**MINUTES OF THE 1189th MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON 23rd September 2024 AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL**

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

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

**Also in attendance:** Three members of the public was present. The meeting also welcomed County Councillor Alan Cullens BEM.

**Apologies for absence:** T Greenwood and Y Hargreaves.

1349: 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.

1350: MINUTES

The minutes of the 25th August 2024 meeting were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

1351: ADJOURNMENT

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

A discussion took place on the campaign to support a new bus route through Brindle, and therefore Hoghton. The meeting agreed to support a new bus route but not on a political party basis. Councillor Cullens and resident L Worden were thanked for their presentation.

1352: POLICE REPORT

 There was no report.

1353: LALC REPORT

A comprehensive report from the LALC Conference on 7th September was given by J Caton. She said presentations covered the importance of Councillors knowing exactly what their role is and that a role description should be produced and publicised to promote interest in the present vacancy for a Parish Councillor [this was agreed by the meeting].

Presentations were also given on biodiversity and the need to work with a wide range of other local organisations. Delegates were also briefed on the role of NALC and their services such as legal and employment contracts along with the need to advertise contracts for services for the Parish Council.

Finally, delegates heard form *Treescapes* and their funding of tree planting and woodland creation across Lancashire along with free advice for parish councils. The Clerk would approach *Treescapes* as appropriate.

A full copy of J Caton’s written report is available on request.

1354: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND CONCERNS

1. Community Garden

An update was given by J Caton and A Martin. It was agreed that the garden would need signage at a later stage to direct visitors to the site. These would be purchased at a later stage.

1. Annual River Darwen Clean Up

The Clerk agreed to make arrangements for and publicise the 2025 clean-up.

1355: HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

1. SPIDS on Hoghton Lane

The Clerk reported the SpID on Hoghton Lane will require LCC to fit (at cost) the solar power unit. The SpID supplier, Elan City, had an offer on buying 2 SpID’s which is available to the end of the year. The cost would be £4,800 which includes VAT. LCC fitting plus the fitting for the Hoghton Lane SpID totals £447.50; it was agreed to discuss this at our October meeting when we have a price for the two bus shelter roofing work to enable us to budget for the SpIDS if they are affordable.

1. TTRO’S

There were no road closures advised.

1. Bus Stops

After research is has become apparent the stone bus shelters close to the Boars Head are the responsibility of the Parish Council. The detail of this had been lost over time.

The Parish council resolved to obtain 3 quotes for the repair and/or replacement of the shelter roofs; the aim is to have these quotes available for the October meeting to allow the Council to decide on the best way forward and to also help councillors with a decision on funding 2 further SpID’s.

1356: CHORLEY DISTRICT & LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

 No report.

1357: PLANNING REPORTS

1. 24/00276/TPO re: Woodland Grange, Private Rd

The application was discussed. No one had objected to the application.

1. 24/00712/FUL re: !2 Viaduct Rd

The application was discussed. No one objected to the application.

1. Childrens’ Home, Riley Green

Resident L Worden reported on a positive Riley Green residents meeting with the managers of the home. It was hoped there would not be any further incidents.

1358: ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Accounts for payment:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Easy Websites | 34 | Monthly Hosting Fee 1st Sept | £30.36 | DD |
| HMRC | 35 | Clerk Tax Sept | £88.40 | Cheque (1) |
| Mike Graham | 36 | Clerk Salary Sept | £353.60 | Cheque (2) |
| LALC | 37 | Conference fee x2 | £70.00 | Bank Transfer |
| Holy Trinity Church | 38 | Room Hire Sept 2024 | £20.00 | Bank transfer |
| Hoghton Autumn Club | 39 | Donation | £100 |  |

The above were all agreed.

1359: PARISH FINANCES

1. Parish Precept

The Clerk advised the Council would need to set its 2025/25 Precept at our October meeting. He would produce details on the expected expenditure to assist with the Precept setting.

1. Village Hall

The Parish Council agreed in principle to donate towards the rebuilding of toilets at the Hall. The amount would be agreed at our October meeting as part of the wider discussion on CIL fund expenditure on SpID’s and the bus shelters.

1. Hoghton Autumn Club

The meeting agreed to a £100 donation to the Club.

1. Christmas Trees

The meeting agreed to submit a grant request of £500 to LCC to help fund Christmas Tree expenditure and the costs of the Village Hall. Planning work was underway for both trees and a full report will be made at the next meeting.

1359: LAND ADJACENT TO HOGHTON POST OFFICE

The Deeds have been received. The Clerk had contacted our grounds contractor to trim the hedge around the land.

1360: COMMUNCATIONS

 None

1361: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

 Councillors were reminded to return their Declaration of Interests forms to the Clerk.

1362: NEXT MEETING DATE

 Monday 28th September 2024

 The meeting closed at 21:25.