**HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES of the 1,198th Meeting held on 11 August 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, Y Hargreaves and M Graham (Clerk to the Council)

**Apologies for absence:** none

**Also in attendance:** 4 members of the public were present along with Chorley Councillor Michelle Beach. No apologies from other councillors had been received.

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| **Agenda Item and Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1462:** **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.  S Fawcett declared an interest in the Gib Lane planning application. |  |
| **1463:** **Minutes**  The Action Points from the last meeting were discussed. There were 3 areas to be updated –   1. Village Garden Sign – it was agreed not to place a sign on the garden. 2. Quaker Book Lane Survey – SF and the Clerk agreed to complete this. 3. Boars Head Bus Stops – MG confirmed that the building was complete and both bus stops were on the insurance policy.   The Minutes and Actions of 23 June 2025 meeting were then agreed and signed as a true and correct record.  A discussion took place as to whether ‘draft’ should be added to the minutes before they were approved. It was pointed out that on the Parish website minutes are always labelled ‘To Be Approved’ until the Parish Council meets. This was agreed as appropriate, and no further action is required. | **SF & MG** |
| **1464:** **Police Report -** None present.  A resident mentioned that an ‘Armadillo’ speed monitoring device had been used by the police on Moulden Brow but they could not share data without a FOI data request which he has now submitted. Cllr Beach stated she would chase up the Police regarding speed monitoring being needed over a wider time period; she would feed back to the Parish Council. | **Cllr MB** |
| **1465:** **LALC Report –** None |  |
| **1466:** **Environmental Issues and Concerns**  **Parish Community Garden** - It was agreed to ask our grounds contractor to weed the area.  **River Darwen** – The Clerk reported that the footpath by the river just beyond the viaduct is in a worsening state and needed urgent remedial action or an alternative route. He had contacted LCC PROW who had responded that they were ‘unable to indicate what the resolution or timescale for repair would be’. He would again write to the PROW Team Leader stating that the Parish Council believed the footpath to be hazardous and needed a site visit with a view to closure if deemed unsafe. Cllr Beach asked for a copy of correspondence so she could also chase this up for us.  **Litter Pick, Riley Green** – A potential litter pick was discussed and it was agreed to leave this to late September onwards. This would also be discussed with local residents.  **‘Treescapes’** – The Chair had been liaising with Ian Wright from Treescapes. It was agreed to progress with the idea of fruit trees close to the pond on Cripple Gate Lane. Treescapes recommended the Hawthorn trees by the War Memorial should be pruned rather than be removed and Ian Wright would work with the Council and their contractors for the best way forward for the trees.  A member of the public reported there was smell from a possible septic tank in the Cripple Gate area. A report to CBC was recommended if this continued to be a problem.  Concern was again raised about the trees needing pruning opposite Laurelbank on Moulden Brow along with the speed signs requiring the pruning of shrubs which were in the line of sight; Cllr Beach stated she would follow this up with Bernie Heggarty of Chorley Council. | **MG**  **MG/ Cllr MB**  **JC**  **JC**  **Cllr MB** |
| **1467: Highways and Footpaths**  **Public Footpaths** - No matters raised.  **TTRO’s** – none advised.  **Benches** – All of our benches requiring maintenance had now been repaired and painted to a high standard.  **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. A grant of £500 had been received. After a lengthy discussion it was resolved that the Clerk write to County Councillor Clemson stating that the Parish Council view is that the whole length of the A674 through Hoghton Lane/Blackburn Old Rd/Riley Green Switch Rd/Moulden Brow needs to be a maximum of 40mph and the only way of effectively reducing accidents is to have average speed enforcement cameras.  Residents mentioned that the dumped mattress on Moulden Brow still needed clearing. Cllr Beach stated she would follow this up with Chorley Council.  **Quaker Brook Lane (QBL)** – Two residents raised the issues of traffic on QBL, this is especially problematic when there are issues on local motorways with satnavs redirecting traffic down a residential lane, which is single track in parts. This is creating mayhem and is a big concern to residents of whom a number have been subject to abuse and had damage to driveways and gates. The letter requesting residents’ views on possible answers and solutions should be completed as a matter of urgency. SF would complete this on behalf of Hoghton Parish Council and Salmesbury and Cuerdale Parish Council. The outcomes should then be submitted to Lancashire County Council. | **MG**  **Cllr MB**  **SF** |
