

CHARNOCK RICHARD PARISH COUNCIL

www.charnockrichardparishcouncil.com

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 7th October 2019 at 7.30 pm, in the Parish Rooms, Charter Lane, Charnock Richard.

Present: Councillors Mr A J Shaw (Chairman), Mrs A Bishop, Mrs J Ogden, Mr J Hill, Mrs E Butcher, Mrs C Jackson, G Brennand, H Heaton, L Cheetham, A Cornwell and Mrs L Watson. Also present Borough Councillors Whittaker and Mrs Berry.

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 that he has mentioned the issue of young people from rural areas accessing the Youth Zone at the Chorley Liaison Committee who are taking this on board and looking at making progress with this. He also reported that it is important to look out for the revised Local Plan which will be going out for consultation shortly and it is important to consider any proposed loss of Green Belt. Regarding drainage issues on the A49 Preston Road and the junction with Town Lane, he reported that the District Lead at LCC has confirmed that investigations will take place within the next 4 weeks and that this issue remains ongoing. Councillor Whittaker reported that Chorley Council is totally opposed to the proposal that Preston, Chorley & South Ribble Health Authorities A&E be moved to Preston. He reported on a meeting with residents of Cherry Tree Close in relation to responsibility for trees, and tree works to trees, on the Mosses which are the subject of a TPO placed on them prior to building the houses. A meeting with Chorley Council tree officers is scheduled for Friday 11th October at 10am on site and it was suggested that Councillor Shaw, as the Parish Councils tree officer attend the meeting, which was agreed. It was reported that the trees are very tall and the rear gardens of the houses on Cherry Tree Close are very small, however, it was confirmed that the trees must be protected if they are healthy and are not in need of any work.

Flooding Town Lane – residents present reported flooding on 4 out of 7 days recently, with gardens being under 2 feet of water, and the whole of the junction of Town Lane completely flooded. Residents struggled to get out of Town Lane both on foot and in cars. It was confirmed that County Councillor Iddon was again contacted and is arranging meetings to try to resolve this issue as soon as possible. It was reported that money previously allocated to address this problem has now been spent. Investigations and work undertaken in the past has not rectified this longstanding problem. Flooding this year has been particularly bad and it is frustrating that LCC thought that the work undertaken by them 4-5 years ago when they installed the new manhole had solved the problem. However, flooding has continued several times a year over the past few years despite the work undertaken. The Parish Council has supported the residents and reported this problem many times to a succession of County Councillors. Lack of funding has been blamed in the past, however, the residents and the Parish Council do not feel they have been listened to, residents and children's lives are in danger from the flooding of the roads and gardens, and their concerns seem to be ignored. Councillor Bishop reported that it took her 6 attempts to photograph the gardens for the Best Kept Garden Presentation Evening due to the fact the gardens were flooded on numerous occasions. It was reported that flooding took place on Charter Lane with the ground floor of one home having been completely flooded and residents found themselves pumping water out. Children attending the pre-school had to wade through the water to leave the building. The Parish Council once again expressed their view that, as Charnock Richard is on a hill compared to other neighbouring Parishes, flooding should not occur. It must be the result of poor maintenance and bad drainage.

Borough Councillor Berry – reported that she agrees with all that has been said and confirmed that LCC has instigated investigations at both Town Lane and Spendmore Lane which also flooded. The culverts in these areas are not coping with the volume of water. She accepts that people were desperate and worried and is not happy with Chorley Council and LCC's responses and will be pursuing this strongly. The considerable length of time taken to deal with the problem is the issue. She further confirmed that

flooding is a result of poor infrastructure underground and reported that LCC officers are working on it along with the Environment Agency. Any incidents need to be reported using the 101 telephone number so that they are logged. Councillor Berry confirmed that LCC has good online resources and advice for dealing with flooding and that the Flood Risk Unit are prepared to attend meetings and provide kits to help residents deal with flooding when it is happening. Chorley Council also has a duty officer who can assist, out of hours, with provision of sandbags etc. Items have been seen in the River Yarrow recently which have only reached there due to the excessive heavy rainfall and the fact that the normal drainage systems cannot cope with it. The gullies are full of weeds, soil, leaves and detritus as a result of LCC cuts to the gully emptying schedule, the repercussions of which are now being felt and are now very obvious. Agencies tend to look after vulnerable people in situations like this in low lying areas, however, the location of Charnock Richard should make them low risk and should mean they should not be experiencing these severe flooding conditions. Collection tanks installed in Coppull and Charnock Richard will overflow when full, which has added to the problems. It was reported that parked cars sometimes prevent gullies from being emptied. It was suggested that, once the schedule is known, if cones were provided these could be placed over the gullies to prevent vehicles parking and to assist with emptying them. Councillor Berry reiterated that intelligence is needed from residents to enable LCC and Chorley Council to prioritise where work is required by ringing 101 or using the LCC report a fault system on their website. It was confirmed that other Parish Councils feel exactly the same as Charnock Richard. Councillor Berry will continue to pursue this matter with LCC. Councillor Berry confirmed that Chorley Council does not want A&E moved out of Chorley and this must now go to LCC for discussion. Councillor Berry reported that some Parishes have applied for grants to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan. Resources and funding is available to assist towards the creation of a plan which may help to shape Charnock Richard for the future. The Chairman confirmed that meetings were held in the village to try to do this a number of years ago with little response. Councillor Berry said that there are not many plans in Lancashire. The Council will research this again to see what has changed since they considered putting a Neighbourhood Plan in place some years ago.

