

# CHARNOCK RICHARD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 2nd March 2020 at 7.30 pm, in the Parish Rooms, Charter Lane, Charnock Richard.

**Present:** Councillors Mrs A Bishop (Acting Chairman), J Hill, Ms C Jackson, Mrs E Butcher, G Brennand, H Heaton, A Cornwell, Mrs L Watson and Mr L Cheetham.

## 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** – reported that the Borough and County Councillors are still pursuing the flooding and drainage issues at the Preston Road/Town Lane junction. There have been no issues for the last few days. Reported, that 2 road gullies in front of Kingthorpe are blocked and need rodding/cleaning out.

**126. Apologies** - Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs J Ogden, Mrs L Birchall, A Shaw and Borough Councillor Whittaker.

**127. 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 in the Meeting.**

**128. To Accept the draft Minutes of the Budget Meeting and the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020** - The Minutes of the Budget Meeting and of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. **Resolved:** Following amendment to the Parish Council Meeting Minutes on page 2, Item 5 (19C181) – removal of the words “as it is in Green Belt”, as the site is not in Green Belt. The Minutes of the Budget Meeting and the Parish Council Meeting, as amended, were accepted as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

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

### **130. Correspondence and Information items requiring discussion or action:**

- a) Notification next Chorley Liaison Meeting will take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 6.30pm and request for Agenda Items + Info from CC Iddon re: 20mph limits/zones – **Councillor Cornwell will attend the meeting. (Meeting cancelled).**
- b) Update on work to address flooding problems Preston Road/Town Lane – **Noted.**
- c) Response to report of flooding farmer’s fields from damaged drains on Chorley Lane – **Councillor Heaton agreed to act as an intermediary between LCC and Mr Heaps who reported the issue, regarding how, and when, it became an issue.**
- d) Enquiry from Eccleston PC to see if you want to be involved in their plans for VE Day celebrations at Heskin Hall on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May – **The Council agreed to advertise the Eccleston PC event in the Notice Boards but will be hosting a Community Picnic in Orchard Gardens on that date.**
- e) Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition 2020 entry forms – **Resolved** – **Welch Whittle will be entered in the 2020 competition with The Hinds Head, The Laurels, Festive Lights and the Parish Council Notice Board submitted as outstanding features.**
- f) Notification of, and request to support, RAF Battle of Britain 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations between 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 – **It was suggested that this could be theme for the Memorial Garden for the coinciding Scarecrow Festival Weekend. The Clerk will determine whether a Battle of Britain flag or bunting can be obtained.**

- g) A Parish Council Facebook Page – **Councillors Jackson, Butcher and Watson have spoken on this subject and all agree the Parish Council needs to have a more active, but controlled, presence on Facebook, highlighting important or bigger issues in the village, almost as an interactive Notice Board making people aware of what is happening. Only administrators will be able to post, visitors to the page having the ability to comment only. Councillors will try to get together to brainstorm and come up with ideas. Councillor Bishop offered to help with this also. It is hoped that this can be put in place over the next month or so.**
- h) Great British Spring Clean, 20 March-13 April 2020 – **Councillor Jackson has registered the Parish Council as taking part in this initiative which now gives access to downloadable resourced. Chorley Council are also encouraging “tidy up” events. Having made enquiries Councillor Jackson confirmed that people/parents seem to be quite keen on getting involved. The Council need to determine a start date and a frequency that the tidy up will take place. It is hoped that by educating children, they will in turn educate their parents. It is likely this will commence during a half-term or the school holidays and possibly on Sundays. A risk assessment will be required. Gloves and litter pickers may be available from Chorley Council along with refuse bags. Hi-viz vests and junior sized gloves are probably required for the children. The Council will look at reward stickers for the children who are taking part. (postponed until later in the year)**
- i) Info. from LALC – Notification of Annual Conference, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020, 9.30-4.45pm, Leyland – **The Clerk reported that she is unable to attend this year. Councillor Bishop will check her diary and report back to the Council. (now postponed)**
- j) Details of late items of correspondence received – i) Request to put a link for Jobted UK on the website – **Noted.** ii) Report of motorcyclists again using the woods, creating additional rutted routes through the woods and causing a nuisance – **Councillor Cheetham is meeting with Chorley Council officers to address this problem.** iii) Details of VE Day products available for presentation purposes – **Details of commemorative coins, pin badges, cups, hats, flags and bunting were reported. Councillor Bishop reported that it is proposed that old fashioned games will be held for the children attending the Community Picnic at Orchard Gardens, with small prizes for the winners in the form of possibly a voucher for an ice-cream from Mrs M’s Pantry or a growing kit from Pole Green Nurseries. It was suggested that Parish Councillors, as well as attending the picnic on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May, may contribute towards the cost of the prizes. The Council agreed that colourful commemorative pin badges could be given to children over a certain age attending the picnic. Councillor Bishop agreed to determine numbers so that an order can be placed. It was confirmed that attendees will be asked to bring their own picnic to address any dietary requirements. (now postponed)**

