

CHARNOCK RICHARD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 5 February 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Rooms, Charter Lane, Charnock Richard.

Present: Councillors A J Shaw (Chairman), J Hill, Mrs J Ogden, Mrs A Bishop, Miss E Walmsley, H Heaton, Mrs L Watson, L Cheetham, A Cornwell 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)

Borough Councillor Whittaker – reported the poor state of the carriageway on Park Hall Road and his correspondence with LCC on similar roads. He reported that he had been advised that the current administration at LCC is delaying some expenditure from funds allocated until the next financial year. Councillors agreed that LCC's priorities seem to be odd at the moment with work being undertaken which does not seem to be required e.g. surface dressing of footways which do not need it in preference to footways such as Charter Lane which are in a significantly worse state and which do require action. Councillor Whittaker confirmed that the site meeting at Camelot which had been set for late January or early February has been deferred with no reason given for doing this. Councillor Whittaker expressed his concern that a week before the planning committee meeting Councillors received a note saying that the s106 play and recreation investigations indicated that there is no "need" in Heskin or Charnock Richard and suggested that the potential £300,000 would be directed to Euxton and other areas play space. Councillor Whittaker asked how this could be done and was told that this is normal procedure and did not imply that the application had been pre-judged. Councillor Whittaker will ask for further information on this matter at the planning committee meeting tomorrow. He confirmed however, that the CIL money generated by a Camelot development would still be given for use in Charnock Richard. Councillors asked whether it would be a necessity for the developer to allocate play space in a development of the size proposed. Councillor Whittaker confirmed that they are proposing open space, which would be sufficient, but no play area. Councillor Whittaker advised the Parish Council that Heskin PC have agreed as part of the Southern Parishes priorities to erect village name signs which will have a picture of Heskin Hall at the top and 'Welcome to Heskin' underneath. These are being placed at the entrances to the Parish and there will be one where the existing Heskin sign is on the left hand side of Park Hall Road. The Chairman asked Borough Councillor Whittaker about the recent editorial in the Borough relating to the shortfall of funding for the Chorley Flower Show amounting to approx. £60,000. Councillor Whittaker confirmed that some Borough Councillors have expressed concerns about the loss of services in the Parishes when the flower show is on, but he has not had the opportunity to ask questions about this yet. He confirmed that no subsidy was required in the first year however, it is unknown as yet what affected the second year. Councillors stressed that it seems a lot of money is being spent in the Town Centre at the cost of the rural areas. Councillor Whittaker did report that some money is being spent elsewhere e.g. the flood defences in Croston were paid for by the Borough Council and would not have been implemented without their contribution. It was further confirmed that Town Centre Redevelopment is undertaken using public loans which are paid back once the development is up and running. Parish Councillors enquired about the proposals for the Market Walk extension and whether that would proceed now that 2 flagship stores have pulled out. It was also reported that Parish Councillors understood that the extensions would not go ahead unless/until 50% of the stores have been tenanted. Councillor Whittaker was unable to answer these specific questions however, he did report that all financial proposals and projections are discussed across the Borough Council.

Public Present – Reported that there is still a considerable volume of water running down Carr House Lane and across the carriageway near Carr House. There are still a large number of pot holes everywhere in the Parish and, although they are being reported and actioned on the LCC website, nothing beyond that appears to be happening.

