



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

Present: Cllrs K. Hayes, A. Taylor, E. Houghton, R. Lea, E. Jackson, and Clerk Miss A. Evans

In the Chair: Cllr A. Taylor (Vice Chair)

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs T. Hewitt, P. Fox & P. Cocker

2. Declaration of Interest 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 meeting held on 12th January 2026 were agreed to be a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr E. Houghton, seconded by Cllr R. Lea and agreed unanimously. The Vice Chair signed the minutes.

4. Public Time

None present.

5. Correspondence from members of the public.

None received.

6. Reports from other meetings and information on future events

Cllr R. Lea reported on the recent South Ribble Borough Council's Community Action Network meeting, which he attended along with representatives from local parishes and local community organisations. The meeting provided an opportunity to meet individuals providing community support services in the area, including housing and the Community Support Fund. Cllr Lea advised that the Council could apply for funding through this route.

7. Village Hall

The Council noted Cllr A. Taylor's report on the Village Hall. He informed the Council that funding for the MUGA is unlikely to be forthcoming. The trustees have agreed to enter into discussions with a company regarding the potential leasing of the tennis courts for commercial Padel courts. Further information may be available at the next meeting. Additionally, the trustees are in the process of setting up a 'Men's Shed' in part of the Scout building. This organisation is primarily aimed at retired men, encouraging them to come together to make, repair, and repurpose items, with the aim of improving well-being and reducing loneliness.

8. Off Road Cycle Track

No inspection reports had been received but Cllr E. Jackson confirmed that the village lengthsman is regularly collecting litter and would look to trim the hedges in the coming weeks.

9. Finance

- It was resolved** to sign off the Bank reconciliation for the month of January 2026, signed by Cllr E. Houghton and unanimously agreed
- It was resolved** to approve the following payments, proposed by Cllr A. Taylor, seconded by Cllr R. Lea, and unanimously agreed:

No.	Inv Date	Payee Name	Value	Description of goods
1.	01/2026	Amy Evans (Clerk)	£450.63	Clerks January salary.
2.	16/01/2026	Amy Evans (Clerk)	£5.00	Clerks January reimbursements for PAYG SIM for Clerks number.

3.	13/01/2026	Amy Evans (Clerk)	£45.54	Printer ink.
4.	12/2025	Amy Evans (Clerk)	£27.82	Clerks January reimbursement for mileage.

10. Risk Management

It was resolved to approve the updated risk management plan, proposed by Cllr E. Jackson, seconded by Cllr K. Hayes, and unanimously agreed. Cllr A. Taylor, (Vice Chair, Chairing) signed the plan, along with the Clerk who countersigned.

11. Much Hoole Village Calendar 2025

- a) It was resolved to approve additional expenditure of £55.00 plus VAT, bringing the total Council contribution towards the design and printing of the Much Hoole Village Calendar 2025 to £308.04 (including VAT) and the remaining £600.00 previously received from local business sponsors. Proposed by Cllr E. Houghton, seconded by Cllr A. Taylor, and unanimously agreed.
- b) Cllr R. Lea informed council that the calendar competition never took place due to resources and time.

12. Bus shelter replacement

It was resolved to approve additional associated costs for the bus shelter replacement, giving a maximum project total of £10,400 to cover Trueform Traffic Management, administration, and the LCC permit. This was proposed by Cllr K. Hayes, seconded by Cllr E. Houghton, and unanimously agreed.

13. Speed Indicator Devices (SPIDS)

The Council considered the Clerk's comprehensive report regarding the potential purchase of one or two SPIDS for the village. Councillors agreed that levels of speeding in Much Hoole are minimal and that there is therefore insufficient justification to spend the significant one-off setup costs, plus the ongoing expenditure of at least £800 per year to relocate units (which may increase over time with inflation). Cllr A. Taylor proposed that the purchase of SPIDS should not proceed at present, but that the matter can be kept under review. This was seconded by Cllr R. Lea and unanimously agreed. Cllr R. Lea thanked the Clerk for collating the information and costs.

14. Footpaths & Gardens

- a) There have been no reports received on the maintenance of footpaths.
- b) Cllr A. Taylor informed the council that he had spoken to Mark Hough, who has advised that when the weather gets more acceptable, he will recommence work on FP11 second stage refurbishments but that this could be around April time.
- c) Council noted that there had been no flooding from the drains on Smithy Lane and Town Lane over the winter months.

15. Much Hoole business directory of services & suppliers

Cllr R. Lea circulated a report prior to the meeting and presented a mock-up design received from Sprint Print, as Preston City Council are unable to commit due to workload. Cllr A. Taylor suggested including community activities such as local coffee mornings, Knit & Natter, Men's Shed, and Locals Lunch on a separate page. Cllr R. Lea informed council that the estimated costs were approximately £35 + VAT for one hour of design work, £280 for 500 copies, and £320 for 1200 copies. Council noted the costs and agreed 1200 would be required, distributing copies with the September newsletter, or earlier if volunteers are available to assist with distribution. Cllr A. Taylor proposed that we proceed with the project and that the associated costs be formally approved at the next meeting. This was seconded by Cllr K. Hayes and unanimously agreed.

16. Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition

Cllr E. Houghton informed the council that the village boundary stone was green and asked if the village lengthsman could clean it. Cllr E. Jackson confirmed she would ask the lengthsman and

report back. Cllr R. Lea informed the council that he had spoken to the organiser of the Lancashire Best Kept Village competition and confirmed that it will not be held in 2026 due to the chairman and organiser both recently resigning and losing a sponsor.

17. Buckingham Palace Royal Garden Party 2026

It was resolved that Cllr K Hayes be nominated for the ballot. Proposed by Cllr E. Houghton, seconded by Cllr A. Taylor and unanimously agreed.

18. Grants

- a) The Council reviewed the grant application from Hoole Bowling Club for a new sprayer. **It was resolved** to purchase a sprayer at a cost of £1,150 plus VAT for use by Hoole Bowling Club. The equipment will be gifted to the Club upon purchase. This was proposed by Cllr E. Houghton, seconded by Cllr R. Lea, and unanimously agreed.
- b) The Council reviewed the grant application from Hoole St Michael's Primary School towards the cost of books and new book labels as part of the accelerated reader scheme. **It was resolved** to award a grant of £1,000, proposed by Cllr R. Lea, seconded by Cllr E. Jackson and unanimously agreed.

19. Planning

Council noted planning applications 07/2025/01015/NOT, 07/2025/00970/DIS, 07/2026/00008/DIS, 07/2026/00007/NOT, 07/2026/00006/NMA and had no comments. With respect to planning application 07/2025/01025/FUL, council discussed potential parking implications but agreed there would be sufficient off-road parking.

20. Items for next agenda

- Training invoices for the Clerk
- Local Government Reorganisation - statutory consultation
- Much Hoole business directory of services & suppliers
- Boundary stone cleaning
- Preston City Council calendar invoice shortfall
- Change to meeting dates

21. Date of the next meeting

The Council unanimously agreed to the date of the next meeting being held on Monday 9th March 2026 at 7.30pm at The Venue, Hoole Village Memorial Hall, Liverpool Old Road, Much Hoole, PR4 4QA. The meeting closed at 20:25.