

# CHARNOCK RICHARD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 2 February 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Rooms, Charter Lane, Charnock Richard.

**Present:** Councillors A J Shaw, J Taylor, J Hill, M Almond, A Cornwell, Mrs A Bishop, Mrs J Ogden, Mrs C Pilling, H Heaton, L Cheetham and G Brennand. Also present Borough Councillors Whittaker and Leadbetter 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)

**Public Present** – There is a pot-hole in the carriageway on Preston Road at the junction with Town Lane.

**Borough Councillor Whittaker** – Reported – 1) He had a meeting last week with the Chief Executive and the Director of Planning, Chorley Council re: Development of the former Camelot site, which was refused in August 2014. The deadline for the appeal within 6 months is fast approaching and Chorley Council has met with Storey Homes who did not respond to this question. Information received on this subject is vague however, an appeal is not expected before the May elections. Storey Homes were however left with the impression that they should consult with the communities of Charnock Richard & Heskin. It was confirmed that an Ecology Report will form part of the future process as required by planning law. It seems that the key word used in the National Planning Policy Guidelines on this type of development is “sustainable” and it would seem that planning officers have to find reasons to approve an application rather than refuse it. 2) Problems with regard to the No.7 bus route being diverted due to bridge works. Travelwise confirmed the diversion with effect from 26 January 2015 however, LCC reported that the diversion would not be taking place and that bridge works would not be taking place until Summer. 3) The planning Committee, at their next Meeting, will be considering the application for 2 properties on the site of 69 Charter Lane as the current permission is due to expire. Since permission was initially granted the Government has changed the rules and it is not now necessary to pay the community s106 money for amenity reasons on developments of this size. It will be up to the Planning Committee to decide whether to include a condition that a sum be contributed towards amenity land/provision, of which there is an identified shortage in Charnock Richard. Councillor Heaton reported that Chorley Council have identified the former Camelot site as an unsustainable site and the Inspector categorised the land as previously developed land in the Green Belt. Storey Homes will have to consider the risks connected with an appeal. It was reported that it has been suggested that the site could be used as a distribution depot with exclusive access onto the motorway. It was further suggested that if Storey Homes do not appeal they may submit a new application for a smaller development.

**County Councillor Holgate** – Confirmed that planning policy is changing all the time. Reported that he has a County Councillors Grant with approx. £800 left and that any local charitable organisation can apply. Confirmed that he and the Clerk seem to have a system in place now where he is copied into all Parish Council Highway reports thereby allowing him to apply additional pressure. Reported that he is involved in the Development Control Committee at LCC and recent discussions on Fracking in Lancashire. Quadrilla have requested a deferral for 2 months which LCC agreed to. Discussions concluded that this area has been a mining area without any problems. Councillor Shaw stated that if it is essential that fracking is undertaken it must be done safely using information, and learning, from similar undertakings in other countries. Councillor Holgate asked for the Chairman’s permission to conduct a straw poll in the room as a guideline of views on fracking in the County. Councillor Holgate was asked to pursue the report of the broken speed indicator sign on Dob Brow which it was confirmed is the responsibility of the traffic signals section. It was further confirmed that ‘Elderly People Crossing’ signs have been erected on Chorley Lane today.

**Public Present** – Mrs Stewart asked the following: What is the Parish Council doing about the aging population in the village? and, what will they be doing to protect the Heritage of the village? Age UK say that “Social Isolation” is a huge problem, particularly with the elderly, many of whom are lonely