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

- 1) It was reported that a lot of the gullies in the village are blocked and, whilst the gully sucker has been seen recently in the village, many of the gullies were in accessible due to parked cars and the fact the roads were particularly busy as they attended at peak traffic times. The Council will request that a further visit to the village be made, avoiding school opening and closing times and peak traffic times, so that more of the blocked gullies are accessible for emptying.
- 2) It was reported that the drain repaired near the cottages on Charter Lane has not helped with flooding at the junction of Charter Lane/Church Lane. It was confirmed that the work was undertaken to assist with flooding issues to one of the cottages. The road gullies along Charter Lane all remain blocked, particularly those on Charter Lane and Church Lane, near the junction of these two roads. Councillors feel work to address this should be a priority due to the vulnerability of the 2 & 3 years olds attending pre-school. This work could be undertaken during the Easter holidays.
- 3) 2 further gullies remain blocked on Church Lane, one near the Almshouses, the other at the end of the school railings.
- 4) It was reported that the telephone box door has been damaged. The Lengthsman will be asked to liaise with, and assist, Councillor Cheetham with repairs.
- 5) Repairs to the safety surfacing at Mossie Close play area will be undertaken by Councillor Cheetham at his earliest opportunity, weather permitting.

- 6) It was confirmed that the hedge has been planted behind the fence at Pole Green Nurseries. Some Councillors believe the hedge planting is very poor with some gaps in the planting and the plants do not appear to be substantial as hawthorn whips have been used. There is concern that there is insufficient soil in place for the whips to grow. Councillor Brennand confirmed that any gaps in the planting were not planted previously either (they were entrances/exits/gates) and, that the 20m closest to the entrance has been left unplanted to allow for an adequate visibility splay when exiting the car park. The Council agreed to monitor the planting and growth.
- 7) The Lengthsman will be asked to remove the broken glass on the footways outside the Vicarage.
- 8) Parking is an issue again on Charter Lane, with parents repeatedly blocking resident's driveways when waiting for, or picking up children, whilst the Football Club car park offered to parents to use at these times, remains empty. Some parents wait with their engines running which is inconsiderate for any children walking this route.
- 9) It was reported that recently a resident of the village passed away and the family could not afford a funeral of any kind, nothing to mark their existence. The Clerk will check what is available from the Borough Council and funeral directors under these circumstances so that if there is help, people need to be made aware of what is available, if anything.
- 10) The gold coloured car opposite Mrs M's Pantry still needs removing. This will be reported as an abandoned vehicle.
- 11) Questions were again raised with regard to the Chronicle. Councillor Jackson reported that 18-24 months ago she offered to help but was told her assistance was not required. Councillor Jackson's report, due to go in the Chronicle in the New Year, is now old news and out of date and she feels this is embarrassing for the Parish Council. Councillor Jackson does not want to be involved with this anymore. There is no continuity with regard to publishing and delivery, no certainty as to when the next one will go to print and it has been like this now for over 2 years. It was suggested that it would be easier, more pro-active, more up-to-date and more valuable to put the Parish Council news and articles on the website and social media, with printed copies available in the shops, public houses, football club and on request from the Clerk. This will be discussed with a view to progressing this online at the next meeting.
- 12) The grid on the bend at the junction of Willow Drive, from Leeson Avenue, is a trip hazard.
- 13) It was reported that 3 youths were seen, approx 3 weeks ago, going towards Coppull having been in the book exchange and thrown the books everywhere. This has now been tidied and emptied.
- 14) Councillor Jackson reported her conversation with Kevin, the landlord at the Hinds Head in relation to customers at the Hinds Head on Sundays blocking the pavement on Preston Road with their parked vehicles. Kevin agreed to post a message on the Hinds Head facebook page requesting that customers refrain from doing this. This will be monitored.
- 15) A unique, free entry, event will be taking place at the Football Club on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The American girls under 16's will be playing Blackburn Rovers girls under 16's at 7.45pm.
- 16) Flooding in the garden of the house on the corner of Back Lane is still occurring. The Clerk confirmed this has been reported with a request that LCC officers contact Councillor Hill for more information and assistance with this issue.
- 17) Trees on the A49, from Church Lane towards the Laurels, opposite Yew Tree Villas, are covered with ivy, look top heavy, and could prove dangerous if the weight causes them to fall on to the A49. The ivy needs severing at the root to remove the weight from the trees and help alleviate health and safety issues.
- 18) The surface of the carriageway on Southgates and Merefold is in very poor condition. It is breaking up and the cobbles underneath are visible in places.
- 19) The poor condition of the road surface on Charter Lane remains cause for concern.

