



**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 17th April 2023 at 7.30pm. The meeting was held in the Venue, Liverpool Road,
Much Hoole.**

**These minutes have been produced by Cllr R Lea on behalf of the Clerk, R Weaver who
was absent from the meeting.**

Present; Cllrs N. Woodcock (Chairman), E. Houghton, K. Hayes, R Lea, A. Taylor,

1. Apologies for Absence

T Hewitt, T Brown and P Cocker

The meeting began by R Lea giving an update on Council Clerk Russ Weaver's situation and the members all sending their best wishes for a speedy return to health and to his duties as Clerk. And grateful thanks for Russ's wife Val's support to the Council was expressed.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr E Houghton and Cllr A Taylor (non-pecuniary) re Village Hall.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

It was resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting of 13th March 2023 as an accurate record.

4. Adjournment for Public Participation

Mr Graham Smith, the Liberal Democrat candidate for the Much Hoole ward in the forthcoming election of Councillors to South Ribble Borough Council, wanted to introduce himself and ask why there was not a 20mph speed limit on Liverpool Old Road through the village as in Walmer Bridge. Councillors explained the very valid reasons why a 30mph speed limit is satisfactory and said that they were more concerned about the risks to safety on the main A59 past the village.

5. Reports from / invitations to other meetings

Cllr E Houghton had attended the recent Executive meeting of the Lancashire Association of Local Councils and tabled her report.

She reported that LCC are prioritising rural and estate roads for repair using a Government grant rather than main roads.

At the meeting the contribution by Parish Councils in maintaining Public Rights of Way was recognised and delegates were reminded that LCC have grants of £500 towards this work.

Val Watson, Clerk Russ's wife, was spoken of very highly as the Training Coordinator for LALC, and temporarily the next session will be hosted by Darren Grimshaw.

A newly appointed LALC Area Secretary Coordinator's first area to help will be South Ribble.

6. Cycle Track

Cllr A Taylor reported that his track inspections are continuing and there are no maintenance, repair, or usage issues.

7. Finance

It was resolved to:

- a) Pay the LALC annual membership fee April 2023 - March 2024 in the sum of £366.35

Other payments, for example to pay the clerk, are not known about and were deferred to the next meeting for approval.

8. Community Projects

Planting - It was agreed that Cllr A Taylor would liaise with the lengthsman to have flower beds and troughs tidied up and planting to be done.

Replace tyres by planters. It was agreed that Cllr A Taylor would arrange to have the tractor tyres removed by the lengthsman (possibly being offered to the school after emptying) and replace them with 2 x stone trough planters matching those already in place at the roundabout, The cost of £480.00 plus reclaimable VAT (£96.00) and £50 delivery was approved at the last meeting. . Cllr R Lea will ask Val to see if she can dig out the invoice for the purchase of these 2.5 to 3 years ago. Cllr E Houghton proposed and K Hayes seconded the spending of £50 or thereabouts on materials for the base of the two new stone planters.

Road safety. Cllr T Hewitt has the posters for the village signs in hand.

9. Forthcoming Clerk vacancy

The interviews of three applicants by Cllrs N Woodcock, K Hayes and P Cocker have been arranged for Tuesday 25th April. Once selected, Cllr R Lea will organise the paperwork for the new clerk, and a handover will need to be arranged too.

10. Village Hall update

A written report on the progress of the village hall was read to the Council by Cllr A Taylor. In summary, its finances are healthy, it is being well used with local community groups, locals' lunches, bookings for parties and events. Planning permission for a MUGA has been submitted. The hall will be well used as part of the Coronation celebrations in particular the Local History Festival on Monday 8th May. The Much Hoole Spring Fair is on 29th May. A new sign at the front entrance and a barrier to prevent unwanted visitors are being considered.

Cllr Kerry Hayes agreed to source a bench to be installed in a suitable position at the Village Hall as a thank you for the excellent services provided by our Clerk R. Weaver.

11. Planning

Permission in Principle to build 2 dwellings in Town Lane (07/2023/00133/PIP) has been approved by South Ribble Planning.

12. SRBC Housing policy

Cllr R Lea agreed to contact South Ribble Borough Council to ensure local Much Hoole people who need housing are not overlooked.

13. Forthcoming Council elections

The current eight Parish Councillors have been elected unopposed so the next meeting on May 15th will be preceded by the Annual Meeting at which the public are invited and during which the chairman, Cllr N Woodcock, will give his annual report and the Chairman and Vice Chairman for the coming year will be elected.

14. Coronation celebrations

Arrangements are well in hand. Cllr K Hayes agreed to source two oak trees in a hessian root-ball some 8-10 feet high; one being to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and the second to replace the now dead tree planted in memory of Joe Turner.

15. Remembrance Day

Cllr K Hayes agreed to source a silhouette of a soldier from the British Legion to be sited at the entrance to the Village Hall for discussion and approval at the next meeting.

16. Community Garden

It was agreed that the most suitable place for this is behind the current cycle track where there is spare ground. This being Cllr T Hewitt's project perhaps, Cllr R Lea agreed to discuss this with her so that a proposal as to what needs to be done to bring this garden into being can be proposed and discussed at the next meeting.

17. Footpaths

In the absence of Cllr P Cocker, discussion of progress on FP11 and FP22 was deferred. However, Cllr R Lea suggested that the resident of Puddle Duck Cottage, Mr J Nelson, be asked to repair the severely damaged second stile on FP11. Cllr E Houghton, seconded by Cllr A Taylor, proposed that £50 be allocated to paying for the materials and this was agreed.

18. Grants

A grant of £153 was agreed towards the cost of equipment for the new Parent and Toddler Group being launched on 26th April in The Lodge.

19. Items for next agenda

Future Clerk arrangements, Planting in the village, community kitchen garden, Remembrance day soldier, Bench, Sourcing 2 x oak trees and 1 x Christmas tree, FP11 and FP22, Annual Meeting.

16. Date of next meeting

Monday 15th May 2023 at the Venue, Liverpool Old Road, Much Hoole, starting at 7.30pm preceded by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council starting at 7.00pm.