1. **Apologies** - Were received and accepted from Councillor Mrs L Birchall.
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 – **Councillor Hill declared an interest in planning 19/00804/FULHH as he is the applicant. No further declarations were made at this point however Councillors will declare them should they arise in the Meeting.**
3. **To Accept the draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 2nd September 2019** - The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 2nd September 2019 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. **Resolved: The Minutes of the Meeting 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 4-5) – Agreed. c) **Cutting back hedges Park Hall Road** – LCC will be asked to spade back the pavements along this route taking away the debris removed rather than throwing it under the hedges. b) **Cattery, Haydock Farm** – The Council will ask for the reasons for the refusal.
5. **Correspondence and Information items requiring discussion or action:**
 - a) Confirmation of completion of external audit by PKF Littlejohn LLP with no matters arising requiring the issuing of a separate audit report - **Resolved** – **The completion of the audit is accepted and noted by the Parish Council.**
 - b) Response from LCC to speed issues raised at the last meeting on Chorley Lane – **It was confirmed that speed enforcement was seen again today on Charter Lane and Chorley Lane and, that recent enforcement on Chorley Lane has been between 3pm and 6pm as suggested following last month's meeting. It was reported however, that speeding on Church Lane is getting worse. The Lengthsman will be asked to put the SPID on Church Lane when it is next moved and, the Council will again request that the red rumble strips be reinstated on the garden centre side of the railway bridge on Church Lane.**

- c) Notification that the next Chorley Liaison Meeting will take place on Wednesday 16th October at 6.30pm and request for Agenda items – **Councillor Cornwell will attend. No agenda items.**
- d) Info. from LALC – E-briefing Policy Consultation on bringing 5G mobile coverage to rural areas for comment if appropriate. E-briefing Policy Consultation on the new Code of Audit Practice for comment if appropriate – **Noted.**
- e) Details of late items of correspondence received – i) Email from Councillor Butcher confirming that due to changes in her personal circumstances she is resigning as the Parish Council representative on the Community Centre Trust and from the Chronicle Committee – **The Parish Council thanked Councillor Butcher for her hard work and valuable input in both these posts. Councillors agreed to think about this and discuss it again at the November Meeting.** ii) The Clerk reported the recent Facebook Poll in relation to the creation of a car park on land rented by the Parish Council adjacent to Orchard Gardens. It was stressed that this is once again a situation where social media inaccurately reflects the Parish Council position on this matter. The poll has finished now but it was stressed that it had nothing to do with the Parish Council in any way. It was reported that it was prompted by recent parking problems at a large funeral at Church and the issues it would have caused should the emergency services have been required. There was considerable illegal double parking which could have proved dangerous. It was suggested that, in the event of large attendances at funerals, the Church should take responsibility for ensuring parking is safe and is considerate, by putting cones out if necessary. It was confirmed that the Parish Council Minutes can be found on the website and explain the ongoing process and progress with the Orchard Gardens and the proposed car park.

