

CHARNOCK RICHARD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 4 January 2016 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, Miss E Walmsley, J Taylor and G Brennand. Also present Borough Councillors Leadbetter & 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)

Borough Councillor Leadbetter – Reported serious flooding issues on Chorley Lane over Christmas. The Parish is not close to any major water courses and is actually on a hill so, flooding of this magnitude should not be an issue. It has been confirmed that drainage issues on Chorley Lane were the cause of the flooding. It was reported that Borough Councillors Whittaker and Leadbetter will be meeting representatives of Story Homes to discuss the consultation process, not to discuss the proposals.

County Councillor Holgate – Wished to set the record straight with regard to a request for information on reserves held by LCC by Councillor Heaton. Councillor Heaton's report that he had not received this information is incorrect. County Councillor Holgate personally hand delivered a document containing the information requested to Councillor Heaton's home address.

113. Apologies – Were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs Pilling (treatment), H Heaton (holidays) and Cheetham (illness).

114. Standing Orders – The Chairman proposed and it was seconded and **Resolved** – **That items g) withdrawal of buss subsidies by LCC and i) LCC's Budget Options, under Correspondence, be brought forward for discussion and, that Standing Orders be lifted to allow Borough Councillors Whittaker and Leadbetter to join in the discussions.**

County Councillor Holgate outlined the dire state of affairs of LCC and the fact that, even using their existing reserves, they are likely to be in a deficit situation by 2019. There is no doubt that frontline services will be affected and this will reflect unprecedented times. County Councillors are meeting with the aim of working together to try to make changes which will protect important frontline services. Borough Councillor Whittaker outlined some of the local government depts. which will be subject to further cuts. Eg: Highways – LCC have already approved cuts of £946,000, the new options propose another £2,808,000 in 2016/17 with a further £1,044,000 in 2017/18. Public Transport has now been included in cuts with £5,593,000 proposed in 2016/17 and a further £440,000 in 2017/18. Previously approved cuts in funding for libraries of £2,563,000 will increase to £4,171,700 and will result in the closure of many local libraries. Transport to day centres and School Transport will also see a massive increase in cuts. It was reported that non-statutory services are very likely to be cut and, it was confirmed that it is the severity of the austerity programme that is leading to these huge increases in cuts and the resultant loss of services. Councillors requested clarification of issues in recent newspaper editorial which report the appointment of a firm of consultants by LCC, at a cost of £6.5million, who say they can advise LCC how to go forward whilst making savings of £35million per annum. It was confirmed, the consultants will be paid on a performance basis and, if they do not make the predicted savings, they will not be paid. Parish Councillors believe that the idea a private consultant can make these savings leads to numerous questions on current 'housekeeping' at LCC. It was reported that the idea of compulsory competitive tendering for services was stopped in local government some time ago and, that LCC now use the commissioning process. The Parish Council wonder why LCC Officers do not work in the most cost efficient/effective way already and, why they need to bring in other professionals to show them how inefficient they are. It was reported that, in previous years' cuts, many LCC experts/professional officers left. The Borough Councillors reported that Chorley Council are now seeking to consult on ways in which they may be able to take up some of the services that LCC are

looking to cease. It is the feeling that one of the biggest losses will be cuts to subsidised bus services. Now that LCC cannot afford to subsidise bus services it is up to the bus service providers eg: Stagecoach, to determine which services will continue to be economically viable and which services will be cut. It was reported that there is a £2,500,000 fund set to one side to fund possible parish based transport schemes, which may work better if several Parishes work together to provide a locally based service. Councillor Shaw confirmed, he has spoken to bus users in the Parish who share concerns that bus services in the Parish may be cut. The Council will highlight the social exclusion which will result from the loss of rural bus services and the fact that the most vulnerable residents in rural Parishes such as the elderly, low paid or infirm, will be most affected by these cuts. It was confirmed that PACT Meetings do still exist in some Parishes. Crime figures are as follows: from Sept 2015-Oct 2015 there were 120 incidents in Coppull, and 65 incidents in Charnock Richard (excluding the motorway service area). Figures for a number of Parishes were given all of which have now lost their Police Station.

Councillor Taylor asked County Councillor Holgate for information on gully emptying locally. 3-4 years ago Councillor Taylor found out that gully emptying had been reduced from twice per year to once per year. In early December 2015 Councillor Taylor asked the Wroughtington Depot if the annual emptying had been undertaken in Charnock Richard. A negative response was received as he was told that staff had been taken off the gully emptying schedule to deal with flooding. Councillor Taylor suggested that LCC employ private sector contractors to address the back log but he was informed that this is not allowed. Councillor Taylor feels that some money should be diverted from the winter maintenance budget to bring in private contractors to get on top of the gully emptying schedule. The severe consequences of not doing this were very evident in Charnock Richard over Christmas where very severe flooding occurred, in an area where there is no river, on Chorley Lane. Following a request for investigations by homeowners on Chorley Lane, a camera in the drain revealed a blockage which was the cause of the flooding. Another householder's drive on Chorley Lane has been ruined over time because the gully at the bottom of her drive has not been emptied, despite repeated requests, and the backing up of water has flooded and ruined her drive. County Councillor Holgate agreed to take this point back to LCC who seem to have been very short sighted in their approach to gully emptying and poor drainage reports in the past, with disastrous results.

