**MINUTES OF THE 1194th MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON 24th March 2025 AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL**

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

Y Hargreaves, S Fawcett, M Urry, J Caton, A Martin and M Graham (Clerk to the Council).

**Also in attendance:** Five members of the public was present along with County Councillor Alan Cullens.

**Apologies for absence:** received from: Chorley Councillor Irene Amahwe.

1420: 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.

1421: MINUTES

The minutes of the 10th February 2025 meeting were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

1422: ADJOURNMENT

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

Four residents of Laurelbank, Moulden Brow were again present. Residents and the Parish Council were concerned at the lack of willingness by LCC to support traffic speed reduction measures. A lengthy discussion took place on the need for better timing when it comes to speed recording and evidence was key to progressing the need for speed enforcement cameras.

It was determined that:

1. The Clerk contact Livesey PC on Blackburn for support
2. The Clerk ask the Police for a speed monitoring device to be fitted for at least 1 week.
3. The Parish Council would look at the cost and suitability of handheld speed cameras for this area and other parts of the Parish.
4. The Clerk would ask Chorley Council for the footpath on Moulden Brow to be cleared of vegetation.

1423: POLICE REPORT

None present although PC Matt Walton had been in contact promising speed checks adjacent to Laurelbank. The Clerk also advise those present that crime statistics by type could be gleaned from the [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) website by inputting a postcode; there is a couple of months time lag.

1424: LALC REPORT

The recent LALC Newsletter had been circulated to all councillors.

1425: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND CONCERNS

1. Community Garden

It was agreed to source a sign for the community garden at a cost of up to £150 maximum. Councillors Martin and Caton would be sent the details of the local company Chorley Oak in Bamber Bridge for them to choose a design. It was agreed that the sign would have the following wording along with an arrow: ‘Hoghton Parish Council – Community Garden’.

1. Annual River Darwen Clean Up

The Saturday 22nd March event had been highly successful. The Clerk had already posted photographs on Facebook and would also add them to our website. An 8-yard skip had been filled with mainly plastic rubbish and approximately 40 residents had participated.

1426: HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

1. Public Footpaths

It was reported that the footpath sign by the entrance o Brookhouse Farm had been damaged. The Clerk would follow this up.

1. TTRO’S

Nothing to report.

1. Bus Stops

The Parish Council are awaiting a start date for work to commence.

1. Blackburn Old Road Bench

The Clerk had found a contractor who was prepared to carry out the work to replace the bench slats. When a final price was available this would be shared with Councillors for agreement.

1427: CHORLEY DISTRICT & LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

Nothing to report.

1428: PLANNING REPORTS

1. 24/00955/LBC – no objection
2. 25/00126/TPO – no objection
3. 25/00099/FULHH – no objection
4. Finnington Development – the Clerk gave a detailed update on the Finnington application and the opposition campaign along with Central Lancashire Local Plan and the consultation phases.

1429: ACCOUNTS

1. Accounts For Payment:

Accounts for payment 24th March 2025

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Easy Websites | 78 | Monthly Hosting Fee 1st Mach | £30.36 | DD |
| HMRC | 79 | Clerk Tax March | £88.40 | Cheque (1) |
| Mike Graham | 80 | Clerk Salary March | £353.60 | Cheque (2) |
| Mike Graham | 81 | ‘With Sympathy’ card | £2.25 | Cheque (2) |
| Holy Trinity Church | 82 | Room Hire March | £20.00 | Bank Transfer |

1. HMRC Cheque: £88.40
2. M Graham cheque: £355.85
3. Grounds Maintenance

The Grounds Maintenance tender paper had been placed it on noticeboards, Facebook and the Parish Council website. Three expressions of interest had been received, and these were considered by the Parish Councillors. By a vote of 6 to 1 it was agreed to appoint Millars for a 12-month period.

1. Clerk Salary Increase For 2025/26

It was agreed to increase the salary by £300. This had been budgeted for.

1430: PARISH ASSETS

1. Land by Hoghton Post Office

Nothing to report.

1. War Memorial

Nothing to report.

1431: COMMUNCATIONS

Our Parish Facebook page now has 183 members, an increase of 7.

1432: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

1433: NEXT MEETING DATE

19th May (7:30pm). This is the AGM meeting date. Our Chairman Trevor Greenwood advised the meeting that due to personal reasons he would be unable to stand again as Chair, but he was happy to remain as a Parish Councillor.

Please Note: The 23rd June, 22nd September and 8Th December meetings will be at Hoghton Village Hall due to non-availability of the Church Hall.