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

- 1) It was reported that 2 young men have been seen following the postman on Town Lane and checking letter and mail boxes after the postman has left the property. The men, wearing hi-viz jackets, appear to be delivering leaflets, but are in fact removing mail from letter boxes and mail boxes and using information gathered to try to set up direct debits and requesting or intercepting new bank cards. The police have been involved.
 - 2) Councillor Heaton reported that he has briefly looked at the proposed Central Lancashire Local Plan and that the Parish Council will be asked for site suggestions in due course.
 - 3) It was reported that the edging stones, adjacent to the gravel path on the grassed area approaching the gate for Mossie Close play area, is standing proud and is now a trip hazard. It was reported that the paths were put in approx. 15 years ago trialling surface materials. It will be suggested to Chorley Council that the paths be resurfaced with tarmac.
 - 4) Reported flooding problems on German Lane have been resolved by Councillor Hill.
 - 5) Councillor Ogden requested that Councillor Brennand arrange for the overgrowth narrowing the footway in front of Pole Green Nurseries to be spaded back to make the footpath wider. Councillor Brennand agreed to look at this.
 - 6) Councillor Jackson confirmed that speed enforcement action following the September Meeting seems to have addressed the issues raised. The situation will continue to be monitored.
 - 7) The Scarecrow Festival Committee were thanked for their hard work and the proper preparation for this year's festival which made a huge difference and resulted in an amazing weekend. The event was so successful it even made it in to the National Press and the Irish Times. The Scarecrow Festival Committee will be invited to attend the Best Kept Garden Presentation Evening.
 - 8) In her absence the Clerk read allowed the following items raised by Councillor Birchall – i) residents' complaints in relation to vehicles and gangs of youths gathering at the end of Town Lane which is causing some elderly residents distress – will be reported to the PCSO who will be asked to patrol. ii) Reported flooding in our area and enquired as to responsibility for flooding of ditches/dykes. It was confirmed that it is either the landowner or the environment agency that will be responsible for ensuring the ditches are cleaned out and flowing freely.
 - 9) It was reported that the Eccleston Facebook page give crime figures, however, the figures include Charnock Richard as they are taken from the crime.uk website.
- At this point Councillor Watson left the Meeting.

7. Reports from Committees and Representatives on Outside Bodies – Almshouse Meeting –

attended by Councillor Ogden who reported that the homes are all tenanted at the moment and that

the next Meeting will be held in November. Charnock Richard Charity Trustees Meeting – Took place tonight prior to the Parish Council Meeting. Trustees reported that the acquisition of registered title for the Trustees land is imminent and the draft leases have been prepared and will be sent out within the next few weeks.

8. **Best Kept Garden Competition** – Presentation Evening – Thursday 24th October 2019, 7.30pm at Charnock Richard Football Club. The Mayor will be attending to present the prizes. Invitations have been sent out and final numbers for catering will be given nearer the time. Trophies have been collected ready for engraving with the 2019-2020 winners names.
9. **Parish Council Donations** – Councillors’ Heaton and Jackson declared an interest in this matter as they are associated with the Cricket Club and the Scarecrow Festival respectively both of whom have applied for a donation. Requests have been received as follows:
 - Charnock Richard Pre-School – Charnock Richard Scouts and Guides Supporters Committee – Charnock Richard SJ Cricket Club – Charnock Richard Scarecrow Festival Committee – The Potting Shed Team (under Charnock Richard Community Centre Trust) – Charnock Richard Community Centre Trust – Charnock Richard PCC (for churchyard maintenance) – Charnock Richard PCC (chronicle printing costs) – North West Air Ambulance – Chorley & South Ribble Shopmobility. 10 applications in total. It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** – that each applicant receives an equal share of £100.00.
10. **Planning** – The Council will be required to make observations on the following application/s:
 - 1) 19/00804/FULHH – First floor rear extension. Padua Farm, German Lane, Charnock Richard – **Resolved** – The Parish Council has No Objections.
 - 2) 19/00861/AGR – Agricultural determination for the erection of an extension to an existing agricultural building to house cattle. Knob Farm, Town Lane, Charnock Richard – **For note by the Parish Council as prior approval is not required.**

11. **Accounts**

Accounts for Payment:

PKF Littlejohn LLP	Audit Fee		£480.00
IP Jones Fencing Ltd	Installation of sleepers at Delph Gardens		£1548.50
Chorley Council	Uncontested Election Fees		£283.51
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
Mrs M Stewart	Internal Audit fee		£25.00
Coppull Moor Lne Nurseries	Planting in the Parish by the Lengthsman		£151.25

Resolved: That the aforementioned Accounts are approved payments. The Chairman also felt it appropriate at this point to report the excellent work completed by IP Jones at Delph Gardens.

12. **Lengthsman’s Payment** - Work undertaken this month, 132 Hours @ £8.80 per hour = £1161.60.
Resolved: Total Paid £1161.60.

Next Meeting: Monday 4 November 2019

Members of the Public and Press are Welcome to Attend

Meeting Closed: 9.17 pm

Chairman:

Date:

REPORT 1

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

- a) Notification that permission has been granted for two storey side extension following demolition of single storey side extension and erection detached single garage. 9 Dob Brow.
- b) Notification that permission has been refused for commercial cattery (8 units). Haydocks Farm, Preston Road.

- c) Confirmation from Story Homes that work to cut back hedges on Park Hall Road has been commissioned, details of completion times to follow.
- d) Confirmation from Welcome Break that cutting back of overgrown hedges on Park Hall Road and Mill Lane has been planned in before the end of September.
- e) Advance notification of the forthcoming Issues and Options Consultation on the development of a new Local Plan for Central Lancashire, which will supersede the Core Strategy and the 3 Local Plans for Chorley, Preston and South Ribble. Consultation to take place 18/11/19-14/2/20.

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.