**MINUTES OF THE 1185th MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON 25th March 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:** One member of the public was present along with District and County Councillor Alan Cullens BEM.

**Apologies for absence:** PC Connor Cross who was attending a training course.

1280: 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.

1281: MINUTES

The minutes of the 19th February 2024 meeting were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

Members of the Parish Council were grateful for the Planning Policy training organised by Samlesbury & Cuerdale Parish Council. The Clerk would circulate copies of the training presentation slides to all members.

1282: ADJOURNMENT

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

1283: POLICE REPORT

 Drug taking and dealing from cars on Station Road was reported. The Parish Council advised that anyone witnessing such events should try and get evidence (car registration plates and descriptions) and provide these to the Police using 999 if the events are still taking place.

1284: LALC REPORT

 Nothing to report.

1285: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND CONCERNS

The Hoghton Bottoms Annual River Darwen Clean Up was to take place on Sunday 21st April from 10:30 until 12 noon. It was agreed to repeat publicise this. Concern was expressed at the sewage reported in the River Darwen the previous weekend; it was believed this was from a septic tank overflow, the Environment Agency had been informed.

J Caton reported the groundworks adjacent to the cricket pitch had been held up due to incessant rain. We are also waiting for the bird / bug / bee and hedgehog boxes from Wymott Prison. There was also a possibility of some wood chippings

1286: HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

1. SPIDS on Hoghton Lane

The Clerk reported he had received the LCC quotation for the erection of the three mounting poles and fitting of the SpID. The amount was £2,051 this being far greater than the Parish Council had estimated; the amount was high due to the area being a 40mph zone therefore requiring traffic management at a cost of £450 per day. County Councillor Alan Cullens had been requested to approach the LCC Highways department requesting a reduction. It was resolved that whatever the outcome is with LCC the Parish Council would fund the £2,051 from CIL monies if required.

1. TTRO’S

No TTRO’s had been received.

1. Public Footpaths

M Urry raised concerns about the public footpath between 243 and 245 Hoghton Lane being overgrown and the stiles in need of repair. It was explained that LCC will not repair stiles, and this is down to the landowner; however, the Clerk would raise the issue of the stiles with LCC and ask them to approach the landowner.

Cllr Cullens was thanked for arranging for Chorley Council to clear the mass of leaves on Station Road.

1287: CHORLEY DISTRICT & LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

 It was mentioned that local elections were taking place in our Chorley District Council ward, nothing had been received from Chorley Council on this.

 The Clerk was also asked to check whether Parish Council nominations and elections were taking place this year. The Clerk responded he had circulated a Chorley Council circular in November 2023 telling us the fees we would pay for contested and uncontested elections but no further information on the timetable or election notices had been received. He would follow this up with some urgency.

1288: PLANNING REPORTS

Planning Application for a certificate of lawfulness for an existing garage, car port and kennel area for the property: Hedgerows, & Sandy Lane, PR5 0SQ. This was noted.

1289: ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENTS

 Accounts for payment 25th March 2024

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Payee | Transaction Number | Explanation | Amount | Notes |
| Easy Websites | 72 | Monthly Hosting Fee 1st March 2024 | £30.36 | DD |
| HMRC | 73 | Clerk Tax March | £83.40 | Cheque |
| Mike Graham | 74 | Clerk Salary March | £333.60 | Cheque |
| Elan City | 75 | 2x Speed Camera Mounting Brackets | £93.98 | CIL Bank Transfer |
| Holy Trinity Church | 76 | Room Hire 25th March 2024 | £20.00 | Bank transfer |

73 £83.60  Cheque Number: 001175

74 £333.60 Cheque Number 001176

The above were agreed.

1290: PARISH FINANCES

The Clerk gave the following financial report of the up-to-date financial position to the Parish Council.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | PARISH ACCOUNT | PARISH ELEMENT | CIL ELEMENT |
| bf (01/04/23) | £11,950.97 | (-£289.86) | £12,240.13 |
| Income | £24,078.47 | £7,872.36 | £16,206.11 |
| Expenditure | £18,997.98 | £9,473.83 | £9,524.15 |
| c/f balance (30/11/23) | £17,031.46 | (-£1,891.33) | £18,922.09 |

1291: LAND ADJACENT TO HOGHTON POST OFFICE

 Three copies of the final agreement for the transfer of land from the de Hoghton Estate had been received from Forbes Solicitors. These were signed and witnessed at the meeting and the Clerk resolved to return these to Forbes without delay. It was agreed to have a debate at the next Parish Council meeting as to how the Parish Council could best use and improve the area albeit it would be best if the actual work on this only commences after the building work on the adjacent site has finished.

1292: COMMUNICATONS

 Our Facebook Group continues to grow and now has 145 members.

1293: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

 None.

1294: NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday 13th May (AGM) 2024 at Holy Trinity Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 21:00