

# CHARNOCK RICHARD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 7 December 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, M Almond, H Heaton, L Cheetham, Miss E Walmsley, J Taylor and G Brennand. Also present Borough Councillor Whittaker.

## **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 there has been no flooding at the Town Lane junction. Borough Councillor Whittaker – Confirmed that he and Borough Councillor Whittaker have sent correspondence to the newly appointed North West Chief Executive of Story Homes, Mrs Warwick, (who lives in Wrightington). He read aloud the letter they sent to which they have not as yet received a reply. Lex Communications indicated that the second stage consultation is now likely to take place towards the end of January or early February. Attendance figures at the recent consultations are unknown. Those who attended reported that there was a small amount of literature available. Those making the presentation used these as a fact finding exercise, asking the attendees what they wanted in the village. The plan on display showed a slightly smaller area to be included for development but nothing more. No indication of the number of homes proposed or the density of the development. Councillor Whittaker also reported that Chorley Council has abandoned the idea of a Unitary Chorley and have agreed to take part in combined workings in Lancashire for joint service delivery. It was however confirmed that LCC still have to make cuts. Councillor Whittaker reported that a resident of Heskin has had frequent calls from people looking for the Crematorium. On investigation it appears that a signage is required at the mini roundabout at the Mill Lane/Preston Road junction, similar to those on the approach from Euxton. It was confirmed that there used to be signs at this junction from both the Heskin and the Coppull direction but these seem to have disappeared. Councillor Taylor reported that he and the Lengthsman removed housebuilders signs approx. 1 ½ years ago, those erected since then have been attached too high to reach. There are 2 south of Mill Lane and 2 north of Mill Lane which the Lengthsman will need help to remove. Councillor Heaton asked the Parish Council to pursue the question of the amount of reserves held by LCC, a question he asked County Councillor Holgate some time ago but which he has not answered. Borough Councillor Whittaker feels that LCC reserves should be supplemented by government grants. Councillors wanted to know, if Chorley Council finances are so bad, are they still planning to continue with Town Centre improvements. Many present believe that the Town Centre does not need any further money spending on it if this will result in services being cut. It was explained that the general idea is that Chorley Council can borrow money for capital projects which will provide a return which can then be used to pay for services.

Borough Councillor Leadbetter – In his absence the Clerk reported his request that the Council consider putting forward the Golf Course as a Community Asset and, that he would be grateful if the Parish Council would report the serious flooding at the junction of Church Lane/Charter Lane. Councillor Heaton confirmed that the land Councillor Leadbetter refers to, is the land not included in the Wigan Athletic planning proposals but that which is on the other side of the public footpath through the site. Councillor Leadbetter would like to wish all Parish Councillors, and everyone at the meeting, all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Parish Councillor Reports – Councillor Taylor raised the issue of planting the grass verge on Mill Lane. As the planting on the roundabouts in Chorley has been successful it was suggested the same seed mix be used. It was reported, the Lengthsman has weed sprayed more than necessary and should have only sprayed from 1 metre back from the carriageway to the hedges, to allow for the Chorley grass verge cut.

Community Centre Trust – Mrs Stewart reported on the recent fundraiser organised by Mr Lee which took place at the Football Club and raised over £800 for the Community Centre Trust. There was some confusion however with the bricks sold on the night for £1 and the buy a brick project to raise funds for

the Community Centre being organised by the Parish Council which cost £10. Councillor Taylor asked whether the Community Centre Trust would be pursuing the additional revenue which can be claimed from gift aided donations. Mrs Stewart confirmed they would be doing this and, that it is possible to claim retrospectively approx. 7 years.

