**MINUTES OF THE 1188th MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON 24th June 2024 AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL**

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

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

**Also in attendance:** Two members of the public were present. The meeting also welcomed County Councillor Alan Cullens BEM and Chorley District Councillors Michelle Beach and Irene Amahwe.

**Apologies for absence:** D Strange and Y Hargreaves.

1320: 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.

1321: MINUTES

The minutes of the 13th May 2024 meeting were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

1322: ADJOURNMENT

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

1323: POLICE REPORT

There was no report.

1324: LALC REPORT

Nothing to report.

1325: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND CONCERNS

1. J Caton advised of the forthcoming ‘Balsam Bash’ sessions jointly organised with the Ribble Rivers Trust. These are on the 7th and 17th of July. Information is on our Facebook site.
2. The Community Garden at the Village Hall is progressing albeit with the Parish Councillors taking on too much of the work; future events will be promoted to our local community via social media. The Parish Council will need to publicly thank all local businesses who have donated items as well as Wymott Prison who produced the bird and bug boxes. When the garden is ready to be formally opened it was agreed the Mayor of Chorley be invited to carry out the formal opening.
3. Four rose bushes ordered by our previous Parish Clerk need planting. It was agreed that they go by the Cenotaph on Blackburn Old Road.

1326: HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

1. SPIDS on Hoghton Lane

The Clerk reported the SpID is in place and is operational albeit the batteries need changing.

1. TTRO’S

No TTRO’s had been received. LCC responded to our representations regarding the Sandy Lane closure by saying it was “illegal”; traffic restrictions were lifted within hours.

1. Station Road Parking

Concern had previously been expressed at the parking of numerous vehicles at the southern end of the Station Road / Blackburn Old Road junction. Alan Cullens had raised this with LCC and an officer is to attend to look at double yellow lines for the junction; this may take up to 9 months to achieve.

1. Footpaths

The Brindle Lodge footpath is a mess, and it was agreed that by Alan Cullens that he would raise this directly with LCC. Concern was also expressed about the footpath opposite Sandy Lane and along Gib Lane; Michelle Beach agreed to raise these with Chorley Street Scene when the details were forwarded to her.

1. Bus Stops

The bus shelter on Blackburn Old Road close to The Royal Oak (Blackburn bound) had a badly damaged roof. The Clerk would raise this with LCC.

The stone bus shelters outside and opposite the Boars Head both have damaged roof tiles. LCC nor Chorley Council deny responsibility both saying the ownership and responsibility is with Hoghton Parish Council; this is disputed by the Parish Council who believe they are owned by the de Hoghton Estate. Parish Council records are lacking; at the suggestion of Michelle Beach, it was agreed that we seek further information from parishioners via social media.

1327: CHORLEY DISTRICT & LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

Nothing to report. Our three Chorley Councillors stated they were keen to attend our meetings, but they would need to share these out between themselves. There will be occasions that due to diary clashes they would be unable to attend. They were thanked for this commitment.

1328: PLANNING REPORTS

Two planning applications had been circulated. Neither was contenious and the Parish Council would therefore not be formally commenting.

1329: ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Accounts for payment:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Easy Websites | 14 | Monthly Hosting Fee 1st June | £30.36 | DD |
| HMRC | 15 | Clerk Tax June | £88.40 | Cheque |
| Mike Graham | 16 | Clerk Salary June | £353.60 | Cheque |
| Helping Hands | 17 | x20 Litter Pickers | £182.73 | Bank transfer |
| J Caton | 18 | HVH Community Garden Bark | £59.94 | Bank transfer |
| Holy Trinity Church | 19 | Room Hire June 2024 | £20.00 | Bank transfer |
| J Caton | 20 | HVH Community Garden Items x2 | £16.00 | Bank transfer |

The above were agreed.

1330: PARISH FINANCES

1. VAT

The Clerk had applied for a VAT rebate of £1307.13 which had been agreed and was now in the Parish Council account.

1. Certificate of Exemption

This had been previously circulated and was agreed and signed.

1. AGAR Return 2023/24

This had previously been circulated and was agreed and signed.

1. End of Year Financial Statement 2023/24

This had previously been circulated and was agreed and signed.

1. CIL Annual Return Form

This was agreed and signed.

1331: LAND ADJACENT TO HOGHTON POST OFFICE

These are still with the de Hoghton Estate solicitors for finalisation. B Mattock had contacted the developers to find the land adjacent to our new plot had been sold to Fellows Builders. They had been contacted and were helpful in terms of working together with the Parish Council to, for example, finalise boundaries.

1332: COMMUNICATONS

Our Facebook Group continues to grow and now has 152 members.

1333: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

1334: NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday 5th August 2024 at Holy Trinity Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 20:50.