**HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES of the 1,196th Meeting of held on 23 June 2025 at Hoghton Village Hall**

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

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

**Apologies for absence:** none

**Also in attendance:** Approximately 40 members of the public were present along with Chorley Councillors Michelle Beach and Pauline McGovern.

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| **Agenda**  **Item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| 1448  **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. A Martin declared she had a direct interest in the Planning Application regarding the land south of The Straits. |  |
| 1449  **Minutes** | The minutes and action points of 19 May 2025 meeting were agreed and signed as a true and correct record. |  |
| 1450:  **Adjournment** | There then followed an adjournment to allow members of the public to raise issues and ask questions raised by prior notification.  **Planning Application 25/00481/PIP** – Given the numbers of residents in attendance it was agreed to take this item early in the agenda. Concern was expressed at the application to build 9 houses with an access road on green belt land. The land for the proposed development appears to be grey belt land and it was agreed that the Parish Council challenge this designation. Further concerns were raised around the lack of consultation albeit it was explained the process normally only includes those properties bordering a development; the key was to focus on planning law; planning policy and the reasons for the development being refused in 2018 on appeal.  Chorley Cllr Beach promised to support the residents with their opposition and to provide early feedback via the Parish Clerk who would write an objection submission on behalf of the Parish Council. It was further agreed to set up a residents WhatsApp group to privately share ideas and strategy.  A public meeting would be organised at a later stage if needed. Residents were encouraged to submit as many objections as possible. | MG |
| 1451:  **Police Report** | None present. |  |
| 1452:  **LALC Report** | J Caton and A Martin attended the LALC Conference at Preston on 7 June. A detailed written report had been circulated by them.  It was agreed on the advice of LALC to move to a gov.uk website and that all councillors would have their own Parish Council email address.  It was also agreed to invite Ian Wright from *Treescape* to visit the Parish to advise us on tree planting at various sites. | MG  JC |
| 1453:  **Environmental Issues and Concerns** | **Parish Community Garden** - It was agreed to delay signage for the garden until we can get more interest from residents in helping to maintain the garden area.  **Himalayan Balsam Bash** - This is to take place the following day in conjunction with the Ribble Rivers Trust. The event had been promoted.  **River Darwen** - J Caton, and B Mattock had met with the de Hoghton Estate who are keen to work with the Parish on local issues of mutual interest including cleaning up the river and footpaths. It was agreed to ask LCC PROW if they can give an update on the disappearing (into the river) footpath close to the railway viaduct. | MG |
| 1454:  **Highways and Footpaths** | **Public Footpaths** - The Clerk had written to LCC regarding the broken stiles on the footpath between 243 and 245 Hoghton Lane. This is now a matter for LCC to pursue.  **TTRO’s** – none advised  **Bus Stops** – Work on the stone bus shelter roofs close to the Boars Head had commenced.  **Benches** - A Risk Assessment of Parish assets had taken place on the morning of this meeting and maintenance work on a further 5 benches had been identified for early action. Other actions, including remedial work on the War Memorial, had also been identified via the Risk Assessment.  **Laurelbank/Moulden Brow/Riley Green Speeding** – The Clerk had submitted a bid to LCC Parish Champions Fund for a £1000 grant towards a SpID for Laurelbank. The Clerk had also asked LCC to survey the area to ascertain the best spot for a solar SpID so the Parish Council could consider whether a SpID may be appropriate for the area.  The Clerk also explained he had asked LCC to provide their policy on attaching SpID’s to lampposts. This would be circulated when available. It was also agreed we would seek advice on whether an ‘Armadillo’ temporary speed recording device could be fitted.  The de Hoghton Estate were also keen for a SpID to be fitted close to the entrance of the Tower given the difficulty leaving the drive. Due to a limited view and speeding traffic. | MG  MG |
| 1455:  **Chorley District and Lancashire County Council Reports** | The new County Councillor John Clemson had been contacted by the Clerk to invite him to future Parish meetings. Mr Clemson was keen to attend.  A thank you card to the outgoing County Councillor, Alan Cullens had been sent. |  |
| 1456  **Planning Reports** | There were no objections to 25/00536/FUL |  |
| 1457  **Accounts** | **Accounts for Payment** **– *See attached table for approved payments.***  **Grounds Maintenance Contract** – Our contractor Maurice Savage had been advised in writing of our requirements, and it was good to see that work to date had been carried out to a good standard.  **Parish Accounts 2024/25** – The Clerk had circulated a copy of the ¼’ly account summary to the end of June 2025.  **Deposit Account** - It was agreed to open a 90-day deposit account with the Hinckley & Rugby Building Society with an initial deposit of £2,000. The signatories would be M Graham, J Caton, B Mattock and T Greenwood. The forms were signed by these four councillors. | MG |
| 1458:  **Parish Assets** | **Land by Hoghton Post Office** – BM reported that we are still waiting for the builders to start work. The Clerk had written to the developers but had not received a response. It was agreed to contact Chorley Planning Department to see if any enforcement action could be taken.  **War Memorial** – Following our Risk Assessment it was identified the Memorial need some remedial work. The Clerk would contact Stuart Clewlow from Chorley Armed Forces Group to see if he could advise us.  **Notice Boards** – The board at Hoghton Bottoms needed some remedial work. | MG  MG  MG |
| 1459:  **Communications** | **Social Media** – MG reported our Parish Facebook page now has 212 members. |  |
| 1460:  **Any Other Business** | **Christmas** - A Martin gave an upbeat report on the success she had with finding both a choir and the Chorley Band for our Christmas tree lighting event at the village hall. It was agreed to provide a donation of up to £100 towards the costs of the band. Alison was thanked for her endeavours. |  |
| 1461:  **Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting will be 11 August at 7:30pm at the Church Hall. The Clerk would enquire if a 7pm start time would be available | MG |

Accounts for payment 23rd June 2025

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| Easy Websites | 15 | Monthly Hosting Fee 1st June | £30.36 | DD |
| HMRC | 16 | Clerk Tax & NI June | £100.90 | Cheque (1) |
| Mike Graham | 17 | Clerk Salary June | £373.60 | Cheque (2) |
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| Hoghton Village Hall | 18 | Room Hire June | £20.00 | BACS |
| LALC | 19 | Conference Fee x2 | £90.00 | BACS |
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Cheque 1 £100.90

Cheque 2 £373.60