

CHARNOCK RICHARD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 1 June 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Rooms, Charter Lane, Charnock Richard.

Present: Councillors M Almond (Acting Chairman), A Cornwell, Mrs A Bishop, J Taylor, J Hill and H Heaton. Also present Borough Councillor Leadbetter, Borough Councillor Whittaker and County Councillor Holgate.

REPORTS, COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS OF THE PUBLIC, PARISH, BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS PRESENT

(At this point in the Meeting members of the public present can report, ask questions, raise issues and make observations on parish matters or items appearing on the Agenda. Reports, Complaints and Concerns will also be received from Parish, Borough and County Councillors if attending – Once closed the Chairman will only suspend standing orders to allow further participation if it will aid discussions)

Members of the Public – Reported that the 3-way public footpath sign at the bottom of Town Lane, reported to have been replaced by LCC, is still missing. The litter bin near the entrance to the public footpath to the BMX track is full. Councillor Heaton reported having spoken to the landowner on the S-bends on Chorley Lane, where the hedges are overhanging the footway and need cutting back. It was confirmed however, that if this reveals a poor footway, this will be a matter for LCC. Hedges on both sides of the Charter Lane/Chorley Lane junction need cutting back. The bench near the Hinds Head on Chorley Lane has a broken plank – the Lengthsman will be asked to repair this. The carriageway on Preston Road, opposite the German Lane junction, is in a poor condition and requires remedial work. The roundabout and associated road markings at the Preston Road/Mill Lane junction are extremely faded and require re-marking. It was reported that drainage and gully issues on Chorley Lane are likely to be linked to drainage issues on Preston Road. It was also reported that all the gullies on Chorley Lane from the junction with Preston Road down to Southgates are all blocked.

County Councillor Holgate – Confirmed that he has supported numerous reports to LCC from the Parish Council. It was reported that LCC are changing personnel regularly at the moment and it is therefore difficult to establish any continuity with reports and action. Furthermore, significant budget cuts make it difficult to see many Parish priorities go into the programme of works for completion. Councillor Holgate confirmed that he has noted the flooding items. Councillor Holgate confirmed that his duty is to the Parish and he does this to the best of his ability and will continue to do so. Those present agreed that as Council Tax payers it is often difficult to see what they are getting for their money particularly when nothing seems to be getting done. County Councillor Holgate accepted that expectations are not being met and that he appreciates and understands the frustrations felt, however, he will not give up. It was reported that LCC income is derived 40% from Government Grants whilst 60% is generated from the Council Tax contributions. Government Grants will be reduced in the years to come and LCC will have to find funds from elsewhere. Councillors present confirmed that the current poor calibre of work undertaken often means that the repair needs attention on more than one occasion. Councillor Holgate reported that MAPS is a new way of repairing and funding road repairs. Councillor Taylor asked how much of the budget cuts made by LCC have affected frontline services compared to back office cuts? Councillor Holgate confirmed that cuts are being made in social services and public health services and LCC are trying to cut down/remove duplications in service provision. There are not the same opportunities available to make cuts in highway works budgets which have only seen an approx. 15% reduction in the past 2 years or so compared to 40% cuts in other areas. LCC do have 'balances' and 'reserves' which are accumulated for emergencies, however, there is very little 'surplus' money left at the end of the year. It is occasionally possible to complete odd projects towards the end of the financial year if other budgeted projects have fallen through or not been completed. The Parish Council suggested that LCC need to review their budgeting process if it is found that surplus amounts are being carried forward. It was again reported that the SPID on Dob Brow is still not working properly, LCC finally acknowledged this fact several months ago and informed the Parish Council that it would have to be sent away for repair – still no action has been taken and the faulty SPID remains on Dob Brow. Councillor Holgate will pursue this. LCC have agreed that footway repairs on Charter Lane should be a priority but it was impossible to fit this in last year's budgets. Councillor Holgate has heard that there

may be an opportunity to prioritise footways on Charter Lane at the forthcoming 3 Tier Forum and, he also confirmed that if he is allocated a County Councillors budget he will ensure that footways on Charter Lane remain one of his priorities.

