

Minutes of the Little Hoole Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 11th Nov 2024, at Old Mill Court, Walmer Bridge
In attendance: Cllrs L Dryden (Chair), P Ashby, S Evald, D Owen, Mr P Cafferkey
(Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer); and 13 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs T Wilcock, J Rainsbury & S Rainsbury
2. **To agree the minutes of the last Parish Council mtg:**
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th Oct 2024, were accepted as a true record and agreed unanimously.
3. **To receive declarations of interest:** Cllr D Owen declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 16 and 17.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes of last meeting:** None
5. **Public Time - matters raised by members of the public:**
A number of residents were present to object to planning application 07/2024/00668/FUL that was discussed at the last Parish Council meeting. Despite amended documents being submitted by the planning applicant, members of the public were present to voice again their objections. The Parish Council confirmed that they had issued a letter of objection to South Ribble Borough Council (SRBC) as the responsible Planning Authority.

A member of the public considered that the current 40mph speed limit on Liverpool Road between the Fox Cub pub roundabout and the village of Longton should be 30mph.

A member of the Public questioned whether it was correct that the Parish Council could give grants to bodies outside of Little Hoole. The Clerk confirmed that yes this was correct, provided that residents from Little Hoole benefit from the grant e.g. Hoole Church, Hoole Bowling Club, Hoole Scouts, as none of these facilities, or similar facilities, exist within Little Hoole.

Residents from Old Mill Court raised concerns that they had been informed by Progress Housing that they would now incur a charge for the maintenance of the pond. The Chair confirmed that this should not be the case and that he would raise the matter with Progress Housing. The Chair also offered to attend any future Residents' meeting with Progress Housing. A resident of Old Mill Court also asked if something could be done to make the crossing of Liverpool Old Road safer at the location of Old Mill Court (e.g. an "elderly crossing" warning sign to drivers.)

An issue was raised about hedges blocking footpaths. The Parish Council advised that these types of issues could be raised with Lancashire County Council using the "Love Clean Streets" App.

The Secretary of Hoole Bowling Club was present to thank the Parish Council for considering their grant application (item 6 refers). He explained that the grant application is a request for funding towards a fine turf cylinder specialist mower to

maintain the bowling green. The current mower is approximately 35 years old and is becoming difficult to repair due to many parts being discontinued. The representative further explained that the grant would enable the club to purchase a fully refurbished mower with all new parts, ensuring reliable use for many years to come. He highlighted that the three Level 1 bowling coaches intend to launch a junior bowls section in April 2025. They have been practicing their coaching skills with the Hoole beavers, cubs and scouts this summer. The bowling green draws people from nearby communities, including an Adult Disability Centre and a Dementia Care Home, thus promoting social cohesion and reducing social isolation.

6. Donation Request from Hoole Bowling Club: It was resolved that the Parish Council award the grant application from Hoole Bowling Club in the amount of £2,550 for the purchase of a specialist bowling green lawn mower, provided that Hoole Bowling Club fund a contribution of £500. The grant application has been submitted to both Little Hoole Parish Council and Much Hoole Parish Council to split the estimated cost of £5,100 (incl VAT) equally between the two Parish Councils. The Clerk advised that Little Hoole Parish Council purchase the lawn mower and then gift it to the Bowling Club, so as to be able to re-claim the VAT. Much Hoole Parish Council, if they agree to the grant application, would transfer half the cost (excluding VAT) to Little Hoole Parish Council.

7. Planning Applications:

- a) 07/2024/00773/FUL. 67B Liverpool Old Road Walmer Bridge PR4 5QE. Alterations to shop front.

There were no objections to the above planning application.

8. To approve payments transacted through the bank for Oct 2024:

Date	Payee	£	Description
01-Oct-24	Direct Debit (GOCARDLESS)	36.96	Monthly website fee
11-Oct-24	B/P to: Adam Watson	244.76	Repair & Painting of Planters
11-Oct-24	B/P to: Mayor & Sons Ltd	516.00	Christmas Tree
17-Oct-24	B/P to: PKF Littlejohn LLP	252.00	External Audit Fee
17-Oct-24	B/P to: Paul Cafferkey	3.20	Clerk's Expenses Tax Mth 7
17-Oct-24	B/P to: Paul Cafferkey	181.60	Clerk's Salary Tax Mth 7
18-Oct-24	B/P to: Festive Lights	51.94	Christmas Lights
24-Oct-24	Direct Debit (HMRC SDDS)	107.60	Employee's Tax, Mths 5,6&7
31-Oct-24	Service Charge	5.40	Bank Charges

It was resolved that the above transactions be approved.

