

HOTHERSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council held on 25 February 2025

at The Pavilion, Hothersall Lodge, Hothersall

Present: Counsellors Bateman, Gee, Gornall, Pell (Vice Chair), Soper and Upton (Chair).

Residents: 2 attendees

- 1. Declaration of interests** – None required
- 2. Minutes of the Meeting** held on 21 October 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.
- 3. Speed Limit UPDATE:** the **WASP** Group (Working Against Speed in Parishes) made submissions/recommendations during last year regarding the current speed limit on the main Ribchester to Longridge Road B6245 as well as the difficulty in exiting the top of Hothersall Lane onto this road. However, Lancashire County Council (LCC) indicated that they were not interested in changing the speed limit on this road. It was understood that LCC were looking at other parishes and consulting on minor changes/restrictions regarding speed but were not considering Hothersall even though Hillside School's entrance and exit are on to the B6245 which is a 60mph road. No consultation was considered. The Chair contacted LCC for updates and to push the issue forwards. However, the person dealing with this matter at LCC had subsequently moved elsewhere. The Chair is continuing to pursue this issue with LCC.
- 4. CCTV:** Cllr Pell set 5 actions in place last March together with Cllr Brocklehurst for these cameras. Needed to follow up on what had happened with Cllr Brocklehurst dealing with LCC permission for a camera located on a lamppost, if permission is obtained, then these would be put up on Ribchester Road. Discussion of where the cameras would be positioned. This included a camera on the main road at the top of Hothersall Lane. Cllr Pell will continue with pursuing the CCTV cameras with the Council

- 5. Planning UPDATE:** regarding Planning applications, the Highways Authority are invariably involved. As such the Chair contacted them and copied in both Hillside School and Cllr Brocklehurst. This was about three weeks ago and the Chair is still waiting for a response. Hillside School have had a meeting with County Councillor Swarbrick. There was a sizable group of people at the entrance of school when Cllr Swarbrick arrived. The matter regarding Taxis which wait outside the School and on Lower Lane is being dealt with separately. In addition, The Chair sent a letter to RVBC about being proactive not reactive in relation to this issue. Outcome of this is that the Chair is trying to facilitate a meeting between LCC, the School and the Council. Possibly the HPC should raise/make an official complaint. This should be done – it was agreed that there would be a letter sent to the Council. The complaint should include the issues of being ignored. It was considered that the Council may just need to be pressured, and an official complaint initiated in the circumstances.
- 6. Monitoring Planning applications.** In January 2025 the Chair received a call from the RVBC Planning Department about the HPC's continued objections to a particular planning application regarding Higher College farm as the matter was going to Committee stage that evening. The Chair attended the Planning Meeting in November when the application was refused.
- 7. Bank signatories.** Cllr Gee to remain as a signatory. Need to ensure all Bank details are amended accordingly and for Bank statements and correspondence to be addressed to the Parish Clerk.
- 8. PC Liaison meeting feedback:** Discussions regarding possible devolution action within the Local Authority. RV as a Borough Council could disappear or be absorbed. It may acquire increased powers but may end up with less finances. There is also the possibility that Lancashire may have 3 unitary authorities and Parishes will grow and hopefully remain. Borough councils may disappear, and their responsibilities may be pushed down to Parish councils. A shadow Board has already been set up- with LCC, Blackpool and Blackburn and Darwin. The white paper was published at the end of November. The County Councils may choose to

postpone elections in May although LCC have not postponed their elections, so these are likely to take place in May.

9. **Hothersall Councillor Vacancy** advertised on WhatsApp group. Ian Forrester may rejoin as a Councillor again.
10. **AGM 29 May 2025** at Hothersall Lodge, starting a 6.30pm: suggestions for a Speaker. Suggested speaker from and donations to “Yellow Wellies” Charity for May. This was agreed as a continued link with the farming community, and particularly those in the Parish.
11. **Coronation grant.** Agreed this would be used to purchase a Boggart and create a Hothersall Boggart trail. Cllr Gornall has a contact that she will speak to regarding doing the Boggart carving.
12. **Parish Walk** Sort out/incorporate a Parish Walk his Summer, possibly on 21st June 2025.
13. **LALC (Lancashire Association of Local Councils)** Attended by HP Clerk. Feedback on meeting: Consideration of the impact of the current Devolution/White Paper would have on Parish Councils and Clerks. Likely that PCs will still be needed but be required to take on more roles/responsibility. It was suggested that Parish Councils should look into taking control and responsibility for parish assets, for example: playgrounds, green spaces, buildings etc. that are currently managed by RVBC or LCC. Members can ask about “common ground” in their parishes. Laura Worden of the Partnership Development Team at LCC offered support to Parish and Town Councils. Funding and ‘match’ funding was discussed. Grants and sources of funding can be located on the RVBC and LCC websites who already have all funding streams online to view. All that needs doing is to set up an account and put what you are looking for in the search box; you can either search for specific funding for a project or general funding. Discussed were Match funding, funding portal, importance of reporting changes to Clerk and Councillors, Highways district head emails, Report it App, Community Team email for anything to do with PCs, Parish Championship Fund - 5K pot open to small budget grants of £500 or less. Mike Hills LALC Chair, looking to

set up a Clerks support group for LALC members. NB confirming that 2 Parish council speakers are allowed to attend a planning meeting at which a planning application in their area is being discussed. Residents can also speak and are not included in the figures.

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting:

Chair:

Clerk: