

CHARNOCK RICHARD PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: A J Shaw (Chairman), J Hill, Mrs J Ogden, A Cornwell, Mrs A Bishop, H Heaton, L Cheetham, Miss E Walmsley and G Brennand. Also present Borough Councillor Whittaker, Borough Councillor 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)

Members of the public present – Reported that drop kerbs have recently been installed at the Town Lane junction. Residents present thanked the Parish Council for arranging a very enjoyable Best Kept Garden Presentation evening. It was reported that the Hinds Head is being refurbished and, the Clerk confirmed that instructions have been issued for removal of the tents and shelters on land at the rear. Councillor Shaw reported that he had contacted the RSPCA with regard to the animals and carcasses left on the site, only to be told the animals were rescue animals anyway. Borough Councillors Whittaker and Leadbetter have met the new tenants and reported on an imminent planning application to expand the car park into this field. A resident present thanked County Councillor Holgate for prompting LCC contractors to cut hedges on Park Hall Road. It would appear that leaflets from Story Homes have been delivered everywhere apart from Charnock Richard.

County Councillor Holgate – Reported he still has some County Councillor funding available for grants to local groups. An application form can be downloaded online from LCC. Councillor Holgate reported that he is about to receive the LCC budget for next year and he understands that by 2018-2020 local government grants will have ceased and, as a result significant budget cuts will mean a loss of services, leaving only statutory services. Street lighting for example is not a statutory service. Councillor Holgate will keep the Parish Council up to date with changes and cuts.

Borough Councillor Whittaker – reported receipt of correspondence from residents of Old Hall Lane in relation to flooding following work on the Bowling Green car park. It has been suggested that the flooding could be a related to the work undertaken.

Borough Councillor Leadbetter – thanked Lisa from the Dog & Partridge for donating all the garden vegetables from the pub before she left, these are now planted in the garden adjacent to the school house.

1. **Apologies** - Were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs C Pilling (illness), Councillor Taylor (holidays) and Councillor Almond (prior commitment).
2. **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.**
3. **To Accept the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 October 2015** - The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 7 September 2015 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting and, following an amendment on page 1 (line 4 of Members of the public reports) to read "...or by people illegally accessing the public rights of way...", it was **Resolved:** **The Minutes were accepted as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.**
4. **Update on Matters Arising from previous Meetings for note by the Council:** Report 1 (page 4) – ACCEPTED. Councillor Heaton requested that the Clerk write to the Highways Agency requesting information on the signage erected at the entrance/exit to the motorway services.
5. **Correspondence and Information items requiring discussion or action:**

