**MINUTES OF THE 1193rd MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON 10th February 2025 AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL**

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

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

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

**Apologies for absence:** received from: Chorley Cllrs Amahwe and Beach.

1406: 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.

1407: MINUTES

The minutes of the 13th January 2025 meeting were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

1408: ADJOURNMENT

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

Seven residents of Laurelbank, Moulden Brow were present. This had been discussed at the previous meeting and the Clerk had subsequently written to Lancashire County Council following his earlier petition; the email to LCC outlined the issues in the locality and asked for LCC to both investigate and act on the dangerous road safety conditions in the immediate area. A response had been promised by 7th February but this had not been forthcoming; Cllr Cullens kindly agreed to follow this up.

The local residents had produced a detailed list, with photographs, of numerous serious incidents. The list was far more detailed than that supplied by Lancashire Police. The Clerk had forwarded the information to our local PC as well as LCC. He had also contacted local media. It was agreed the Clerk write to the Police & Crime Commissioner and both residents and the Parish Council push for suitable ways to reduce speed up and down Moulden Brow.

At this stage of the meeting the Chairman suggested the meeting bring forward a discussion on the Central Lancashire Local Plan (CLLP) and the Finnington Lane development application given its proximity to the Laurelbank residents.

The Clerk, wearing his ‘Friends of Finnington’ campaign group hat, gave a detailed report on the campaign to date, lobbying work undertaken and the importance of the CLLP that had just been released for final consultation. He also explained the campaign group had obtained expert planning consultant advice and they were also to have a conference with a specialist barrister later in the week. The Clerk’s report was welcomed as was the content of the CLLP.

1409: POLICE REPORT

None present.

1410: LALC REPORT

No report.

1411: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND CONCERNS

1. Community Garden

It was agreed to source a sign for the community garden. Given councillors Martin and Caton had been unable to attend it was agreed to hold over a discussion on this until our March meeting.

1. Annual River Darwen Clean Up

The Saturday 22nd March was confirmed. The Clerk had approached the de Hoghton Estate for funding for a skip and this had now been ordered. A poster had also been produced, and this had been circulated on social media and noticeboards. The Clerk was meeting the Ribble Rivers Trust on 12th February to finalise the Risk Assessment for the cleanup event.

1412: HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

1. SPIDS on Hoghton Lane

Nothing to report.

1. TTRO’S

Nothing to report.

1. Bus Stops

The Parish Council are awaiting a start date for work to commence. The Clerk had taken photographs of the bus stop adjacent to de Hoghton Estate land and this would be shared, along with a work method statement, with the de Hoghton Estate Land Agent and tenant farmer.

1. Blackburn Old Road Bench

The bench ends had been inspected and were deemed safe. The Parish Council still need to make arrangements for the reconstruction of the bench.

1413: CHORLEY DISTRICT & LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

Nothing to report.

1414: PLANNING REPORTS

1. 25/00041/FUL

The application had been previously circulated. There were no objections.

1415: ACCOUNTS

1. Accounts For Payment:

Accounts for payment 10th February 2025

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Easy Websites | 71 | Monthly Hosting Fee 1st Feb | £30.36 | DD |
| HMRC | 72 | Clerk Tax Feb | £88.40 | Cheque (1) |
| Mike Graham | 73 | Clerk Salary Feb | £353.60 | Cheque (2) |
| Mike Graham | 74 | Printer Toner | £40.71 | Cheque (2) |
| Chorley Council | 75 | Non-Contested Election Fee | £174.68 | Bank Transfer |
| Mike Graham | 76 | Photocopy paper | £3.00 | Cheque (2) |
| Holy Trinity Church | 77 | Room Hire Feb | £20.00 | Bank Transfer |

1. HMRC Cheque: £88.40
2. M Graham cheque: £397.31
3. Grounds Maintenance

The Grounds Maintenance tender paper had been placed it on noticeboards, Facebook and the Parish Council website. Two expressions of interest had been received, and these would be considered by the Parish Council at the March meeting.

1416: PARISH ASSETS

1. Land by Hoghton Post Office

Nothing to report.

1. War Memorial

An offer to clean the Memorial had been received. The Clerk had responded expressing interest on behalf of the Parish Council but explaining we would need a method statement and a list of cleaning materials to be used. It was agreed by the Council that repairs should be made before any cleaning is undertaken.

1417: COMMUNCATIONS

Our Parish Facebook page now has 179 members, an increase of 7.

1418: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

1419: NEXT MEETING DATE

24th March (7pm).

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