| **1468:** **Chorley District and Lancashire County Council Reports**  M Urry reported on her attendance at the Chorley Council Liaison Committee (for parish councils). She stated the meeting had discussed the following –   1. There are to be new food recycling bins for the Borough. MY reported there had been little communication of this to Parish Councils in the Borough. 2. Parish Councils to the Liaison Committee that there had been a lack of consultation regarding unification models. CBC are due to schedule visits to each PC to explain devolution and how it will affect them. 3. Parish assets after unification was discussed. 4. A further discussion had taken place on Children’s Homes and HOMs in the CBC area.   The was no LCC report. Our County Councillor is invited to each of our meetings. | **MG** |
| **1469:** **Planning Reports**  **25/00676/PIP - Wise Marys Farm, Hoghton Lane:** It was decided to await a full application being received. The main concern of the Parish Councilis the area is prone to speeding and the sight line for access and egress is presently unsuitable. It was also mentioned that the residents’ consultation letter referred to on the CBC website had not been received yet and the consultation close date in the letter had passed; Cllr Beach asked for details of the application so she could raise it with the Planning Department.  **25/00677/PIP - The Paddock, Gib Lane:** Nothing had been raised with the Parish Council by residents. It was agreed to explore the application in more detail if a full application was received.  **Land South of The Straits:** This had not yet been discussed at the Planning Committee. The view of Cllr Beach was that the PIP application would be passed due to a lack of grounds to refuse the application at the PIP stage rather than a subsequent full application stage.  **Land by Hoghton Post Office:** The land has been left by the builder/developer and is presently in a scruffy state. The Clerk had emailed the Head of Planning who had sent out an officer to inspect the site. The Clerk had sent 2 follow up emails to the Head of Planning for an update but no response had been forthcoming. Cllr Beach promised to follow this up if the Clerk would forward details to her.  **Finnington Lane:** The Clerk gave an update and reminded those present of the forthcoming ‘Friends of Finnington ‘day at the Hoghton Arms on 25th August. | **Cllr MB**  **MG/ Cllr MB** |
| **1470:** **Accounts**  These had been provided to all Councillors and were approved for payment. (*Please see attached table of payments at the end of these minutes.)* |  |
| **1471: Parish Assets**  **War Memorial** – Following our Risk Assessment it was identified the Memorial needs some remedial work. The Clerk had been in dialogue with Rawcliffes Monument Masons of Chorley who had inspected the Memorial. We are now awaiting a written report and estimates.  **Notice Boards** – The board at Hoghton Bottoms has been repaired. | **MG** |
| **1472:** **Communications**  **Social Media** – MG reported our Parish Facebook page now has 214 members. Councillors approved the format of the new **.gov** email address and web site address; our webmaster is awaiting approval from the Cabinet Office before they can proceed with the changes. |  |
| **1473:** **Any Other Business**  **Christmas Tree(s)** - A Martin reported on the Christmas tree arrangements. It had previously been agreed to pay up to £100 towards Chorley Brass Band. She was having difficulty in finding a Christmas tree for the Parish; Councillors were asked for ideas. Given the amount of time needed to organise the Christmas event it was agreed that a small subcommittee be formed to come up with firm proposals for endorsement by a subsequent Parish Council meeting.  **Cold Callers/Scams** – The Chair reported that concerns had been expressed to her regarding cold callers who had been knocking on doors in the Parish asking for residents to buy goods. MG informed the meeting that this was a scam, and he would attempt to obtain some street signs deterring cold callers, as well as obtaining some individual notices for households to display.  **Additional Parish Council Meetings** – The Chair asked if it was appropriate for additional PC meetings to take place due to the increase in matters arising in the Parish. It was agreed that the meetings should stay as they are, but members should discuss matters as and when necessary, on an on-going basis, and bring this information back to the full PC. | **AM/JC/BM**  **MG** |
| **1474:** **Date of Next Meeting**  The date of the next meeting will be 22nd September at 7:30pm at the Village Hall. **Please note the venue and start time.** |  |