- a) Letter from Story Homes requesting a meeting to discuss initial ideas to regenerate the Camelot Site ahead of public consultations which will take place on 5 November at Park Hall, 6 November at Heskin Hall, 7 November at Charnock Richard Community Centre and 9 November at the Scout Hut in Eccleston. **Resolved – That the Standing Orders be suspended to allow Borough Councillors Whittaker and Leadbetter to address the Parish Council and public present on this matter.** Both Borough Councillors are extremely unhappy with how the proposed public consultation has been arranged. Both Borough Councillors attended the Meeting at Chorley Council with Jamie Carson and Story Homes, where it was agreed that both Borough Councillors and all the Parish Councils affected by these proposals would be fully involved in the consultation process. Emails and correspondence on the forthcoming Phase 1 of the consultation were only received last week and, nothing firm has as yet been received about Phase 2 of the consultation which is said to be taking place in December. Councillor Whittaker, in his capacity as Clerk to Heskin PC, has arranged a meeting for 10 December where Heskin PC will decide how to deal with proposals from Story Homes, this meeting will now be too late. The consultation on 6 November is at Heskin Hall, not at the village hall as would be expected. The consultation on 9 November at Eccleston Scout Hut has been arranged despite the fact Story Homes have not even contacted Eccleston PC about this matter. The timings of all the consultations appears to be strategic as none will be held beyond 5pm, therefore anyone working will only be able to attend the one in Charnock Richard at weekend. Story Homes said they would be sending out 2500 leaflets to every home within a 1.5mile radius of the site. When pushed, Story Homes said they would leaflet the whole of Charnock Richard. Despite these promises it became obvious from those present at the meeting that, leaflets had not been distributed to every home in Charnock Richard over the weekend as promised by Story Homes. Some residents of Town Lane confirmed receiving leaflets however, most present had not received any, whilst it was confirmed that no-one had received a leaflet in Heskin or Eccleston. There has been no involvement with Parish Councils regarding the content of the consultation, which was agreed at the meeting with Chorley Council. There will be no plans on display at the consultations and Story Homes will be using these sessions to question those attending to find out their views, to determine what residents would accept on the site and, what they would like to see in return. This is obviously a fact finding exercise by Story Homes prior to Phase 2 of the consultation in December where they will use information gathered from Phase 1 consultations to put together proposals, with a view to submitting a planning application in January. Story Homes promised a meaningful consultation, which this is certainly not. Both Borough Councillors have written strongly worded letters to Story Homes outlining how local government works in our areas. The Clerk reported on a telephone call from Story Homes requesting a meeting with Councillors prior to the consultations. The Clerk had informed them that in the interests of openness and transparency and, so as not to compromise Parish Councillors and leave them open to criticism, the Parish Council do not hold closed meetings. Heskin PC told Story Homes that they also do not hold closed meetings. It was confirmed that the proposals they put forward for this site will need to be significantly different from the previous submission. All Councillors present feel that this consultation is merely a tick box exercise by Story Homes to satisfy the criteria, which requires public consultation. Borough Councillors reported that initial meetings with Story Homes seemed promising and, that they now remain very disappointed. Those present agreed that this site has for many years been for leisure use and, the feeling is, that the site should be put back to leisure use. County, Borough and Parish Councillors present all agreed that the Story Homes proposals will be an intrusion in to the Green Belt and the site will not be a sustainable development. It was further confirmed that, when considering an application for this site, Chorley Council would be looking for 30%-40% affordable homes but, the lack of facilities and local infrastructure would make this un- sustainable development for affordable home tenants/shared owners. If this is the case however, Story Homes could be asked to contribute towards affordable homes elsewhere in the Borough. **The Meeting resumed.**
- b) Notification of grass cutting for 2015 & 2016 from Chorley Council – **Resolved – The schedule of amenity grass cuts appears good however, details of grass verge cuts will be requested.**
- c) Suggestion from Councillor Taylor that further information is obtained from Councillor Whittaker or Chorley Council with regard to recent discussions on wildflower planting in the

Borough at the Chorley Liaison Meeting which Councillor Taylor was unable to attend – **It would now look like there will be a charge involved in creating, planting and maintaining the wildflower grass verge suggested on Mill Lane.**

- d) Request for comments on Chorley Council Validation Checklist for Planning Apps – **Noted.**
- e) Response from Chorley Council to the Parish Council notification that they will be putting Phase III improvements to Mossie Close play area on hold in favour of progressing Orchard Gardens - **Resolved** – **The Parish Council will once again put the Orchard Gardens project forward to the Neighbourhood Meeting for 2016/17 with a view to completing part of this project in the 2016/17 financial year, funds permitting. Now approval in principle has been received from the Diocese, plans and documentation will be gathered together with a view to submitting a planning application for the car park and landscaping, with possible bandstand, in early 2016.**
- f) Community networking information from Villages in Partnership – **The Parish Council will ask if it is necessary for the representative to be a Parish Councillor as there may be a resident of the Parish who would wish to get involved in these networking meetings.**
- g) Info. from LALC – Agenda for the forthcoming LALC AGM, 10am Saturday 7 November at County Hall, Preston – **Noted.**
- h) Details of late items of correspondence received – **Nothing to Report.**

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

- 1) It was reported that the website is up to date and that recent news is about promoting the work and fund raising on the Community Centre.
- 2) Chorley Council has completed a couple of leaf sweeps in the Parish and the Lengthsman has been removing leaves near the Church and School regularly and will continue to do so. It was suggested that it may be possible to hire a leaf sweeper.
- 3) Councillor Brennand recently discovered a horse sign in the grass verge at the Delph Lane/Church Lane junction. Councillor Shaw will re-erect this sign.
- 4) There appear to be lots of coloured markings on the carriageway on Chorley Lane, which are now fading, but no indication from LCC when the work will be undertaken.
- 5) Councillor Mrs Bishop has been asked to thank the Parish Council for the certificate and wine presented to Mr Langrish at the Best Kept Garden Presentation evening, in appreciation of his help and assistance with a couple of groundwork type projects in the Parish.
- 6) Numerous complaints are still being received in relation to the parked vehicles on the bend on Church Lane. It is very dangerous in the dark and the fog and, the addition of speeding vehicles along Church Lane, makes this route quite scary.
- 7) It was reported that some dog walkers using the Mosses footpath are complaining about having to comply with the signage erected which states that dogs must be on leads. It was confirmed that the sign was intended to prompt dog walkers to put their dogs on leads in preparation for their approach to Chorley Lane, not on the public footpath.