- 103. Apologies** – The Parish Council **Resolved** – **their continued acceptance of apologies from Parish Councillor Mrs Pilling who is currently undergoing medical treatment. The Parish Council will continue to accept Councillor Mrs Pilling’s apologies as these are special circumstances, until she feels well enough to return to her post as a Parish Councillor thus preventing a casual vacancy from arising due to continuous absence from meetings.** Apologies were also accepted from Borough Councillor Leadbetter.
- 104. 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 – **Councillor Heaton declared an interest in Planning 15/01079/FUL as this application relates to the property he lives in. No further declarations were made at this point however, Councillors will declare them should they arise later in the Meeting.**
- 105. To Accept the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 2 November 2015** - The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 2 November 2015 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting and, following an amendment on page 1, line 3 of County Councillor Holgate’s report to read “... by 2018-2020 central government grants will have ceased ...”, it was **Resolved**: **The Minutes were accepted as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.**
- 106. Update on Matters Arising from previous Meetings for note by the Council**: Report 1 (page 5) – ACCEPTED. It was confirmed that some gullies in the village still appear to be blocked and flooding is once again occurring. The gullies at the top of Dob Brow, on both sides of the road, appear blocked and water running off the fields cannot flow away. It was confirmed however, that once the system is full, it is full, and no amount of water can then be taken away. It seems some areas marked for work by LCC on Chorley Lane have been missed and work needs completing.
- 107. Correspondence and Information items requiring discussion or action**:
- a) Notification that grass cutting 2016 by Chorley Council will be the same as last year – Councillor Taylor explained that when Chorley BC took this delegated function from LCC they agreed to complete 5 cuts per annum. Cuts 2 & 5 would be full width cuts, with cuts 1, 3 & 4 being 1 metre swathes. Since Chorley Council took over this function they have never achieved 5 cuts as operatives have been taken off working in the Parishes in summer months, to undertake work elsewhere. There is only more year remaining on the agreement to devolve this function to Chorley BC and future agreements are likely to come with cuts in funding to undertake the work. **The Council will ask whether it will be 4 or 5 cuts in 2016 and, will request an assurance that the Parishes will not be neglected in the height of summer to deal with work in the Town Centre.** It was confirmed that amenity grass cutting in the Parish has been as promised.
  - b) Response to request for info. on signage erected at the Welcome Break site – **Noted, Welcome Break are doing this to fulfil the terms of their lease. Future action will be up to them.**
  - c) Request for confirmation that the Parish Council would like Councillor Hill to continue in his office as Trustee on the Peter Lathom Charity – Discussions took place on the terms of the Trust and Councillor Hill agreed to provide Councillor Heaton with a copy of the Trust constitution as Councillor Heaton believed that better things could be done with the money if the trust ceased. **Resolved** – **That Councillor Hill continue in his post as Trustee for a further term of office.**
  - d) Info. on the Lancs. Best Kept Village Competition, for anyone wishing to be a judge – **Noted.**
  - e) Notification that the Mayors Black & White Charity Ball will be on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at Shaw Hill Golf Resort and Spa – **Final Numbers will be determined at the January Meeting.**
  - f) As a thank you for your donation from Skylarks Community Choir they have provided the Council with 4 complimentary tickets to the Christmas Concert on Thursday 10 December at Chorley Town Hall – **Councillors Mrs Bishop and Taylor will use the tickets.**

- g) LCC request that Parish Councils consider the proposed Parish based Public Transport Scheme – The Parish Council discussed this matter and, whilst it appears on the face of it to be a good idea, it was **Resolved – That a parish based public transport scheme would be too onerous and is a cost prohibitive idea which would be unrealistic to deliver.**
- h) Request from Borough Councillor Leadbetter that the Council consider submitting a request to Chorley Council that the Golf Course land be listed as a Community Asset of community value – It is understood that Borough Councillor Leadbetter is referring to the land north of the public footpath and not the whole site. It was explained that many places apply for village green status if it can be proved that the area has been walked without hindrance for many years. This is not a matter which is considered to be urgent business and therefore, this will be on the January Agenda for further discussion. Councillor Mrs Bishop confirmed that her husband would be happy to speak to the Parish Council on the subject of village green status should the Council wish him to attend. Councillor Heaton confirmed that the Football Club do not object to dog walkers crossing their land to access the public footpaths through the golf course however, they do object to them allowing their dogs to foul on the car park.
- i) Request for Agenda items for the next Chorley Liaison Meeting on 20 January 2016 – Local press have reported concerns expressed about the amount of money being spent in the Town Centre at the expense of the rural areas. Chorley Council did agree that money would be spent on Town Centre regeneration initially but, following this, money would go out to the rural areas in the Borough. **It was suggested the following question be put to the Committee:- What plans do Chorley Council and LCC have for financial projects in rural areas?**
- j) Press Release from Chorley Council on Waste Contamination – **Noted.**
- k) Draft Recommendations for the Electoral Review of Lancs. for comment – **It was noted that the draft recommendations agree with the Parish Council representations on this matter.**
- l) Info. from LALC – Minutes of Area Committee Meeting and notification the next Area Meeting will be held on 4 February 2016 at Chorley Town Hall + Tesco community grants – **Info. will be obtained on Tesco Community Grants and on Wickes support for community projects.**
- m) Details of late items of correspondence received i) Notification of road closure of Red Lane, Eccleston – **Noted.** ii) Press release from Chorley Council, via Borough Councillor Leadbetter, detailing enforcement issues in the Green Belt, and action taken, by the Council – **Noted.** iii) Response to requests for gully emptying in Charnock Richard – **Noted, however, it was reported that there may be a collapsed culvert, opposite the Church or, it could be blocked with root growth. It will be reported that work was undertaken 2-3 years ago but the flooding has got worse since then. Request investigations for collapsed drain or root growth be undertaken with a camera.** Councillor Taylor has concluded that LCC have not done a systematic emptying of gullies in Charnock Richard and therefore asked the question. The response confirmed that operatives are currently on flood relief services and it is unlikely they will return to cyclic emptying. It was confirmed that the 2 gullies at the top of Dob Brow are blocked as a result of the deluge of water/soil off the fields added to the fallen leaves. iv) Chorley Council press release on digital inclusion – **Noted.** v) Copy of template for new Chorley Council signs for play areas they own in the Borough, for Parish Council use if required – **Noted.**