Borough Councillor Whittaker – Reported that he is dealing with the issue of speed and volume of traffic on Back Lane. He will forward any details to the Clerk. Councillor Whittaker expressed his concerns that Central Government Plans may affect the outcome of the appeal against refusal to build 18 affordable homes on Chorley Lane. Councillor Whittaker reported his concern at Councillor Mrs Bishop's criticism of Borough and County Councillors at the May Parish Council Meeting not attending Parish Council Meetings and, her consideration that they are 'a waste of space'. Councillor Whittaker requested that any criticism be made face to face rather than at a time when they cannot respond to the criticism. Councillor Whittaker outlined all his involvements in the Parish, neighbouring Parishes and in the Borough as a whole and his absence at the last meeting was due to a prior commitment. Councillor Whittaker then requested the Chairman's permission to leave the Meeting.

Parish Councillor – Heaton reported that there appears to have been an increase in the number of HGV's coming off the motorway service area and going north on the A49. Borough Councillor Whittaker also confirmed that he had noticed this and has reported it to the Highways Agency who say it is the responsibility of Welcome Break to ensure that traffic does not access, or exit, the motorway via the service areas. The Parish Council believe that until the Highways Agency force Welcome Break to restrict access to the service areas, Welcome Break will not take any action to do so. Councillor Holgate agreed that the speed, volume and type of traffic using the A49, has had a significant impact on Charnock Richard. Councillor Holgate confirmed he will be requesting speed monitoring on the A49 and hopes to acquire evidence to support a speed reduction or cameras.

Borough Councillor Leadbetter – Reported that the award to the Parish Council from NW Ambulance Service should include recognition to the family without whom this would not have been possible. The Parish Council acknowledge this fact without question. Councillor Leadbetter reported that Balsam Bashing will be taking place on Sharratts Path in the very near future, where the Himalayan Balsam will be pulled up and removed wherever possible. It was reported that horses are again using this public footpath, the Parish Council will request that 'No Horses' signs be erected at each end of the route. Hedges, the responsibility of Welcome Break, still require cutting back on Mill Lane and Park Hall Road. It was confirmed that at the forthcoming Southern Parishes Meeting members will be informed that the MUGA at Mossy Close play area will be put on hold. Councillor Leadbetter confirmed that the demolition of 42 Chorley Lane, which has now come to a halt, is safe and will take as long as necessary. It was also reported that asbestos found on the site has been safety dealt with.

24. **Apologies** - Were received and accepted from Councillors A J Shaw, Mrs J Ogden, and Mrs C Pilling who are all on holiday. Apologies were received from Councillor Cheetham and Councillor Brennand who both have prior commitments.
25. **Declarations of Interest** – Members were asked to consider any disclosable pecuniary interest they may have to declare in relation to matters on this Agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, Parish Council Standing Orders and the Code of Conduct currently in force - **No declarations were made at this point however Councillors will declare them should they arise later in the Meeting**
26. **To Accept the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 May 2015 - Resolved: The Minutes of the Annual Meeting and the draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting were accepted as correct records and were signed by the Chairman.**
27. **Update on Matters Arising from previous Meetings for note by the Council:** Report 1 (page 5) – ACCEPTED.
28. **Correspondence and Information items requiring discussion or action:**
 - a) Response to Parish Council observations on changes to the disposal of construction and demolition (inert) waste at Household Waste Recycling Centres – April 2015 – **Noted.**
 - b) Current position with regard to Chorley FM change of licence commitments – **Noted.**
 - c) Request from VIP for info. on and, the opportunity to join in, any Community Projects – **On file.**

- d) Notification that VIP is offering grants of up to £250 to Local Community Groups and Organisations for good causes – **This info. will be forwarded to Councillor Leadbetter and Mrs Pilling and Mrs Stewart for possible use by the Community Centre Trust.**
- e) Info. on Lancashire Speed Reduction Wheelie Bin Stickers – **Noted.**
- f) Info. from LALC – Copy letter from NALC Chairman to Parish Councillors – **Noted.**
- g) Details of late items of correspondence received.