which is damaging to health, both mentally and physically. This is an issue which cannot be ignored. Looking at the Heritage in the village, the Church, the Almshouses and the Parish Rooms, it was confirmed that funding is required to maintain these. Outside funding was obtained to refurbish the Almshouses and the Church has to manage their funds and is, generally speaking, taking care of itself however, as residents of Charnock Richard Mrs Stewart feels there is a duty to preserve the Parish Rooms buildings. As previous Lottery Bids have failed it is now proposed that refurbishments are undertaken in phases. The Parish Rooms/Community Centre Trust is now appealing to the Parish Council to make a firm decision to commit significant funds to refurbish the building. Once a firm financial commitment is made the Community Centre Trust can approach Chorley Council to support their funding bid. It was reported that to bring the schoolhouse back into use it will cost approx. £500,000.00. Funding bids will be more successful if they can show financial support from the Parish Council. Following a report of the Open Doors at a Church in Coppull which is a lifeline for the elderly, it was confirmed that regular Coffee Morning are held in the Scout Hut and Bingo at the Football Club and Craft Clubs, all in Charnock Richard but, it was stated that this does not help the elderly who are socially excluded. Mrs Stewart confirmed that it is hoped that the Community Centre, once refurbished, will be a place where people can go every day of the week. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council totally agree with the issue of loneliness and social exclusion. The question of why the renovations have not been undertaken before now was raised. It was suggested this be an Agenda Item for future discussion and/or that a separate meeting be arranged with the Community Centre Trustees to discuss this matter in detail. The Clerk confirmed that she had received notification today that the recent planning application submitted to extend the School House has been approved by Chorley Council. Councillor Taylor reported on his attendance at the 3-Tier Forum Meeting and the fact that a presentation was given by Lancashire Fayre, who provide a Meals-on-Wheels service in the Borough. A Chorley based company who can provide 3 days of meals subsidised by Chorley Council with residents paying full price for the other 2 days. The service operates 365 days per year. It was confirmed that this information has been given out at the Coffee Mornings. Information was also given on Unify Credit Union who operate like a bank, are governed by banking rules but provide a better alternative than pay day lenders. It was suggested that a presentation of this information to Parishes may be useful. At the meeting the Chief Executive of Chorley Council reported that the purchase of Market Walks by Chorley Council will generate £1million in 2015/16.

Borough Councillor Leadbetter – Reported – Dog fouling on Chorley Lane remains a significant problem and, in relation to Report 1 e) – tickets are still available for the School Pantomime.

**131. Apologies** – No apologies required.

**132. Declarations of Interest** – Members are 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.**

**133. To Accept the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 January 2015**  
The Minutes of the previous Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 5 January 2015 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. **Resolved: Following amendment to indicate that “Councillor Heaton wished to have discussions with those present after the January Meeting”, The Minutes were accepted as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.**

**134. Update on Matters Arising from previous Meetings for note by the Council:** Report 1 (page 4) – ACCEPTED.

**135. Correspondence and Information items requiring discussion or action:**

- a) Notification from Taylor Wimpey that the next stage in consultation will take place on 5 March, between 2pm and 7pm at the Football Club, Charter Lane – **Noted.**
- b) Response to highways issues raised at the December Meeting – re: flooding and drainage at Town Lane, footways on Charter Lane and Elderly people crossing signs on Chorley Lane – **The Clerk will confirm that the problem lies with the drain under the footway on the A49 near the junction with Town Lane.**
- c) Info. on Healthy Streets/20mph zones – a road safety initiative – from LCC – **Posters to display**

- d) Request for donation from Chorley & South Ribble Shopmobility – **Defer until Donations.**
- e) Notification and request for observations on the LCC Budget Proposals for 2015/16-2017/18 which can be viewed: [council.lancashire.gov.uk/ielistDocuments.aspx?Cld=122&Mld=3017](http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ielistDocuments.aspx?Cld=122&Mld=3017) (If Councillors could check this before the meeting to assist with discussions) – **The Parish Council will leave this to the professionals at LCC.**
- f) Info. from LALC – Notification that Lancashire County Council’s Parish & Town Council Conference will be held on Saturday 21 March 2015 at Burnley Town Hall, 9:30am-2:00pm – Notification that the next Chorley Area Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday 12 February, 7pm, Chorley Town Hall – **Resolved: The Clerk will attend the LCC Parish & Town Council Conference.**
- g) Invitation to attend the VIP AGM on Tuesday 3 March at 7pm, Bateman Hall, Eccleston – **Noted**
- h) Details of late items of correspondence received i) Request for assistance to support changes to Chorley FM services – **The Clerk will submit support from the Parish Council and individual Councillors can do so themselves if they wish to.** ii) Copy of LCC Winter Bulletin.

