



Minutes of Much Hoole Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9th September 2026 at 7.30pm at The Venue at Hoole Village Memorial Hall, Liverpool Old Road, PR4 5QA.

Present: Cllrs K. Hayes (Chair), A. Taylor, R. Lea, E. Jackson, E. Houghton, P. Cocker, P. Fox. and Acting Clerk Mr. P. Cafferkey.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Cllr T. Hewitt.
2. **Declaration of Interest and Dispensations** Cllrs E. Houghton and A. Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2026 were agreed to be a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr E. Houghton, seconded by Cllr A. Taylor, and agreed unanimously. The Chair signed the minutes.
4. **Public Time** No members of the public were present.
5. **Correspondence from members of the public** Five items had been received.
 - a. **Email correspondence re speed signage & traffic calming measures, Midge Hall Lane / Longmeanygate** There have been a number of emails about this matter, but it was agreed to await the outcome of the assessment by LCC Highways during their stage 3 safety audit.
 - b. **Letter of complaint with regard to Parish Council's objection to planning application.** All agreed that they were satisfied with how they had treated the planning application.
 - c. **Email enquiry re war plaque.** The member of public who had enquired about the war plaque has been contacted to confirm that the war plaque is to be installed and that the Parish Council Lengthsman is in the process of fitting them at the identified addresses.
 - d. **Email correspondence re litter on Pump Track & request for litter bin.** The Parish Council confirmed that regular inspections of the track are undertaken by Councillors and volunteers and any litter is removed. The request by the member of the public to install a litter bin next to the picnic bench was discussed. This suggestion was rejected as there is a South Ribble waste bin only a few metres away from the picnic bench, at the entrance to the track. Also, locating a bin next to the bench would not be suitable due to the attraction of wasps and flies in warmer weather, as well as the presence of any smells from the bin, for people using the picnic bench.
 - e. **Invite from SRBC to informal liaison meeting Fri 25th Sept at 12 noon.** It was agreed that Cllr R. Lea and the Chair would attend.
6. **Reports from other meetings and information on future events.** Cllr E. Houghton reported that she had attended an online LALC Executive meeting. LALC are looking to increase subscriptions which they haven't done for 9 years and they are consulting on becoming a company limited by guarantee.
7. **Village Hall.** Cllr A. Taylor reported that the Village Hall continues to be well attended and is in a good financial position. The management group is still seeking further funding for the Bowling Pavilion and Bramley Pate Architects are to advise on the possibility of upgrading the existing pavilion. The Men's Shed is progressing slowly while insurance issues are resolved. A Youth Club is due to start in the Scout Hut.

8. Off Road Cycle Track.

- a. Councillors / volunteers continue to undertake regular inspections; there is a large crack that has appeared on one of the bankings. This has been reported to Mr. Hewitt.
- b. As reported at the last meeting the "No E Bikes" sign has been replaced and a metal barrier at the entrance to the track has been erected.

9. Finance

- a. **It was resolved** to sign off the Bank reconciliation for the month of August 2026, signed by Cllr E. Houghton and unanimously agreed.
- b. The Council noted the Clerk's financial statement as at 31 Aug 2026. It was agreed that going forward the Parish Council need to think about the best use of remaining CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) monies.
- c. It was resolved to approve the Clerk's and the Acting Clerk's pay award of 3.32%, increasing the hourly rate for both the Clerk and Acting Clerk to £17.75, backdated to 1 April 2026.
- d. **It was resolved** to authorise the following payments, proposed by Cllr E. Houghton, seconded by Cllr K. Hayes, and unanimously agreed:

No	Date	Payee	Amount	Description
1)	31/07/2026	Amy Evans	£45.70	Clerk's July salary - retrospectively
2)	31/07/2026	Paul Cafferkey	£194.65	Acting Clerk's July salary - retrospectively
3)	31/08/2026	Amy Evans	£108.98	Clerk's Aug Salary (incl backpay)
4)	31/08/2026	Paul Cafferkey	£97.68	Acting Clerk's Aug Salary (incl backpay)
5)	31/08/2026	Amy Evans	£10.00	PAYG SIM reimbursement Jul & Aug
6)	31/08/2026	Harry Jackson	£402.60	Lengthsman July invoice
7)	31/08/2026	Harry Jackson	£304.00	Lengthsman Aug invoice
8)	31/08/2026	Preston City Council	£75.19	2 x "No Bikes" signs
9)	31/07/2026	LCC	£57.00	RSA Licence - retrospectively

- 10. Expiration of Dates for Public Inspection of 2025/26 Accounts.** The Clerk reported that the Notice of Public Rights for the inspection of the accounts for year ended 31 March 2026 had ended on the 7th August 2026. No enquiries had been received.

11. Footpaths and Gardens

- a. An overgrown hedge on footpath 10 has been reported via the Love Clean Streets App. With regard to FP19, which has previously been the subject of fly tipping, it was reported that it is proving difficult to identify the landowner. This is needed for the Parish Council to seek approval to install a bollard to help prevent future fly tipping. Cllr P. Cocker has undertaken clearance work on FP31.
- b. A response is still outstanding from Lancashire County Council regarding the damaged bench on the corner of Brook Lane and the A59. The Parish Council is to consider replacing the bench, subject to the approval of Lancashire County Council.

- 12. Newsletter & Business Directory.** It was resolved that the format and content of the forthcoming Parish Council Newsletter and Much Hoole Business Directory, as designed by Cllr R. Lea, be approved, proposed by Cllr E. Houghton, seconded by Cllr A Taylor, and unanimously agreed.

It was also resolved to increase the number of copies to be printed for the business directory from 1,200 to 1,300, increasing the cost from £182.50 to £195.00. The cost of the newsletter and business directory will be partially offset by 3 adverts, generating income of £75.00. Proposed Cllr K Hayes, seconded Cllr E. Houghton, and agreed unanimously.

- 13. Replacement Defibrillator Pads.** It was resolved to approve the purchase of replacement defibrillator pads at a cost of £103.14 (incl VAT) for the defibrillator located at the Church Lodge.
- 14. Patch of Land near Planters.** It was agreed that this area needs screening (i.e. it is unsightly when the hawthorn hedge sheds its leaves in autumn). Discussion will take place with the Lengthsman about how best this can be achieved.
- 15. Dilapidated Bus Stop Outside Nellie the Elephant Restaurant.** The old dilapidated bus shelter has now been removed; the location is no longer an official bus stop.
- 16. Local Government Reorganisation.** It was noted that the very latest news is that Local Government Reorganisation, which covers many Councils countrywide, including Lancashire County Council and South Ribble Borough Council, has been paused after the government launched a review in light of new legal advice.

17. Planning

Ref	Address	Description
07/2026/00582/CLD	4 Southfield Much Hoole PR4 4HB	Certificate of lawful development for proposed single storey rear extension

There were no objections to the above planning application.

18. Items for next agenda

- a) Possible purchase of bench for corner of Brook Lane / A59.
- b) Patch of land near planters – needs screening.

19. Date of next meeting

The Council unanimously agreed the date of the October meeting as 7.30pm on Wednesday 14th October 2026 at 'The Venue', Liverpool Old Road, Much Hoole.

Signed as a true record: Kerian Hayes – Chair – 14th October 2026.