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

- 1) It was confirmed that Roscoe House Kennels would like to sponsor the planted areas at Delph Gardens. The new signs will need to be the same size as the current ones. It was agreed that the details will be passed to Councillor Shaw who will obtain a proof for agreement.
- 2) Sponsors are still required for Welch Whittle Gardens and the proposed planters at Mill Lane.
- 3) It was confirmed that Pole Green Nurseries will plant Delph Gardens as soon as possible.
- 4) Councillor Shaw will re-erect the Horse sign at the Delph Lane/Church Lane junction.
- 5) The public footpath sign at the junction of Delph Lane/Church Lane is missing.
- 6) The Chairman suggested that a new Notice Board be purchased and erected at the Parish Rooms.
- 7) Sing Lancashire will be held at the Hinds head on Thursday 17 December at 7pm.
- 8) It was reported that the street name sign at Neargates has been replaced by a resident. An oak backboard has been used and the street name and logo have been repainted. The resident will be thanked for the work he has undertaken.

- 9) Councillor Heaton and Borough Councillor Leadbetter were thanked for erecting the Christmas Tree. As Councillor Heaton will be on holiday in January, Councillor Hill will remove the tree.
- 10) Gullies are blocked and flooding at the junction of German Lane/Preston Road.
- 11) The Council will remind LCC of their request for a licence to locate planted beds on Mill Lane.
- 12) Councillor Mrs Bishop will contact the school regarding displaying the bricks purchased to support the refurbishment of the Community Centre in the school hall.
- 13) It was suggested that Parish Councillors could promote the sale of the bricks in the New Year.
- 14) The Scarecrow Festival Committee were thanked for their invitation to attend the Presentation Evening which several Parish Councillors attended and, which was a very enjoyable evening.

**109. Reports from Committees and Representatives on Outside Bodies – Community Centre Trust**

– Councillor Heaton thanked Councillor Mrs Bishop for her work on this body. The Chairman confirmed that he wished to read the Community Centre Trust Constitution to determine whether a new Parish Council representative needs to be appointed. Almshouse Trust – Meeting was attended by Councillor Mrs Ogden who reported 1 vacancy in the Almshouses and the fact that all tenants would be receiving Christmas Hampers.

**110. Planning** – The Council will be required to make observations on the following applications:

- 1) 15/01089/FUL – Widening of existing access drive and provision of 10 additional car parking spaces. Charnock Richard Crematorium, Preston Road, Charnock Richard – **Resolved – The Parish Council has no objections to these proposals and would support the addition of even more parking spaces than the 10 proposed.**
- 2) 15/01146/FUL – Erection of two-storey side extension incorporating a Juliet balcony to the side elevation (re-submission of 15/00537/FUL). Brookfield, 10 Highgrove Avenue, Charnock Richard – **Resolved – The Parish Council has no objections provided the proposals comply with all the relevant planning criteria for developments of this type.**
- 3) 15/01079/FUL – Extension to form granny flat. Lancaster House Farm, Preston Road, Charnock Richard – **Councillor Heaton declared an interest in this application and left the room. Resolved – The proposals do not appear to satisfy all the relevant criteria for development in the Green Belt.**
- 4) 15/01171/NOT – Notification of intention to upgrade electronic communications apparatus comprising addition of a 0.6m dish at 20m AGL. Vodafone Telecommunications Mast 37651, Delph Lane, Charnock Richard. **Resolved – No Objections.**

**111. Accounts**

Accounts for Payment:

SLCC	Annual Subscriptions 50%	£74.50
Lea Hough & Co	Rent for Orchard Gardens	£100.00
Lea Hough & Co	Rent for land adjacent to Orchard Gardens	£25.00
CR Charity Trustees	Rent for Mossie Close play area	£100.00
Mrs C A Cross	Reimburse engraving costs for Best Kept Garden Comp.	£18.50
Mrs C A Cross	Salary – (Net)	£511.37
HM Revenue & Customs	Tax due by Clerk	£57.60

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

**112. Lengthsman's Payment** - 5 weeks work undertaken this month totalling 125 Hours @ the hourly rate of £7.88 per hour = £985.00. **Resolved: Total Paid £985.00.**

Next Meeting: Monday 4 January 2016

Members of the Public and Press are Welcome to Attend

Meeting Closed: 9.45pm

Chairman:

Date:

## **REPORT 1**

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

- a) Confirmation provisional start date for patching repairs on Chorley Lane was 16 November with an estimated 6 days to complete the work.
- b) Copy Parish Champion Newsletter November 2015.
- c) Copy Chorley Ramblers programme of walks – displayed in Notice Boards.
- d) Details of how LCC is preparing for the winter ahead.
- e) Copy CPRE Fieldwork
- f) Copy CPRE Countryside Voice

#### **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.