded the meeting that a risk assessment of HPC street furniture was required due.**Laurelbank/Moulden Brow/Riley Green Speeding** – * The Chair suggested that ‘dragons’ teeth’ road markings may be helpful. It was agreed to investigate this.
* JC to contact Deborah Platt regarding the possibility of temporarily utilising any unused SPIDs.

MG to investigate the following possible sources of funding –* The Hoghton Tower Estate.
* Sir Lyndsay Hoyle MP.
* BM asked if SPIDs can be moved from one area of the Parish another.
* BM asked if SPIDs can be posted on lamp posts.
 | MG/SFMGBM/JC/TG/MGMGJCMGMGMGMG |
| 1441:**Chorley District and Lancashire County Council Reports** | The Hoghton Parish County Councillor had been emailed to invite him to Parish meetings, but no response had as yet been received. A thank you card to the outgoing County Councillor, Alan Cullens was signed by all parish councillors. |  |
| 1442**Planning Reports** | There were no objections to 25/00333/CLPUD.It was agreed to donate £500 to the Friends of Finnington campaign. | MG |
| 1443**Accounts** | **Accounts for Payment** **– *See attached table for approved payments.*****Grounds Maintenance Contract** - Following concerns with communications with our newly appointed grounds maintenance contractor, including the lack of cutting of the War Memorial grass for VE Day, it was unanimously agreed to return to our former contractors Maurice and Craig Savage. MG write to Maurice and Craig Savage confirming the above.Maurice agreed to carry out additional works, as and when needed, for example the Parish Village Garden. He will also carry out work on the War Memorial prior to any event. This will also include the trimming of the trees and the planting of 4 rose bushes at the appropriate time.It was agreed to note our thanks to Nigel Peter for flying the flag on VE Day and thanks also to Trevor Greenwood for cutting the grass at short notice. **Parish Accounts 2024/25** - These were signed and would be posted on our website.**Certificate of Exemption 2024/25** - This was signed and would be sent to the external auditors and posted on our website.**AGAR 202/25** - This was signed and would be posted on our website.**CIL Return (Chorley Council) 2024/25** - This was signed and will be sent to Chorley Council and posted on our website.**Parish Insurance** - It was agreed to change our public liability insurance provider to Zurich at a cost of £808.78 per year for 3 years, as opposed to the Hiscox quote of £1070.91 for 1 year. | MGMGMGMGMGMG |
| 1444:**Parish Assets** | **Land by Hoghton Post Office** – BM reported that we are waiting for the builders to start work on the adjacent plot before any work is undertaken on the site. BM to monitor.**War Memorial** - It was agreed to assess the state of the War Memorial when the risk assessment of street furniture takes place. | BMBM/JC/TG/MG |
| 1445:**Communications** | **Social Media** – MG reported our Parish Facebook page now has 205 members, an increase of 22. The Chair reminded the meeting that the Parish Facebook Group is only for disseminating information and it is not a discussion board, although comments on posts are welcome; this is why all new posts must be approved by administrators. MG reported that there had been a recent issue when he had to refuse a proposed post as it was untrue. The meeting clarified the rules around postings and how it was monitored. It was agreed that this should continue. |  |
| 1446:**Any Other Business** | It was reported that there are large overgrown trees that could be dangerous in the area of Moulden Brow. The trees are on private land. MG to contact Pauline McGovern and request an on-site visit to ascertain if the situation can improve.JC informed the meeting of the issue of foliage blocking the entry/exit of Station Road onto Blackburn Old Road. MG to contact John Forrester requesting the tenant farmer helps to keep the area clear for motorists.The meeting was informed of 3 issues that had recently occurred with the Children’s Home in Riley Green, all of which had resulted in Police involvement.It was agreed that Julie Caton be added as an additional parish bank account signatory. | MGMGMG |
| 1447:**Date of Next Meeting**  | The date of the next meeting will be 23 June at 7:30pm.**NOTE** - the meeting will be held at Hoghton Village Hall due to non-availability of the Church Hall. |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Easy Websites | 1 | Monthly Hosting Fee 1st April | £30.36 | DD |
| HMRC | 2 | Clerk Tax & NI April | £100.90 | Cheque (1) |
| Mike Graham | 3 | Clerk Salary April | £373.60 | Cheque (2) |
| Mike Graham | 4 | War Memorial Plastic Chain | £14.47 | Cheque (2) |
| Aldrich & Whitehead | 5 | Payroll Jan/Feb/March | £108.00 | Bank Transfer |
| Mike Graham | 6 | 2x bench repairs  | £140.00 | Cheque (2) |
| LALC | 7 | Annual Membership 2025/26 | £167.68 | Bank Transfer |
| Easy Websites | 8 | Hosting Fee May | £30.36 | DD |
| HMRC | 9 | Clerk Tax and NI May | £100.90 | Cheque (1) |
| Mike Graham | 10 | Clerk Salary May | £373.60 | Cheque (2) |
| Mike Graham | 11 | Photocopy paper & thanks card | £ | Cheque (2) |
| Zurich Insurance | 12 | Parish Insurance | £808.78 | Bank Transfer |
| Holy Trinity Church | 13 | Room Hire | £40 | Bank transfer  |
| Ann Christopher | 14 | Finnington Donation | £500 | Bank transfer |