**MINUTES OF THE 1183rd MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON 15th January 2024 AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL**

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

M Urry, A Martin, D Strange, J Caton, and M Graham (Clerk to the Council).

**Also in attendance:** Four members of the public were present along with District and County Councillor Alan Cullens BEM.

**Apologies for absence:** None.

1250: 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.

1251: MINUTES

The minutes of the 4th December 2023 meeting were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

1252: ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr and Mrs Coupe of Quaker Brook Lane raised their ongoing concerns over speeding and overweight vehicles using their road; it was agreed with Cllr A Cullens that he would liaise directly over this issue.

Mr and Mrs Santus informed the meeting that the Village Hall roof was leaking, and the Hall Committee were in needs of substantial funds to rebuild the roof. The Clerk reminded the meeting that he had written to the Hall Committee outlining the LCC Crowdfunding process which means that LCC will match fund any crowdfunded donations up to a maximum total of £25,000 and this process would mean any Parish Council contribution would be more effective via this funding route. Cllr Cullens offered to provide more information and assistance to the Village Hall Committee.

1253: POLICE REPORT

The Police were not present. The Clerk was asked to contact the new beat Officer, PC Connor Cross, for the area and see if he could attend an upcoming meeting.

J Caton said when she attended the recent Lancashire Councils Conference there was an offer for Parish Councils to jointly visit the Police Control Room at Hutton Police HQ; she had subsequently been in touch with Lancashire Police, and they had kindly offered Monday 26th February for us to make a visit. This was warmly welcomed, and names would be agreed for submission at our February Parish Council meeting.

1254: LALC REPORT

As reported at our December 2023 meeting LALC are conducting training on planning policy for Samlesbury and Cuerdale Parish Council at Samlesbury Parish Hall on the evening of 22nd February. The Clerk would forward our participant names and the fee for our participants training would be met by Hoghton Parish Council.

1255: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND CONCERNS

The Hoghton Bottoms Annual River Darwen Clean Up was agreed for Sunday 21st April from 10:30 until 12 noon. The Clerk would produce a poster and publicise via noticeboards and social media.

J Caton also reported she had planted a large sack of daffodil bulbs donated by Chorley Council. These had been planted alongside the footpath close to the Village Hall and the bus stop.

J Caton and A Martin also updated the meeting on progress with Holy Trinity Church and their youth group to place bird and bug boxes on Church land close to their meeting hall along with similar boxes for the Village Hall. Contact had been made with Wymott Prison who were happy to produce boxes and supply them to us free of charge; this was an excellent offer much welcomed by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council had reported the latest upcoming Chorley Council ‘Tree Giveaway’ and we hoped local residents would participate with this excellent initiative.

1256: HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

1. SPIDS on Hoghton Lane

The SpID had been ordered and delivered. The Clerk had just heard from LCC who require us to carry out local resident consultation and it was agreed the Clerk publicise this on our social media sites and vis a localised leaflet in the proposed SpID area.

1. TTRO’S

No TTRO’s had been received.

1. Public Footpaths

The Hoghton Bottoms River Darwen footpath upstream of the viaduct had been cleared thanks to the de Hoghton Estate.

It was agreed that Cllr Cullens would raise the need for LCC to clear the mass of leaves on Station Road. He would also request a new Deer Warning Sign on Hoghton Lane.

1257: CHORLEY DISTRICT & LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

J Caton had approached LCC Mobile Library who had agreed to park up on Hoghton Village Hall carpark from 12:20 to 13:20 every 3rd Friday. This was warmly welcomed by the Committee and the Parish Council would publicise this extension to the Mobile Library service to our village.

1258: PLANNING REPORTS

There were no planning applications for our village.

1259: ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENTS

Accounts for payment 15th January 2024

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Payee | Transaction Number | Explanation | Amount | Notes |
| Easy Websites | 59 | Monthly Hosting Fee 1st January 2024 | £30.36 | DD |
| HMRC | 60 | Clerk Tax January | £83.40 | Cheque |
| Mike Graham | 61 | Clerk Salary January | £333.60 | Cheque |
| Argos (pre-paid by M Graham) | 62 | Laminating Pouches x100 | £9.99 | Cheque |
| Aldrich & Whitehead | 63 | Payroll services x3 months | £108.00 | Bank transfer |
| Elan City | 64 | Speed Camera | £2,747.99 | Bank Transfer CIL |
| Forbes Solicitors | 65 | Legal fees, land by Post Office | £1,219.60 | Bank Transfer CIL |
| Holy Trinity Church | 66 | Room Hire 15th January 2024 | £20.00 | Bank transfer |

The above was all agreed.

1260: Parish Finances

Nothing to report.

1261: LAND ADJACENT TO HOGHTON POST OFFICE

The Parish Council solicitors had advised us that the Deed of Dedication signed at our December meeting was acceptable to all parties and we were now awaiting signatures from the representatives of the de Hoghton Estate prior to completion.

1262: COMMUNICATONS

Our Facebook Group continues to grow and now has 130 members. Notices had been placed on our four noticeboards advising that all Parish Council minutes are available on our website and via the Clerk.

1263: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Christmas tree sites had been cleared. It was agreed to look at a range of tree providers for Christmas 2024 to ensure best value for money. We would also seek to take ownership of our two paid for tree stands and D Strange kindly agreed to take this on board.

1264: NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday 19th February 2024 at Holy Trinity Church Hall. Our previously circulated suggested meeting dates were agreed, and the Clerk had these also confirmed these with the Church.

The meeting closed at 21:00