125. **Apologies** - Were received from Councillors Mrs Pilling (holidays), J Taylor (family illness) and Borough Councillor Leadbetter (family illness).
126. **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.**
127. **To Accept the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 January 2018** - The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 8 January 2018 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting and it was **Resolved: The Minutes of the Meeting were accepted as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.**
128. **Update on Matters Arising from previous Meetings for note by the Council:** Report 1 (page 3) – Agreed. Items b) and c) – The Clerk will ask that the work be undertaken before nesting season.
129. **Correspondence and Information items requiring discussion or action:**
- a) Confirmation that the Parish Councils enforcement complaint regarding the removal of the hedgerow on Church Lane, in front of Pole Green Nurseries, has been received – **Councillors reported that they had received several complaints regarding the unauthorised removal of the hedge. Councillors were particularly disappointed that the hedge had been removed despite discussions with Councillor Brennand at a previous meeting, where it was clearly stated that permission would be required to remove such a long stretch of hedge. Councillor Brennand confirmed that investigations on line by his son lead them to believe that they were not contravening any laws by removing it. He further added that the hedge did obscure sightlines when exiting the site. Councillors stated that the edge of the pavement where the hedge has been removed is now dangerous and could cause a person to keel over. It was felt that the site now looks like an industrial site. Councillor Brennand said that the soil could be put back and a hedge planted on the car park side of the fence if desired. The Parish Council agreed to the hedge being replanted behind the fence, stopping before it presented an obstruction to sightlines. Councillor Shaw confirmed that both he and the Clerk had spoken to Chorley Council enforcement officers at the time the hedge was removed, who confirmed that removing the hedge did in fact contravene hedgerows legislation however, Chorley Council do not tend to pursue enforcement in these matters due to the financial implications of doing so. The Parish Council are concerned that this action could set a precedent for others in the Parish to do something similar. It was again confirmed that the Parish Council must be seen to be serving the community they have been elected to represent and therefore did not hesitate to report the removal of the hedge to Chorley Council. It was Chorley Council who chose not to pursue this.**
 - b) Request from Withnell Angling Club for info. & contact details of youth activity groups in the Parish who may wish to attend a series of coaching sessions over a 5 week period – **This information will be displayed on the facebook page and will be forwarded to the Chairman of Charnock Richard Angling Club. Councillor Shaw will pass these details to the Clerk.**
 - c) Info. from LALC – Annual Report 2016/17 – Minutes of Oct 2017 Area Committee Meeting and Agenda for Area Committee Meeting on 22nd of February at the Town Hall – Details of a Chairmanship Workshop, Thursday 8th March at Howick House – **Noted.**
 - d) Details of late items of correspondence received – **Nothing further received.**
130. **Reports, Complaints, Concerns from Councillors** - not addressed at the start of the Meeting:
- 1) Confirmed Mossie Close play area was closed at lunchtime last Friday for work to commence.
 - 2) The Council agreed that the re-opening of Mossie Close Play Area be deferred until Easter.
 - 3) The Beer/Music Festival at the Football Club has been scheduled for the last weekend in May 2018 (Friday 25th May-Sunday 27th May inclusive) and will have a licence for outside music.
 - 4) It was again reported that there are pot-holes everywhere in the Parish.
 - 5) The stile needs repairing on the public footpath near the Hinds Head on Chorley Lane and, on the same route the stone step at the footbridge over the stream has been thrown into the stream. All the stiles along this route to Freemans Lane need attention.

- 6) Fly tipping and litter on the railway embankment from Freemans Lane needs removing.
- 7) There has again been an increase in the amount of dog fouling in the Parish. The Parish Council has erected numerous signs which are repeatedly ignored. The Scouts made and erected poo bag dispensers which are not being used by everyone. The problem will be highlighted on the facebook page and the website.
- 8) The fundraising sign/barometer outside the Parish Rooms needs updating
- 9) Some Councillors feel the barn being renovated on Church Lane is rather unsightly with scaffolding and plastic sheeting fronting the carriageway.
- 10) Parking is again an issue on Leeson Avenue opposite the bungalows.