Resolved – That the meeting be reconvened and continue in line with the Agenda.

- 115. 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 made at this point however, Councillors will declare them should they arise later in the Meeting.**
- 116. To Accept the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 7 December 2015** - The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 7 December 2015 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting and it was **Resolved: The Minutes were accepted as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.**
- 117. Update on Matters Arising from previous Meetings for note by the Council**: Report 1 (page 5) – ACCEPTED. It was confirmed that public footpath signs are not normally located at the road junctions therefore, the missing public footpath sign referred to is part way down Delph Lane, where the 2 public footpaths point in different directions. Councillor Cornwell will confirm this and report back to the Clerk who will make the necessary report.
- 118. Correspondence and Information items requiring discussion or action**:
- Reminder, that the Mayors Black & White Charity Ball will be on Friday 5th February 2016 at Shaw Hill Golf Resort and Spa – **Numbers were confirmed. The Clerk will collect tickets and forward details again so that food choices can be made.**
 - Request from Borough Councillor Leadbetter that the Council consider submitting a request to Chorley Council that Golf Course land be listed as a Community Asset of community value – **Some Councillors cannot see what can be achieved by this, however, others believe that it would show that the Parish Council are concerned about what happens to the site. Initially**

the Parish Council understood that the land Councillor Leadbetter was referring to was that north of the public footpath through the site however, it was confirmed that Councillor Leadbetter feels it should be the whole of the site and, that if it was ever offered for sale a bid could be made, funds permitting, to purchase part of the site. Resolved – The Clerk will take steps to request that Chorley Council list the former Golf Course and land around it, as an asset of Community Value.

- c) Invitation to the Chairman of the Parish Council to attend the Lancashire Civic County Carol Service at Blackburn Cathedral, Sunday 31 January 2016 at 6:30pm – **Apologies will be given.**
- d) Notification that the next VIP Network Meeting will take place on Thursday 21 January 2016 at Mossy Lea Village Hall, Wrightington, between 2pm and 4pm – **Noted.**
- e) Response to grass verge cutting enquiries raised at the December Meeting – **Noted.**
- f) Notification the National Cycle Race will be held in Chorley on Easter Sat, 26th March 2016, and will be called the Chorley Grand Prix, starting and finishing in Chorley Town Centre – **Noted.**
- g) Confirmation from LCC of withdrawal of subsidies for local bus services - **Councillors believe withdrawal of subsidies will leave rural areas with little or no means of accessing services, amenities and facilities outside the Parish. The loss of, and lack of, even the most basic amenities in rural areas eg: shops, doctors, chemists, libraries and supermarkets, means residents are forced to travel outside of the Parish, to larger towns and villages, to access these. The Council believe the withdrawal of bus services in rural areas will ultimately lead to social exclusion and isolation for many residents. Residents will be seriously disadvantaged by these cuts which will leave vulnerable residents such as the low paid, elderly and infirm, stranded in their homes/villages with little or no social interaction which will have a significant detrimental impact on their health and well-being. The Council would urge LCC to support bus service providers in every way possible to ensure that residents of rural Parishes are not disadvantaged by the County Councils budget cut proposals.**
- h) Current situation with regards to enforcement issues on land opposite 71 Church Lane – **The Parish Council expressed their disappointment that this process had taken so long and, that matrimonial proceedings should not have had any impact on the process.**
- i) Consultation, and request for observations, on the LCC proposed budget options – **Some Councillors believe criticism should be laid at the door of central government who are making these cuts. The Council are disappointed at the budget cuts proposed as they will detrimentally affect the electorate. Concern was expressed at the reports that LCC have employed consultants to determine how they can work more efficiently. It was confirmed that consultants are brought in routinely in the private sector to address similar issues. It was reported that when the Chief Executive of Chorley Council moved to Wigan MBC she implemented massive cuts but, Wigan Council also now need to make additional cuts. Councillors believe that if the outside consultants do deliver the promised cuts, LCC will have a lot to answer for. Some believe that LCC should be asked if they have made cuts by manoeuvring people in to jobs they are not qualified to do, whilst losing experts or professionals in specific fields.**
- j) Update on CIL monies and s106 activities in Charnock Richard – **The CIL overview indicates that there is a potential payment of CIL money due in April 2016 of £5,637.46 in relation to the development of land at the rear of 42 Chorley Lane. However, payment may be delayed depending on progress with the development. The overview also indicates that Phase III of Mossie Close Play Area upgrading should be delivered or started in 2016/17 using s106 money to the value of £42,756.00. The Clerk reported that on receipt of this letter she had enquired whether the projected s106 money for Mossie Close could be transferred to the Orchard Gardens project they have in mind. Unfortunately this is not possible as the s106 money is for ‘play allocation’ and not for ‘parks and gardens allocation’ which is the category Orchard Gardens falls into. It was suggested that options for Mossie Close need to be reviewed and, the opinions expressed by some of the younger members of the Community for a zip wire rather than a MUGA, should not be ignored.**
- k) Request from Chorley Council, Parks & Open Spaces Officer, to consider Orchard Gardens as an improvement scheme to be put forward by Chorley Council to attract s106 funding from developments in the Borough – **It was reported that attracting funding for this project is not**

