**MINUTES OF THE 1275TH MEETING OF HOGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON 24TH APRIL 2023 AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL**

**Present:** Councillor T Greenwood (In the Chair), Councillor B Mattock (Vice Chair), A Cullens BEM, Y Hargreaves, J Caton

**Also in attendance:** 2 members of the public, including one who had expressed interested in filling our casual vacancy for a Parish Councillor.

**Apologies for absence:** M Urry

At the start of the me e ting, the Chair asked for a one-minute silence to remember the loss of our former Parish Clerk, Mr T Harkness

1138: 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.

1139: MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 27th of February 2023 having previously been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (Councillor T. Greenwood).

1140: ADJOURNMENT

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

No questions were raised.

1141: POLICE REPORT

The Police were not present. Our Parish Clerk has regular contact with Inspector Mike Moyes the senior police officer for Chorley and South Ribble.

1142: LALC REPORT

No correspondence had been received. The Parish Clerk reported that the Secretary of LALC had been very helpful with advice on several matters appertaining to running the Parish Council with a new clerk.

1143: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND CONCERNS

1. River Clean Up

Members were reminded that the River Darwen/Hoghton Bottoms clean would take place on Sunday, 30th April, and a report would be given to the main meeting.

1. Balsam ‘Bash’

A Parish Council member had been working with the Ribble Rivers Trust to organise a Balsam bash in the Hoghton Bottoms area and this would take place on 16th July. Posters would be produced for notice boards and social media outlets.

1144: HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

1. Hoghton Bottoms parking

The signs had been fitted and the Parish Council contribution of £600 to LCC had been paid. It was reported by several members that the signs were having a positive effect.

1. SPIDS on Hoghton Lane

It was agreed to progress this and use CIL monies to pay for the speed indicator. Our County Councillor (CC) reported that we would need training of the fitting of the SPID sign, and he would talk to LCC to see if they were agreeable to its fitting.

1. Covered Bus Stop – Hoghton Lane close to the Barn Croft development

Our CC agreed to enquire of LCC as to whether they would support a covered bus stop.

1. Road Markings – Riley Green Junction

Concern was expressed that the white lines had still not been repainted. Our CC explained that it was on the work list and hopefully would be completed soon.

1145: CHORLEY DISTRICT & LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

1. Coronation Events

The funding is only available from Chorley Council to properly constituted organisations with a bank account; they are not available to Parish Councils. This means that Riley Green residents will be unable to obtain funding for their planned Coronation event.

1146: PLANNING REPORTS

a: 23/00252/FULHH

Heatherdale Quaker Brook Lane Hoghton Preston PR5 0JA

Enlargement of an existing single storey side extension, single storey rear extension, and rear dormer (retrospective) (following demolition of existing conservatory).

**Noted.**

b: 23/00283/FULHH

Location: Hill End Cottage 12 Viaduct Road Hoghton Preston PR5 0SE

Replacement of 5 existing sheds/kennels with 1 new outbuilding/kennel (retrospective)

**Agreed to support.**

1147: ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENTS

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| **PAYEE** | **ITEM NO** | **DESCRIPTION** | **AMOUNT** | **NOTES** |
| Glasdon Ltd | 1 | Bench number 2 | £978.67 | CIL |
| Easy Web Sites Ltd | 2 | New web site design | £600.00 |  |
| HMRC | 3 | Tax March 2023 | £83.40 |  |
| Mike Graham | 4 | Clerk Salary March 2023 | £333.60 |  |
| Harry Fowler Joinery | 5 | Notice Board Hoghton Bottoms | £659.00 | CIL |
| LALC | 6 | Subscription 2023/24 | £152.66 |  |
| Lancs CC | 7 | Chapel Lane / HB Road Signs | £600.00 | CIL |
| LALC | 8 | Clerk’s Finance Course | £30.00 |  |
| HMRC | 9 | Tax April 2023 | £83.40 |  |
| Mike Graham | 10 | Clerk Salary April 2023 | £333.60 |  |

 The above were agreed and cheques signed.

1148. MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

The maintenance contract for the coming year to cover the Pinfold, the War Memorial, the land adjacent to Hoghton Post Office, and strimming around various benches was agreed. The contract is with Maurice Savage of Brinscall. The Clerk reported that he had spoken to Maurice and asked him to do two cuts of the pinfold grass before the Coronation event.

1149: PARISH FINANCES

The Clerk reported that he had concerns about the viability of the Parish finances for 2023 and ongoing. The Parish precept from Chorley Council had stayed at £6000pa for the last 7 years and in this time, inflation had increased by over 27%. This means that we either cut our expenditure, which is difficult, or we substantially increase our precept for next year. We cannot have an increase during the present financial year. We do receive Community Infrastructure Levy money (CIL) but this can only be spent on a limited number of infrastructure items and not the day to day running of the Parish Council.

It was agreed to have a close examination of the budgets in November 2023 with a view to a substantial precept increase request for April 2024.

Regarding our CIL monies, we are expecting a further £13,974.15 this month, bringing our CIL balance to just over £26,000. The Clerk was asked to ensure that we have a running total of CIL expenditure and balances at future Parish Council meetings.

The Riley Green residents had already requested £100 donation to their Coronation party, and it was agreed to make a donation to £50 which could be covered by a forthcoming VAT claim. This was on the basis that the residents were unable to get any monies from Chorley Council.

1150: LAND ADJACENT TO HOGHTON POST OFFICE

The Vice Chair reported that this was in the hands of our Solicitors and the legal fees for this purchase would come from CIL monies.

1151: REPLACEMENT BENCH – CHAPEL LANE

We hope to get the replacement bench fitted on Long Barn Brow in the coming weeks. It was also reported that the bench adjacent to the post office had been gifted to us and we would also look at obtaining brass plaques to go on benches stating benches were provided by Hoghton Parish Council.

1152: APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLOR

Alison Martin was asked if she was still interested in becoming a Parish Councillor and she agreed. Thanks were expressed.

1153: COMMUNICATONS

1. Facebook.

Our Facebook page now has 87 followers and here had not been any negative comments to date.

1. Other Correspondence received.

Nil

1154: NEXT MEETING DATE

22 May 2023 (AGM) followed by full Parish Council Meeting

At Holy Trinity Church Hall

The meeting closed at 21.00.