29. Reports, Complaints, Concerns from Councillors - not addressed at the beginning of the Meeting

- 1) Miller Metcalfe will be asked to remove the For Sale sign at the junction of German Lane and Preston Road. If not removed in 7 days the Lengthsman will remove it.
- 2) Councillor Taylor enquired why it was necessary to put back the May Parish Council Meeting because of the Bank Holiday. Councillors agreed that it is necessary as some people choose to go away around this time as they are off work for the Bank Holiday.
- 3) Councillor Cornwell confirmed that 'No Horses' signs will be erected shortly on Freemans Lane.
- 4) There is some fly-tipping on the new road, going towards Tesco, which needs removing.
- 5) Weed spraying by the Borough Council was undertaken during rainfall and therefore, a lot of the weeds have started to grow again in the kerb edges. The Council will be asked to do another spray.
- 6) Gullies at the following locations are completely blocked with silt and detritus which is preventing surface water from draining away: Junction of Southgates and Chorley Lane, on Chorley Lane in front of Whitegates Farm, at the junction of Charter Lane and Chorley Lane. It was confirmed that there is only one clear gully on Chorley Lane between Whitegates Farm and Charter Lane. Road sweeping and gully emptying needs to be undertaken during the school holidays as it is sometimes impossible to access the gullies due to parked vehicles.
- 7) Councillor Taylor will pursue the blocked drain at the junction of Town Lane and Preston Road.
- 8) Councillor Leadbetter has reported the damaged litter bin in the lay-by at the top of Sibberings Brow which has been knocked sideways by a vehicle. He has requested a new bin for this location.
- 9) The drain on the opposite side of Preston Road from the litter bin at Sibberings Brow is blocked and water from the fields is running onto/over the footway into the gutter and running down Sibberings Brow.
- 10) The wooden boat on the play area at Mossie Close needs remedial work or removal.
- 11) The Parish Council sign at the entrance to Mossie Close play area could fall over. The Lengthsman will be asked to re-concrete the unsecure leg back into the ground.
- 12) The road workings on Leeson Avenue, at the junction with Church Lane, are sinking. Trench reinstatement is required.
- 13) The roundabout and associated markings at the Preston Road/Mill Lane junction are extremely faded and require re-marking.
- 14) The carriageway on Preston Road, opposite the German Lane/Preston Road, junction on the approach to Euxton, is in a very poor state of repair and requires attention.

30. Reports from Committees and Representatives on Outside Bodies – Chorley Fairtrade Meeting was attended by Councillor Cornwell who reported that there is a shortage of funding to continue and that they would like to book a table at the 2015 Scarecrow Festival. He will inform the Committee that they should contact Councillor Leadbetter.

31. Best Kept Village Competition and Best Kept Garden Competition – Action required for both competitions – Planting at Welch Whittle Gardens and Delph Gardens – It was reported that the Lengthsman has tidied and weeded Delph Gardens ready for planting. It was confirmed that in the very near future Councillors will get together to lift the membrane, rotivate and fertilise the site and relay the membrane ready for re-planting. A working party of Councillors and the Lengthsman will come together to plant begonias when Councillor Taylor has determined the delivery date from Pole Green Nurseries. The working party will include Councillors Taylor, Mrs Bishop, Hill, Heaton and the Lengthsman. The Lengthsman will be instructed to plant Welch Whittle Gardens with the remaining begonias left once planting has been completed at Delph Gardens. The Clerk confirmed that the judge is in place for this year's Best Kept Garden Competition. It was agreed that the Clerk will remind Councillor Mrs Bishop about the Best Kept Garden Competition in May/June next year so that editorial can be placed in the Chronicle to encourage residents to take part.

32. Reviewing Parish Council Insurance Provision – The Clerk confirmed that a quotation had been obtained from Zurich, however, once the current enhanced cover was added the insurance quotation came within a couple of pounds of the quotation from Aon. Zurich is relatively new to the Parish Council insurance market and could not match the quotation given by Aon for a 3 year long-term agreement for Parish Council insurance cover. **Resolved** – **The Council will sign the long-term agreement, at a reduced premium of £515.87, with Aon and will review and compare prices for insurance cover again towards the end of the three year commitment.**

33. Gateway Planting – Mill Lane/Preston Road junction – Councillor Taylor reported on the site meeting attended by a number of Councillors. Councillor Shaw had compiled drawings for 3 planters, 2 close to the Mill Lane/Preston Road junction and 1 on the way to the motorway. It was confirmed that the planters will need to be located 3-4 feet back from the edge of the carriageway to allow for grass verge cutting. As Councillor Shaw is on holiday Councillor Taylor agreed to draw up the plan requested by LCC before they will issue the licence to the Parish Council to locate the planters at this location. If Councillor Taylor does not consider that there is sufficient space to locate the 3 x proposed planters at this location he will say so. Borough Councillor Leadbetter requested permission to speak at this point and the Chairman lifted Standing Orders to allow this. Borough Councillor Leadbetter requested that it be noted in the Minutes that placing the planters and this location to prevent parked vehicles will, in his view, displace the parked cars to another location. The Meeting was re-convened.