likely to be successful overnight and may take some time to secure. **Resolved** – The Parish Council will confirm that they wish Chorley Council to consider Orchard Gardens as an improvement scheme by Chorley Council to attract s106 funding.

- l) Notification that the Parish Council are required to submit their Parish Precept Request by early February 2016 and that the Council Tax Base for 2016/17 will be 669.92 – **Noted for consideration at the Budget Meeting in February.**
- m) Info. from LALC – Copy Annual Report 2014/15 – **Noted.**
- n) Details of late items of correspondence received – i) Agenda for the forthcoming Neighbourhood Area Meeting, Southern Parishes, 5pm on 13 January at Chorley Town Hall – **Councillor Taylor will be on holiday therefore, Councillor Almond agreed to attend along with Borough Councillor Leadbetter.** ii) Notification from NALC of Audit Arrangements effective from 2017. **The Clerk reported details of the new arrangements which, the Parish Council must choose to follow, or opt out of, by March 2016. If the Council chooses to opt out they must then procure their own audit services by following set guidelines and procedures. Following discussion on this subject it was Resolved – That the Parish Council will not opt out and will follow the guidance, procedures and audit arrangements proposed by the Sector Lead Body (Smaller Authority Audit Appointments Ltd).**

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

- 1) It was reported that the Hinds Head appear to be using the derelict land at the rear of the existing car park as an overflow car park and have laid a gravel surface to serve this purpose. This is likely to be considered a change of use for which planning permission is required. It was reported that they now have quite a large customer base and the additional parking provision is required. It was confirmed that the management have been informed that planning permission is likely to be required.
- 2) Flooding at the junction of Church Lane/Charter lane was again a serious issue over Christmas with reports that the water was knee high in the hairdressers. It was confirmed that the surface water in this area runs into the culvert opposite the Church however, it is believed that there are problems with root growth or, the culvert has collapsed, as the water is not able to flow away.
- 3) It was reported that the lady who used the complimentary tickets for the Skylarks Choir concert before Christmas, thoroughly enjoyed the night and is even considering joining the Choir.
- 4) It was confirmed that Delph Gardens has not been planted due to poor weather conditions.

120. Reports from Committees and Representatives on Outside Bodies – Nothing specific to report.

121. Planning – The Council were required to make observations on the following applications:

- 1) 15/01186/FUL – Erection of two storey rear extension including the insertion of two Juliet balconies, erection of side porch extension. Erection of detached garage and the formation of a new vehicular and pedestrian access. Gate House, Preston Road, Charnock Richard – **Resolved – No Objections.**
- 2) 15/01175/PDE – Proposed single storey rear extension measuring 8m in depth, 10.6m in width, 2.75m high to the eaves and 3m maximum height to the ridge. 71 Town Lane, Charnock Richard – **Resolved – No Objections.**
- 3) 15/01174/CLPUD – Application for certificate of lawfulness for proposed single storey side extension. 71 Town Lane, Charnock Richard – **Resolved – No Objections.**

122. Accounts

Accounts for Payment:

Chorley Council	Amenity Grass Cutting	£168.76
Chorley Council	Emptying of 4 Dog Waste bins	£344.59
Mrs C A Cross	Salary – (Net)	£511.57
HM Revenue & Customs	Tax due by Clerk	£57.40

The Parish Council will question the invoice for emptying 4 dog waste bins as they cannot actually think where 4 would be. Also, Borough Councillor Leadbetter requested that all the dog waste bins be replaced with normal litter bins with a sticker to indicate that it is acceptable to put dog waste in them, approximately 3 years ago.

Resolved: That the aforementioned Accounts, apart from the one for emptying dog waste bins, are approved payments.

123. Lengthsman's Payment – 94 ½ Hours @ the hourly rate of £7.88 per hour = £744.66.

Resolved: Total Paid £744.66.

Next Meeting: Monday 1 February 2016

Members of the Public and Press are Welcome to Attend

Meeting Closed: 9.40pm

Chairman:

Date:

REPORT 1

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

- a) Apologies from LCC for the delay in dealing with the request for a licence to location raised planted beds on Mill Lane, and confirmation that discussions will resume.
- b) Copy Register of Electors 2015/16.

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.