**Much Hoole Parish Council – transparency**

The Parish Council has noted a number of posts on the ‘Next Door’ platform suggesting that its decisions and finances are not transparent. In response, it would wish to make the following points:

* The rules governing how the Council conducts its business are set out in Law, with a qualified Clerk ensuring that procedures are followed correctly.
* No decisions, actions or financial payments are allowed to be made unless they are approved by a vote in a Council meeting. All decisions are minuted and minutes of all meetings are available to view on the Council website.
* All Council meetings are held in public and all meetings are advertised on the Council website and local notice boards. Members of the public are invited to attend, observe and speak at Council meetings if they wish to do so.
* Council procedures, financial transactions, and bank accounts are all audited by an external auditor appointed by Government. The accounts and audit reports are made available for public inspection within set dates each summer, with an opportunity to raise any issues of concern with the auditors. Finalised Audit reports can be found on the website
* Local elections are held every four years