7. Reports from Committees and Representatives on Outside Bodies – Peter Lathom Charity – Councillor Hill reported that donations from the Charity had been reduced this year. They are also trying to reduce the number of Trustees from 51 down to 12. This could mean that in future smaller areas could be overlooked. It is difficult to see how this can help as the office of Trustee is a voluntary one. It may be necessary to look at the Trust Instrument to see if this is possible. Parish Council/Community Centre Trust Cross Committee Meeting – It was reported that this was a very constructive meeting and it is hoped that the Community Centre Trust can now build on the work being undertaken by the Parish Council to fundraise towards the refurbishment of the building. Community Centre Trust – Councillor Heaton reported that the AGM had been held last week. It was reported that Councillors Mrs Bishop and J Hill had not attended the AGM. Councillor Hill apologised, this was an oversight and, Councillor Mrs Bishop confirmed that she had tendered her resignation from the Community Centre Trust to the Chairman, who was going to report it later but took this opportunity to confirm Mrs Bishop's resignation. Chairman of the Parish Council – requested that everyone got involved in selling the bricks at £10. The Chairman requested that the Parish Council purchase a book, costing approx. £300, in which details of donations to "Friends of Charnock Richard Old School" will be written, both now and for the future heritage of the village.

8. **Remembrance Sunday** – Reminder about Service at Church, 10.30 am, 8 November 2015 – **Noted.**
9. **Planning** – The Council will be required to make observations on the following applications:
- 1) 15/00991/FUL – Demolition of an equestrian building and erection of dormer bungalow. Fishers Farm, Delph Lane, Charnock Richard – **Resolved** – **The Parish Council are concerned that these proposals do not comply with Green Belt Planning Policy for the demolition/conversion of buildings in the Green Belt.**
 - 2) 15/00988/FUL – Erection of single storey side extension, erection of detached garage to the rear, insertion of rear dormer. 17 Merefold, Charnock Richard – **Resolved** – **No Objections.**
 - 3) 15/01002/FUL – Erection of single storey side extension incorporating living accommodation at first floor (retrospective). Newlands, White Gate Fold, Charnock Richard – **Resolved** – **No Objections.**
 - 4) 15/01009/FUL – Erection of single storey rear extension. 212 Chorley Lane, Charnock Richard – **Resolved** – **No Objections.**

10. **Accounts**

Accounts for Payment:

CR Football Club	Best Kept Garden Presentation Expenses	£137.55
Mr I Holland	Catering for Best Kept Garden Presentation	£200.00
The Royal British Legion	Parish Council Wreath for Remembrance Sunday	£20.00
Mrs C A Cross	Reimburse Best Kept Garden Expenses	£51.38
Mrs C A Cross	Salary – (Net)	£511.57
HM Revenue & Customs	Tax due by Clerk	£57.40
Pole Green Nurseries	Prizes for the Best Kept Garden Competition	£180.00

Resolved: That the aforementioned Accounts are approved payments.

11. **Lengthsman's Payment** - 4 weeks work undertaken this month totalling 100 Hours @ the revised hourly rate of £7.88 per hour = £788.00 + £20.90 materials. **Resolved: Total Paid £808.90.**

Next Meeting: Monday 7 December 2015

Members of the Public and Press are Welcome to Attend

Meeting Closed: 9.05pm

Chairman:

Date:

REPORT 1

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

- a) Confirmation the appeal against the refusal of planning permission by Chorley Council for affordable homes on land south-east of 132 Chorley Lane, has been dismissed.
- b) Confirmation from Admiral Taverns that those using the land at the rear of the Hinds Head have been told to vacate the land by the end of October. Should this fail to happen Admiral Taverns will clear the site.
- c) Confirmation email and photographs from Councillor Taylor relating to the signs recently erected at Welcome Break access roads.
- d) Notification Heskin PC will be holding a Special Council Meeting on 10 Nov re: Camelot site.
- e) Request from Councillor Leadbetter that the request for a Donation by Friends of Charnock Richard Old School due for discussion at this meeting, be withdrawn.
- f) Confirmation that the site lines out of the Almshouses and speeding traffic on Church Lane will be checked by the Community Beat Manager.
- g) Copy Agenda for the Chorley Fairtrade Committee Meeting 28 October 2015.

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.