9. Payments for approval:

- a) It was resolved that the Clerk's claim for Oct 2024 of 16.42 hours and expenses of £5.30 be approved.



10. **Financial statement as at 31 Oct 2024.** The Clerk presented the financial statement as at 31st Oct 2024. There are no actual or anticipated abnormal items of expenditure. Little Hoole Parish Council is, therefore, expected to end the financial year under budget by approximately £7,000; this will result in an estimated bank balance of circa £34,000 as at 31st March 2025. **It was resolved** that the financial statement be approved.
11. **Clerk's pay award and backpay:** **It was resolved** that the Clerk's pay award (an increase of £0.63 per hour) as notified by the National Association of Local Councils, with effect from 1 April 2024, be approved. As a consequence of the back dated pay award **it was resolved** that the Clerk's back pay of £49.83 be approved.
12. **Clerk's SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) Annual Subscription:** **It was resolved** that the subscription of £110.00 be approved for payment by the Parish Council.
13. **Clerk's Microsoft 365 annual subscription:** **It was resolved** that the subscription of £59.99 be approved for payment by the Parish Council.
14. **Additional Signatory to Bank Account:** **It was resolved** that Cllr P. Ashby be added to the Parish Council's bank account as an authorised signatory.
15. **Parish Council Projects:** As the Clerk had requested to be informed of any projects that may need to be considered for the 2025-26 budget and precept, Cllr Dryden informed the Council that a potential project may be the replacement of the bridge over the brook on Liverpool Old Road (adjacent to the Walmer Bridge Inn) at an approximate cost of £20,000. Cllr J Rainsbury has also mentioned, in an email to the Clerk, the possible purchase of a further two speed indicator devices at a cost of approximately £5,000.
16. **School Crossing Patrol re A59:** Further to last month's meeting (Parish Council minutes of meeting 11 Nov 2024, item 5 refers) the Clerk confirmed that school crossing patrols are employed by Lancashire County Council (LCC), not individual schools. The Chair agreed to contact LCC, in the first instance, to enquire as to why the patrol on the A59 (Dob Lane) was ceased, yet there are still school crossing patrols on the A59 for Much Hoole School and Howick School.
17. **Request from Little Hoole Primary School for banners to be displayed on Parish Council Planters.** No proposal was put forward as it was not considered appropriate that the Parish Council planters be used for advertising.
18. **Proposal for a Parish Council logo:** Cllr Dryden proposed that the Parish Council should have a logo and presented the Council with one designed by Cllr Evald which he felt may be suitable. **It was resolved** that the Parish Council adopt the logo.
19. **Donation Request from Walmer Bridge Village Hall (WBVH), Update:** A donation request had been received from WBVH (item 14 of Oct 2024 minutes refer) towards their annual Halloween event. Following the receipt of further information confirming that the event was profit making, an email vote had been held and **it was resolved** that the donation request be rejected. The Parish Council, however, reaffirmed its support for Walmer Bridge Village Hall and any future grant requests would be considered on their own merits.



- 20. Vote of Thanks for the Volunteers who put up Remembrance Lamp Post Poppies.** Parish Councillors gave a vote of thanks to Steven Greenwood and Mick Norcross for their volunteer work in putting up the lamp post poppies for Remembrance Sunday. Comments had been received as to how impressive and dignified the village looked with its display of lamp post poppies.
- 21. Information and Updates:** This item is purposefully not recorded; it is to allow Councillors a short time to discuss any matters that might result in a future agenda item. No financial or legal decisions are made.
- 22. Correspondence:**
- a) an email had been received from a resident querying the lack of allotment provision within the local area. Following discussion, the Clerk agreed to respond from the Parish Council.
 - b) the Clerk reported that SRBC are undertaking a review of the location of Polling Stations. Details of the review have been placed in the Parish Council noticeboards. The Parish Council considered the current arrangements to be satisfactory.
 - c) The Clerk reported that LCC had provided a response to the Parish Council's enquiries regarding provision of a bus service from the Little Hoole area to Leyland and onto Chorley. The response from LCC stated that they would soon be undertaking a consultation and Parish Councils would be consulted.
- 23. Date & Time of Next Meeting:** It was agreed that the next meeting is to be held on the 9th Dec, 2024, 7.00pm, The Lounge, Old Mill Court.

Approved as a true record – Laurence Dryden – Chair
9 Dec 2024