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

**133. Action to Satisfy Audit Requirements - Resolved: The Parish Council confirmed the following action has been taken throughout the year to satisfy Audit Requirements:** i) The Parish Council Risk Assessment – was reviewed and confirmed at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May 2019. Risk review and health and safety implications associated with the work of the Lengthsman remain on-going. ii) The effectiveness of the Internal Audit was confirmed – the

Internal Auditor is both competent and independent, has no relationship with the Clerk or Councillors. The Audit trail is detailed, planned and the broad scope of the internal audit covers all aspects of the Councils business including financial, administrative, practical and procedural matters. Any issues arising from both the internal and external auditors are reported to the Parish Council at the earliest opportunity and appropriate action taken. **The Council confirmed the continued appointment of Mrs Stewart as the Parish Councils Internal Auditor.**

**134. Orchard Gardens** – VE Day picnic plans – discussions took place earlier in the meeting – **Noted. (now postponed)**

**135. Planning** – The Council were required to make observations on the following application/s:

- 1) 20/00094/CLPUD – Application for a certificate of lawfulness for a proposed detached outbuilding (following the demolition of the existing detached store and workshop). 16 Town Lane, Charnock Richard - **Resolved – No Objections.**
- 2) 20/00130/FUL – Erection of 1 no. detached dwellinghouse, following the demolition of existing buildings and part demolition of existing stable block. Land at the junction of Mill Lane, Preston Road, Charnock Richard – **Following discussion, a proposal, and a majority vote it was Resolved – The Council has No Objections.**
- 3) 20/00134/TPO – Application for works to a protected tree – Chorley BC TPO 4 (Charnock Richard) 1991 Oak – fell. 3 Cherry Tree Close, Charnock Richard – **Resolved - The Council strongly objects to the felling of this mature oak tree. The tree is healthy and shows no signs of damage, disease or decay. There is no justifiable reason to remove this perfectly healthy protected mature tree.**

**136. Accounts**

Accounts for Payment:

Mrs C A Cross – Reimburse Expenses Already Paid by the Clerk, to 2 March 2020

- Internet Charges 50% (Shared with Wrightington)	£120.00	
- Mobile Tel. Charges 50% (Shared with Wrightington)	£60.00	
- Stationery/Copying/Postage and Mileage	£180.10	£360.10

Mrs C A Cross Salary – (Net) £673.48

HM Revenue & Customs Tax & NI due by Clerk	£106.52	
NI due by Parish Council	£8.42	£114.94

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

LALC will be asked if the Local Council Review book is available electronically.

**137. Lengthsman’s Payment** - Work undertaken this month, 4 weeks, 100 Hours @ £8.80 per hour = £880.00. **Resolved: Total Paid £880.00.**

Next Meeting: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 - 7.30 pm Parish Council Meeting  
Members of the Public and Press are Welcome to Attend

Meeting Closed: 9.32 pm

Chairman:

Date:

**REPORT 1**

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

- a) Confirmation your report to CC Iddon re: request for traffic lights on the railway bridge on Church Lane has been passed to highways officers to investigate.
- b) Notification of temporary road closure on Town Lane, Heskin, between 8am on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 until 6pm on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 or until completion of the works. To allow BT investigation works to be carried out.

**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.