



**DRAFT Minutes of Much Hoole Parish Council meeting held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 at 7.30pm at The Lodge, at St Michaels and All Angels Church, Liverpool Old Road, PR4 5JQ.**

**Present:** Cllrs K. Hayes (Chair), A. Taylor, E. Houghton, R. Lea, P. Cocker, E. Jackson and Clerk Miss A. Evans

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs T Hewitt & P Fox.

**2. Declaration of Interests and Dispensations:**

Cllrs A. Taylor and E. Houghton declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7.

**3. Minutes of the previous Meeting**

**It was resolved** that the minutes of the MHPC meetings held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025 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**

None present.

**5. Correspondence from members of the public.**

One email received regarding HGV accessing Brook Lane and the Clerk provided LCC's highways teams contact details.

**6. Reports from other meetings and information on future events**

None attended.

**7. Village Hall**

The Council noted Cllr A. Taylors' report on the Village Hall. All regular activities are busy and the Christmas Market is on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025. The management group is still actively looking for funding to renew the bowling pavilion.

**8. Off Road Cycle Track**

Council noted that the cycle track is quieter due to the wet conditions and the weather. Photos of the recent maintenance repairs are now under the news section of the MHPC website.

**9. Finance**

- a) Council noted that the November bank reconciliation will be brought to the January meeting due to the timing of the bank statement.
- b) **It was resolved** to approve the following payments, proposed by Cllr E. Houghton, seconded by Cllr E. Jackson, and unanimously agreed:

No.	Inv Date	Payee Name	Value	Description of goods
1.	11/2025	Amy Evans (Clerk)	£500.45	Clerks November salary
2.	11/2025	Amy Evans (Clerk)	£5.00	Clerks November reimbursement for PAYG SIM for Clerks number
3.	11/2025	Amy Evans (Clerk)	£37.57	Clerks November reimbursement for mileage
4.	19/11/2025	Alan Taylor	£90.00	Cycle Track Lease
5.	19/11/2025	PCC Hoole Parish Church	£15.00	Meeting room hire at the Lodge
6.	12/2025	Richard Lea	£70.00	1000 LED Christmas tree lights, including rechargeable unit and batteries.
7.	11/2025	Kerian Hayes	£95.94	Replacement defibrillator pads for the church defibrillator – previously approved purchase; final total includes delivery cost.

**10. Approval of Budget and Precept for 2026/27**

The Clerk began the discussion of setting the budget and precept for 2026-27 by reviewing the forecast balances and earmarked reserves at the end of the current financial year on 31/03/2026 and then Council members discussed the various budget lines for year 2026-27. After considerable discussion **it was resolved** to approve the income and expenditure budget and the Precept for 2026–2027 at £19,070 and was unanimously agreed. This represents an increase compared to the current year of £0.20p on the Band D equivalent annual charge, from £24.94 to £25.14, which is a rise of 0.8%.

#### **11. CIL monitoring report**

**It was resolved** to approve the CIL monitoring report for the financial year 01/04/2024–31/03/2025. This was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr R. Lea, and unanimously agreed. The Clerk was complemented on her excellent presentation of the CIL situation.

#### **12. Footpaths & Gardens**

- a) Cllr P. Cocker informed council that FP24 had been inspected and that the bridge was checked and found to be in good condition.
- b) Cllr R. Lea informed council that he had walked with a resident down Smithy Lane and Town Lane to inspect the gullies and surface drains. There were leaves blocking some gullies and the water level was high in some. Cllr R. Lea informed the resident that LCC had used a machine to shred tree roots in the culvert near the cycle track and that had considerably reduced the risk of flooding on Smithy Lane during periods of high rainfall. Cllrs will monitor the drainage situation in relation to these two roads over the winter months.

#### **13. Playground at Trafalgar Gardens**

The Clerk informed the council that SRBC are looking to repaint the worn playground equipment starting in April 2026. Council noted the update.

#### **14. Much Hoole Village Calendar 2026**

- a) Cllr R. Lea informed the council that all the people who provided photographs were supplied with a copy of the calendar. The sponsors were all provided copies to sell for their own chosen charities as detailed in previous minutes and a number of these sponsors are happy to sponsor again next year. A vote of thanks was proposed by the Chair to Cllr R. Lea for all the work done in completing the calendar. This was agreed unanimously.
- b) Cllr R. Lea suggested that the winner of the 2027 calendar photo competition should receive a 2026 Much Hoole Village Calendar as the prize. This was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr R. Lea, and unanimously agreed.

#### **15. Bus Shelters in Much Hoole**

The Clerk informed the council that several emails have been sent to Trueform, chasing a further quote for two bus shelters but no response has been received so far. The Chair suggested we contact the estate agents or builders who have built the new houses by the bus shelter on Liverpool Old Road, and confirm when the road work will be finished.

#### **16. Fallen Soldiers plaques**

**It was resolved** to approve the purchase of 29 Fallen Soldier plaques at £31.39 each + VAT, plus a £15.00 carriage charge + VAT. Total amount to approve £1,110.37. This was proposed by Cllr R. Lea, seconded by Cllr E. Houghton, and unanimously agreed.

#### **17. A59 crossing**

Council unanimously agreed the issue rests with LHPC and with Little Hoole Junior School and to remove it from the agenda.

#### **18. Christmas Tree Lights**

Cllr R. Lea informed the council that the two Christmas trees were erected on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November, both with a new set of lights. Cllr E. Jackson suggested the lights on the Trafalgar Gardens Christmas tree be changed to a slower setting as they are currently flashing quite quickly. Cllr R. Lea confirmed he will change the settings to a slower one. Cllr R. Lea reported that the resident who wanted to help erect the trees had just wanted to pass comment.

#### **19. Planning**

Council noted planning application 07/2025/00869/FUL and had no comments.

#### **20. Items for next agenda**

Much Hoole business directory of services & suppliers  
Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition  
Bus shelters  
Results of photo calendar competition

#### **21. Date of the next meeting**

The Council unanimously agreed to the date of the next meeting being held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.30pm at The Venue, Hoole Village Memorial Hall, Liverpool Old Road, Much Hoole, PR4 4QA. The meeting closed at 20:45pm.