**136. Reports, Complaints, Concerns from Councillors** - not addressed at the beginning of the Meeting:

1. Pot-holes continue to be a problem at the junction of Charter Lane/Church Lane.
2. The 40mph sign on Preston Road, opposite the Hinds Head, need lifting – Lengthsman to address.
3. The road closed signs on the A49 refer to a road closure in Standish.
4. Councillor Heaton reported that he had attended the Southern Parishes Meeting and confirmed that the Phase III improvements to Mossie Close Play Area, installing a MUGA, have been rolled over to the 2015/16 financial year. The Parish Council now need to undertake a direct leaflet consultation with those residents in close proximity to the play area. A planning application needs to be pulled together and submitted for proposals at Orchard Gardens.
5. Pot-holes remain a problem throughout the whole Parish.
6. Dog fouling outside school is a huge problem.
7. The Council will compliment Chorley Council contractors for a job well done with this year’s amenity grass cutting.
8. The Parish Council would like to thank Mr Noblett for donating the Christmas Tree and Mr Stafford and Councillor Leadbetter for their help in erecting and decorating the tree.

**137. Reports from Committees and Representatives on Outside Bodies** – Councillor Cornwell confirmed Chorley has achieved Fair Trade Status. Borough Councillor Leadbetter agreed to check if the school is using Fairtrade products. Charnock Richard United Charities met this evening and hope they are nearing a conclusion. Councillor Mrs Ogden will be attending an Almshouse Meeting.

**138. Telephone Box** – Chorley Lane, update – Electricity North West will be commencing the dig at this site on 13 February and hope to be completed by 26 February 2015 following which, the Parish Council can instruct their electrician to install the defibrillator.

**139. Gateway Planting** – Mill Lane/Preston Road junction + Chorley Lane/Sharratts Path area – Councillor Shaw reported that he has taken measurements and is of the opinion that long trough type planters will look better whilst at the junction something needs to be built up from the surface as the ground is likely to be hard to dig. It was suggested that a site meeting would be appropriate following which a price will be obtained. Councillors feel that there is not room at Sharratts Path for a planter but that the planned bulb and wildflower planting would be more appropriate.

**140. Precept 2015/2016** – **Resolved:** Following detailed discussions at the Budget Meeting held prior to this Meeting, **the Parish Council will Precept for £27,000.00 for the 2015/2016 financial year. This figure will include the top up grant from the Borough Council of £345.00.**

**141. Request for Entry and Nominations for the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition 2015**

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The Parish Council confirmed that Charnock Richard and Welch Whittle will be entered again this year and listed the specific properties to be nominated for certificates of merit in the various categories. Nominees will be informed and competition entry forms submitted in due course.

**142. Planning** – The Council made the observations detailed on the following applications:

1) 14/01310/FUL – Erection of single storey side and rear extension. 33 Neargates, Charnock Richard. **Resolved – No Objections.**

3) Amendments To: 14/01279/FULMAJ – Erection of 18 affordable homes (bungalows & two-storey houses) including construction of access road off Chorley Lane. Land 200m South East of 132 Chorley Lane, Charnock Richard. **Resolved – The Parish Council objections remain unchanged.**

**143. Accounts**

Accounts for Payment:

Lancs. Best Kept Village Competition – Entry Fee (Charnock Richard)	£25.00
Lancs. Best Kept Village Competition – Entry Fee (Welch Whittle)	£15.00
Mrs C A Cross Salary – (Net)	£479.67
HM Revenue & Customs Tax due by Clerk	£62.00

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

**144. Lengthsman's Payment** - 100 hours @ £7.50 per hour = £750 + £67.50 padlocks = £817.50.

**Resolved: Total Paid £817.50.**

Next Meeting: Monday 2 March 2015

Members of the Public and Press are Welcome to Attend

Meeting Closed: 9:25pm

Chairman:

Date:

**REPORT 1**

**Matters arising from the Minutes to be noted by the Parish Council:**

- a) Notification permission granted for single storey front and rear extensions to a semi-detached house. Heidale, Preston Road.
- b) Notification listed building consent granted for single storey front and rear extensions to a semi-detached house. Heidale, Preston Road.
- c) Confirmation that the Police team has been asked to check for vehicles obstructing pavements on Church Lane and Charter Lane when patrolling.
- d) Notification of road closure, Spendmore Lane from junction with Station Road to junction with Regent Street, for Bridge Works, from 11pm Saturday 28 February – 8am Sunday 1 March.
- e) Notification of application for temporary event notice by Christ Church Charnock Richard CofE School, event between 6.30pm-10.30pm, 5/2/15-7/2/15.
- f) Confirmation that Chorley has been successful in their application for Fairtrade Town Status. Details of a Fairtrade Launch Event will be circulated in due course.
- g) Notification that the Mayor's Charity Ball will be held on Friday 6 February at the Town Hall.

**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.