- 131. Reports from Committees and Representatives on Outside Bodies – Charnock Richard United Charity Trustees** – met prior to this meeting. Reported that the boundary line adjacent to the Football Club has now been finalised and a plan/map can now be produced and given to the Football Club. Leases to the Parish Council and the Football Club are now being formulated. **Mossie Close Play Area Phase III** – The Chairman reported that emergency work to trees at the back of the site had to be arranged with speed to enable the play equipment works to continue and allow the zip-wire to be installed. The Chairman agreed, after meeting J Hill on site, that, as some of the boughs were quite large it was too much for Parish Councillors to undertake this work. Therefore, the Chairman used his discretion and asked the company for whom Mr J Hill works to continue with the tree work so that Phase III enhancements could remain on track. **Community Centre Trust** – There is a coffee morning on Saturday. It was reported that they are now looking to obtain some outside funding to continue with refurbishments to the building.
- 132. Precept 2018/2019 - Resolved:** Following detailed discussions at the Budget Meeting held prior to this Meeting, the Parish Council agreed a Parish Requirement of £28,000.00 for the 2018/2019 financial year is required. This figure is the same as last year and will include the top up grant from the Borough Council of £345.00. Therefore, the Parish Precept will be £27,655.00 + the Top up Grant of £345.00 = Parish Requirement of £28,000.00.
- 133. Request for Entry and Nominations for the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition 2018**
- 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.
- 134. Phase III Mossie Close Play Area** – Update – It was confirmed that the site is closed and Wicksteed will be on site soon to begin the work with a scheduled re-opening at Easter.
- 135. Orchard Gardens** – Update – specifications are being drawn up to send out to local contractors and contractors suggested by Chorley Council. Councillors suggested that it may be a nice idea to locate some memorial benches for past Parish Councillors in both Orchard Gardens and Mossie Close Play Area.
- 136. Planning** – The Council will be required to make observations on the following applications:
- 1) 17/01223/FUL – Change of use of golf course storage building (Use Class D2) to a single dwellinghouse (Use Class C3), including alterations to access. Charnock Brow Barn, Preston Road, Charnock Richard. **Resolved - The Council has no objections in principle to the conversion of the storage building to a dwelling provided it complies with all the relevant planning legislation for barn conversions and, provided the percentage increase in the volume of the building does not exceed the amount permitted for development in the Green Belt. The Council do however object to the proposed new access to this dwelling. The Council believe its close proximity to a lay-by with 24 hour parking will compromise highway safety. Furthermore, the Council question the need for a separate access as the proposed dwelling is within the curtilage of the existing dwelling and therefore does not require a separate access. The current access was sufficient to support the vehicular access/egress requirements of the existing dwelling plus the traffic movements generated by the golf course which existed on this site previously. Therefore, the Council do not feel that the proposals justify the necessity for a new, separate, access.**

137. 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
Chorley Council – Grass cutting Leeson Avenue & Orchard Gardens	£172.14
Mrs C A Cross Salary – (Net)	£640.64
HM Revenue & Customs Tax & NI due by Clerk £87.36	
NI due by Parish Council £6.62	£93.98
CPRE Annual Subscriptions	£36.00

Receipts:

Chorley Council – s106 payment towards Mossie Close Play Area Enhancements	£47,286.27
Community Foundation – towards community garden and planting at Orchard Gardens	£1,000.00

Resolved: That the aforementioned Accounts are approved payments and receipts.

138. Lengthsman's Payment - 5 weeks = 125 Hours @ the hourly rate of £8.00 per hour = £1000.00.

Resolved: Total Paid £1000.00.

Next Meeting: Monday 5 March 2018 – 7.30 pm Parish Council Meeting in the Parish Rooms
Members of the Public and Press are Welcome to attend the next Meeting

Meeting Closed: 9.10 pm

Chairman:

Date:

REPORT 1

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

- a) Details & Info. for Chorley Liaison Meeting, 17th January 2018.
- b) Confirmation from the Senior Strategic Land Manager NW, Story Homes Ltd, that he will speak with colleagues regarding arranging for hedge cutting works on Park Hall Road to take place.
- c) Confirmation from Casey's that hedge cutting works on German Lane will hopefully take place sometime after week commencing 29th January 2018.
- d) Notification that the next Neighbourhood Area Meeting for the Southern Parishes will take place on Thursday 1st March 2018, 6pm, 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.