**MINUTES OF THE 1274TH MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON 27TH FEBRUARY 2023 AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL**

**Present:** Councillor T Greenwood (In the Chair), Councillor B Mattock (Vice Chair), Councillors M Graham, A Cullens MBE, Y Hargreaves, M Urry

**Also in attendance:** 2 members of the public

**Apologies for absence:** J Caton, T Harkness (Parish Clerk)

1121: 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.

1122: MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 16th of January 2023 having previously been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood).

1123: ADJOURNMENT

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

BARN CROFT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

A member of the public expressed concern that one of the new-build properties has a balcony which would allow the new occupants to see directly into her bedroom and other private spaces; this was regarded by the resident as intrusive and an invasion of privacy.

The resident had approached the building contractor asking for two trees to be planted but had little success.

The Parish Council pointed out that Chorley Council had already passed the development, so there was little that could be done except engage with the contractor. Our local district councillor agreed to check the planning process and check any constraints with building control.

1124: POLICE REPORT

The Police were not present. Our local officer had returned to work after an injury but was on light duties.

1125: LALC REPORT

 No correspondence had been received.

1126: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND CONCERNS

1. River Clean Up

The Parish Council had arranged a River Darwen/Hoghton Bottoms, clean up on Sunday, 30th April, and posters had been circulated on social media. The de Hoghton Estate was thanked for paying for a rubbish skip for the event.

1. Litter picking

It was recognised that several residents participate in litter picking. It was agreed to recognise this on our HPC Facebook page, and we would offer to coordinate if required, and provide bags and other equipment on request.

1127: HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

1. Hoghton Bottoms parking

Our County councillor and Parish councillor had again met with residents. LCC had produced a proposal that HPC then consulted upon via social media. After feedback, it was suggested the first LCC sign be placed immediately before the railway bridge, rather than at the top of Long Barn Brow; LCC subsequently agreed to this. LCC asked for a HPC contribution towards the cost, and the meeting agreed £500.

1. BT Manhole Hoghton Lane

BT had left their pavement manhole between Park View and 241 Hoghton Lane in a dangerous condition and it was a tripping hazard. It was agreed to follow this up with BT.

1. Chapel Lane road sign

The new road sign had been broken by a delivery lorry for the Boars Head public house. It was agreed to raise this with Chorley Council asking them to make repairs.

1. PROW at Hey Barn

it was reported that the public right-of-way (PROW) was still blocked. It was agreed to ask LCC when the temporary closure order ends and what actions they intend to take.

1. SPIDS ON The Straits

It was agreed to ask our County Councillor to explore the possibility of having a traffic speed indicator (SPID) fitted on The Straits

1. Covered Bus Stop Hoghton Lane

It was agreed to investigate via Lancashire County Council / Chorley District Council how we can get a covered bus stop shelter erected on Hoghton Lane.

1128: CHORLEY DISTRICT & LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

1. Coronation Events

Up to £500 is available to Parish Councils to celebrate the forthcoming coronation of King Charles III.

1. LCC Local Member Grants

Up to £2500 is available to local organisations (with bank accounts) in the present financial year (applications before 17 March 2023), otherwise it is £2000 in 2023/24.

HPC will publicise this on their website and Facebook page.

1129: PLANNING REPORTS

1. Riley Green Children’s Home

The application had been resubmitted and will be considered by Chorley Council planning. HPC had already submitted an objection.

1130: ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENTS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PAYEE** | **DESCRIPTION**  | **AMOUNT**  |
| David Metcalfe | Website domain  | £71.99 |
| Holy Trinity Church  | Room hire x 2 | £40.00 |

 The above were agreed and cheques signed.

it was also agreed to launch a new website. A recommendation of website developer, Easy Websites, had been made by LALC. Discussion had taken place with the web developer and a financial quotation received (attached to the master copy of these Minutes).

It was agreed to invest £500 plus VAT (£600) in the new website and £23 plus VAT monthly management fee, which covers all costs.

1131: LAND ADJACENT TO HOGHTON POST OFFICE

HPC agreed to engage solicitors to carry out the land purchase on behalf of the Parish. CIL funding would pay for this. The land is being kindly gifted by the de Hoghton Estate and our legal fees are £950 plus VAT, and disbursements of approximately £60 plus VAT. The expenditure was agreed.

1132: REPLACEMENT BENCH – CHAPEL LANE

This had been ordered and now fitted. The Parish Council was very pleased with the bench and with the quality of the work contractor who fitted the bench.

1133: RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR

 The resignation of Mike Graham was received.

1134: APPOINTMENT OF PARISH CLERK

Mike Graham was appointed to replace our excellent and long-standing Clerk, Tony Harkness, who was (at the time of the meeting), sadly, terminally ill.

The new clerk asked for an early audit of the Parish accounts, but he would initially need to get bank signatories changed, order bank statements, and update the Parish accounts.

1135: CLERK PAYROLL

The new Clerk had contacted Whitehead & Aldrich accountants Ltd who undertook the HPC payroll. As the previous Clerk had served Brindle as well as Hoghton, the cost of payroll had been shared. This could no longer be the case. Additionally, our accountants advised HMRC would no longer accept quarterly Clerk salary payments, and this must be monthly. We therefore face increased payroll charges of £30 plus VAT per month. This was agreed as from 1 March 2023. It was also agreed that the new Clerk be paid as from 1 March 2023.

1136: COMMUNICATONS

1. Facebook

Our Facebook page is doing well and now has 82 followers.

1137: NEXT MEETING DATES

 24 April 2023 (Parish Meeting)

22 May 2023 (AGM)

At Holy Trinity Church Hall

The meeting closed at 21.10.