**MINUTES OF THE 1191st MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON 9th December 2024 AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL**

**Present:** Councillor T Greenwood (in the Chair), B Mattock, J Caton,

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

**Also in attendance:** Four members of the public was present. The meeting also welcomed County Councillor Alan Cullens BEM and Chorley Councillor Irene Amahwe.

**Apologies for absence:** none received

1378: DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICAL 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.

1379: MINUTES

The minutes of the 28th October 2024 meeting were agreed and signed as a true and correct record; it was also resolved that the agreed Precept of £12,600 for 2025/26 should be increased by a further £90 to £12,690 due to the imposition of NI contributions as per the recent Government Budget.

The only interest shown in the Parish councillor vacancy had been from Stephen Fawcett, a regular attendee at our Parish Council meetings. It was agreed to formally co-opt Mr Fawcett as a Parish Councillor.

It was reported that the Xmas lights switch on at the Village Hall were successful. A vote of thanks was agreed for Millie and Paul Santus from the Village Hall Committee for all their work and support. £140 had been raised on the night for the local charity Tender Nursing Care. It was agreed to have a mop up meeting early in the New Year to discuss the arrangements so we can record any changes we need to make for Christmas 2025.

1380: ADJOURNMENT

There then followed an adjournment to allow members of the public to raise issues and ask questions raised by prior notification.

1381: POLICE REPORT

We now have a new community officer, PC Matt Walton. He would be invited to future meetings. It was reported that PC Walton had attended Brindle PC and had been very helpful on speed issues in their village.

1382: LALC REPORT

No report.

1383: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND CONCERNS

1. Community Garden

It was agreed to source a sign for the community garden. The Village Hall were happy if this be attached to the external hall wall; the Village Hall Committee would be shown an advance copy of the sign for their approval.

1. Annual River Darwen Clean Up

The Saturday 22nd March was confirmed.

1384: HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

1. SPIDS on Hoghton Lane

It was recognised the 3 Parish Council SpIDS appear to be making a palpable difference with most road users slowing down. It was agreed to look at the possibility of speed guns and training in their use.

1. TTRO’S

There was no road closures advised.

1. Bus Stops

Following representations by the Clerk to the LCC Bus Shelters team the repairs to the two stone shelters would be paid in full by LCC excepting for the scaffold application fee for it being on a public highway; the Parish Council would need to fund this.

1. Deer Signs, Hoghton Lane

Cllr Cullens raised that he had been lobbied for deer signs following several deer fatalities close to the entrance to Brindle Lodge. He had researched the Deer Society website for suitable signage. Given that Hoghton Lane close to Brindle Lodge is outside of our area the Clerk was asked to contact the two South Ribble councillors for the area asking them to take up the issue.

1385: CHORLEY DISTRICT & LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councillor Cullens reported on his concerns regarding the imminent announcement of local government reorganisation and what he believes to be a negative impact for local communities.

Councillor Amawhe reported on anti-social behaviour towards bus drivers and users in Clayton Brook.

1386: PLANNING REPORTS

1. 24/00983/TPO

There were no objections.

1. 24/00955/LBC

There were no objections.

1. 24/00920/TPO

There were no objections.

1. Children’s Home, Riley Green

A response to our letter was awaited.

1. Finnington Lane Development

The Clerk gave a full and factual report on the planning application. Whilst this application is in a different parish the impact visually and from an increased traffic perspective would adversely impact on Riley Green, Hoghton and further afield. The Clerk had previously submitted an objection form the Parish Council following him sharing the content with Parish Councillors. The meeting also affirmed they would provide £200 to the Friends of Finnington campaign group by paying directly for leaflets and posters.

1387: ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Accounts for payment:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Hoghton Village Hall | 48 | Xmas Tree £400, donation £600 | £1,000.00 | Bank transfer: £400 Parish a/c; £600 CIL |
| Easy Websites | 49 | Monthly Hosting Fee 1st Nov | £30.36 | DD |
| HMRC | 50 | Clerk Tax Nov | £88.40 | Cheque (1) |
| Mike Graham | 51 | Clerk Salary Nov | £353.60 | Cheque (2) |
| Elan City | 52 | Speed Camera x2 | £5014.78 | Bank Transfer CIL |
| LCC | 53 | Speed Camera Fitting | £447.50 | Bank Transfer CIL |
| PKF Accountants | 54 | Certificate of Exemption Charge | £48.00 | Bank Transfer |
| Mike Graham | 55 | Padlocks for cameras x2 | £17.00 | Cheque (2) CIL |
| Easy Websites | 56 | Monthly Hosting 1st Dec | £30.36 | DD |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Call Me Flower | 57 | Remembrance Wreath | £75.00 | Bank Transfer |
| Alison Martin | 58 | Xmas Tree Lighting Items | £123.93 | Bank Transfer CIL |
| Maurice Savage | 59 | Ground maintenance, roses etc | £1,550.00 | Cheque (3) |
| HMRC | 60 | Clerk Tax December | £88.40 | Cheque (1) |
| Mike Graham | 61 | Clerk salary December | £353.60 | Cheque (2) |
| Holy Trinity Church | 62 | Room Hire Dec 2024 | £20.00 | Bank transfer |
| Mike Graham | 63 | Finnington Leaflets | £142.45 | Cheque (2) |
| Mike Graham | 64 | Santa Outfit (tree) | £36.99 | Cheque (2) |

1. HMRC Cheque: £88.40 + £88.40 = £176.80
2. M Graham cheque: £353.60 + £17.00 + £353.60 + £142.45 + £36.99 = £903.64

3.   M Savage cheque: £1,550.00

The above were all agreed.

1388: PARISH ASSETS

1. Land by Hoghton Post Office

Nothing to report

1. War Memorial

This would need some remedial work. The Clerk agreed to take photographs when the weather improved and would seek to apply for a grant towards costs.

1. Bench on Railway Bridge

This had been damaged due to a car. It was reported our insurance excess is £250. It was agreed to look at the existing bench end pieces to check if they were structurally sound to have new slats fitted rather than seek to buy a replacement bench.

1389: COMMUNCATIONS

Our Parish Facebook page now has 169 members.

1390: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

1391: NEXT MEETING DATE

Meeting dates for 2025/26 were agreed as follows:

2025:  
13 January (7pm)  
10 February (7pm)  
24 March (7pm)  
19 May (AGM) (7:30pm)  
23 June (7:30pm)  
11 August (7:30pm)  
22 September (7:30pm)  
27 October (7pm)  
8 December (7pm)  
  
2026:  
12 January (7pm)  
16 Feb (7pm)  
23 March (7pm)  
18 May (7:30pm)