34. Orchard Gardens & Mossie Close Projects – Update – The Clerk reported that the Zip-wires recently erected in Coppull and in West Lancashire have cost approximately £10,000-£12,000 dependent upon the safety surfacing used. The Clerk has requested the permission of the Diocese to create a planted contemplative garden on the extinct Orchard Gardens Play Area, to include grassed areas, benches, picnic benches and possibly a band stand, funds permitting and, to create a car park on the land adjacent to be in keeping with the rural nature of the setting. The Clerk will determine whether Planning Permission is required for a zip-wire at Mossie Close Play Area. Councillors agreed that the proposals for a MUGA at this area be put on hold for the moment however; the Council will request observations in the Newsletter and also through a leaflet drop on the proposal to put a MUGA on this play area or, whether the young people would be satisfied with the zip-wire.

35. Parish Council Newsletter – The Parish Council examined the draft and agreed that Councillors would proof read and reply to the Clerk following which this will be sent to print.

36. Planning – The Council will be required to make observations on the following applications:
1) 14/01279/FULMAJ – NOTIFICATION THAT AN APPEAL HAS BEEN MADE TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE – against the Refusal of permission by Chorley Council for – Erection of 18 affordable homes (bungalows and two-storey houses), including construction of an access road off Chorley Lane. Land 200m south east of 132 Chorley Lane, Charnock Richard – **Resolved** – **The Parish Councils strong objections to the planning application submitted to Chorley Council remain, however, these objections are further supported by the fact that the Parish Council believe that the Policy the applicant is using to support their application for affordable homes, is not a Policy which is normally applied in villages like Charnock Richard where affordable homes already exist and, where affordable homes will form part of future planning permissions on land already designated for development or infill, which will include a proportionate amount of affordable homes.**

37. Accounts

Accounts for Payment:

D & S Signs & Graphics		£252.00
Mrs C A Cross	Salary – (Net)	£511.57
HM Revenue & Customs	Tax due by Clerk	No cheque required

Resolved: **That the aforementioned Accounts are approved payments.**

38. Lengthsman's Payment - Work undertaken this month totals 75 Hours @ the revised hourly rate of £7.88 per hour = £591.00. **Resolved: Total Paid £591.00.**

Next Meeting: Monday 6 July 2015

Members of the Public and Press are Welcome to Attend

Meeting Closed: 9:35 pm

Chairman:

Date:

REPORT 1

Matters Arising from the Minutes to be noted by the Parish Council:

- a) Notification permission GRANTED for reserved matters application pursuant to outline permission ref: 15/00078/OUT – for the erection of a detached dormer bungalow. Land 18 metres east of Beechcroft, Brook Lane, Charnock Richard.
- b) Notification permission REFUSED for erection of single storey front extension with living accommodation in the roof and erection of detached garage at rear. 23 Church Lane.
- c) Confirmation that Charnock Richard Parish Council were nominated for, and awarded, by North West Ambulance Service a Gold Cardiac Smart Award in formal recognition of making the village safe and defibrillator friendly.
- d) Confirmation from LCC that the chevron signs on Chorley lane will be inspected and programmed for repair/replacement within the next 3 months.
- e) Confirmation from LCC that the blocked gullies on Chorley Lane will be programmed in to be cleaned within the next 20 working days and investigated for any further problems.
- f) Confirmation from LCC that the reported ‘noisy’ grid in the carriageway on Chorley Lane has been reported to Electricity NW by LCC on 19 May.
- g) Copy posters for Shared Lives – opening your home to an adult who needs support.
- h) Briefing note from LCC on the withdrawal of the Cross Boundary bus service financial contribution from Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council for your info.
- i) Copy Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition 2015 Posters.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

If the interest to be declared arises only as a result of your membership of another public body or one to which you have been appointed by the Council, then you only need to declare it if you intend to speak. If the personal interest is a prejudicial interest, you must withdraw from the meeting. You should leave the room before the business starts to be discussed. You do however, have the same right to speak as a member of the public and may remain in the room to enable you to exercise that right and then leave immediately. In either case you must not seek to improperly influence a decision of the matter.