

**MINUTES OF HOTHERSALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 1ST DECEMBER
2025 held at Hothersall Lodge.**

1. **Welcome:** given by the Chair, Councillor Upton.
2. **Apologies:** Borough Councillors Brocklehurst and Rogerson, Parish Councillor Soper. Also, Roy Brown, Lisa Crawley and Iris Macdonald.
3. **Minutes** of HPC Meeting of 16th September 2025 were considered and approved.
4. **Local Government: Re-organisation.** The deadline to submit comments on and regarding the various options suggested put forward by the Secretary of State were considered and discussed at length together with the Secretary's second consultation. Noting, as an example, that Councils in Leeds have effectively rolled into one overseeing combined Council. It was discussed that, in consideration of the population in Lancashire, Ribble Valley's preferred unity authority would be with Preston and Lancaster. It was believed that the Parishes will stay the same. The Parish Councils are happy to continue to remain as PCs and be able to liaise with Borough councils. In the White Paper it refers to them as 'Local Groups' and not as Parishes. The Ribble Valley Chief Executive said that when this went out for final consultation with 3 selected areas it was overturned. The RV Council has subsequently raised this issue In the House of Commons.
5. **Shared Prosperity Fund:** At the same liaison meeting there was a discussion regarding capital funding. This would also apply/Include for "environmental use". It was considered that this funding would be able to be applied for use in creating the Bogart Trail. Noting the application deadline of 5th January 2026.
6. **Planning items: A** Application by Tom Myers near the Tootle Green houses. He has submitted a request to change one of the planning conditions. This was originally refused but it is now going to appeal regarding submissions to change the site boundary. Any objections to the appeal needed to be submitted through the Planning Inspectorate only. The Chair agreed to put a link to the Planning Inspectorate in the Parish WhatsApp group in order that any comments/objections be submitted regarding the Borough Council's view and to lodge an appeal that comments, views etc. should be sought from the relevant Parish Council.

Also, **B** regarding an Enforcement notice in relation to Browns vehicle and storage site at the top of Hothersall Lane. RVBC have insisted that a plan be

submitted by Browns following a previous issue regarding changes made to the site and its access conditions. A professional planner is said to have been appointed. RVBC have also sought clarity regarding the garage's 24hour access to the container storage facility and whether it is for the use by the business itself or for other persons or businesses to hire such Storage facilities.

7. **CCTV Installation:** Two CCTV cameras have been purchased by the HPC, and which are intended to be placed near the top of the Hothersall Lane before the exit onto Ribchester Road. Browns have agreed to install/attach these on to the telegraph posts near to its business entrance.

8. **Bogart Trail:**

The Bogart trail has been advertised by Brian in the Daily Mail. Suggestions of having more and/or a new stone Bogart created to enhance the trail. Considered where this or these would be placed. It was agreed that they be placed nearby the trail and on the Lane. Agreed that this would 'fit in in very well' with the shared Prosperity Fund available in the Ribble Valley. Considered that the cost of the sculptures would be about £500 each and that it would likely commission two.

9. **Hothersall Millenium Book:**

A form of what has been included in the 2000 book will be drafted and the PC will be asking parishioners to update their house information etc. together with a 'short piece' about their house, people who have lived here and their history. The Millenium book will be a hardback.

10. **Hothersall Lane infrastructure**

Hothersall Lane infrastructure was considered 'a mess' especially with the hedge cutting as well as the Tractors and machinery getting bigger and tearing up the verges and crushing the plastic water pipes. This has also caused electrical faults down near Hothersall Lodge. The RVBC will try to agree the best time to do the subsequent remedial work required on the pipes. However, continued 'pressure' needs to be maintained and to continue to contact the Council regularly about this matter. It was agreed that the Chair, Cllr Upton, would also write to the farmers to raise the issue and recommend that they do not drive or use the verge. Also, to write to Lancashire County Council and which may escalate the urgency for its repairs to be carried out.

11. Tree survey

A Tree survey in the Parish has been undertaken by Councillor Gee who has also mapped the trees and passed the information on to Paul who will identify with the landowners who may need to carry out any or some remedial action/work to rectify any such issues noted/raised. Confirming that there is a legal obligation to sort out these such issues by the relevant landowners. However, the landowners can apply for a grant to replace the trees, for example, if they are dead or dying and need to be felled. There is also the possibility of the Woodland Trust in conjunction with RVBC who may help out in these circumstances as they are part of the Carbon Trust. Suggested that a letter is written and sent to landowners to assist in getting trees sorted /taken out and putting in 'new trees' if required. A parishioner has recommended contacting the Ribble Valley Trust as they have found them very helpful. Suggested that the details can be provided to landowners by HPC in order for them to contact the Trust and/or RVBC.

12. AOB

Discussion regarding whether a Defibrillator should be obtained for availability to use within the Parish if needed. Cllr Pell has spoken with Hillside school, who have one in situ, and with the NHS. It was suggested that perhaps two Defibrillators would be needed considering the number of residents and length of the Lane. Cllr Pell offered for one to be located near his residence and suggested one be placed at the top of the Lane.

Corporation Arms. The owners are based in London and have not taken any action in relation to selling or leasing out the property nor carrying out any remedial works to maintain it. It was agreed that investigation as to the owners details etc. will be carried out and they will be contacted again regarding the future use etc. of the Pub.

Cllr Lorraine Soper has resigned as a PC. An advert for a casual vacancy will be posted.

Local Parish footpaths etc. Parishioners are asked to monitor/note any damage to any parish footpaths, bridle paths, posts, styles, signs etc. If any are damaged would parishioners please find the 'what 3 words' to identify where it is located and let Cllr Upton know so these can be investigated and mended.

A Parish Walk and 'Litter Pick' are intended to be organised for 2026.