



DRAFT Minutes of Much Hoole Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9th June 2025 at 7.30pm at The Venue, Hoole Village Memorial Hall, Much Hoole.

Present: Cllrs K Hayes (Chair), A. Taylor, T. Hewitt, E. Houghton, R. Lea, N. Woodcock and Clerk Miss A. Evans

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs P. Cocker, E. Jackson

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 meeting held on the 12th of May 2025 were reviewed and amended as follows:

- Item 21(a), line 4 “FP11” changed to: “FP19”
- Item 21(a), line 7 “thinks that LCC” added after “Cllr P. Cocker”

The amendments and final minutes were proposed by Cllr R Lea, seconded by Cllr T. Hewitt, and unanimously agreed. The Chair, Cllr K. Hayes signed the amendments to the final minutes.

4. Public Time

Public Participation: One member of the public was present at the meeting to observe.

5. Correspondence from members of the public.

Three items of correspondence were reported by the Clerk to the Council.

Item One - A freedom of information request was received on the 9th June. Cllr R. Lea proposed that the responsibility of an appropriate written response be delegated to the Chair, Cllr K. Hayes and the Clerk but offers his support if required. It was further agreed that the £10 note received with the FOI request for disbursements be returned to the resident - proposed by Cllr E. Houghton, seconded Cllr N. Woodcock and unanimously agreed.

Item Two – Council noted an email was received from a resident on the 8th June raising several issues relating to MHPC matters. The resident requested MHPC object to two planning applications and encourage public objection via the Much Hoole Village Facebook page. These matters were deferred to agenda item 16 – Planning for further discussion.

The resident also raised concerns regarding the safety of FP1. However, it was agreed that this item be deferred to the next meeting due to Cllr P. Cocker’s absence.

Additionally, the resident proposed introducing a “review of actions” item to agendas and minutes to monitor outstanding and unresolved matters. The Clerk advised a response would be sent which outlines the guidance from NALC and JPAG, advising against this and that the Council will implement an internal tracking system, monitored by the Clerk. The resident expressed their thanks to the village lengthsmen for his continued hard work in maintaining the Village.

Due to the number and detail of queries raised at short notice, the Chair, Cllr K. Hayes, proposed that the Clerk responds to the email directly offering her assistance in preparing the response alongside Cllr R. Lea. This was seconded by Cllr. T Hewitt and unanimously agreed.

Item three - An email was received from a resident regarding a blocked walkthrough on the A59 by Green Hey and asked the Council to contact LCC as they believe a resident had blocked it and want it reinstating. Cllr R. Lea contacted LCC regarding the matter but they advised they had blocked to deter burglaries and vandalism in the neighbouring area. Cllr R. Lea forwarded LCC’s response to the resident who accepted the response.

6. Reports from other meetings and information on future events

Council noted Cllr E. Houghton attendance at the LALC conference on the 7th June. Cllr E. Houghton informed Council that two of the presentations were on devolution and Local Government Reorganisation. The presentations emphasised the importance of parish councils lobbying MPs to ensure their voices are heard re upcoming changes, particularly the introduction of Neighbourhood Area Committees, which could affect local decision making. There was a session on community engagement highlighting the importance of audience-aware communication. Other topics included: exploring micro-forests to reduce flooding, using unused land & improving meeting practices.

7. Village Hall

The Council noted Cllr A. Taylors' report on the Village Hall for the past month. The Village Hall activities remain successful, and the Local Lunches are at capacity and coffee mornings are busy. The organ concerts and dominoes are doing well. The bowling season is now well underway and the Pickleball club is getting established while the weather is ok. The Spring Fair went very well considering the weather and over £1,100 was raised. Lastly, the solar panels were fitted to the roof and are now active.

8. Off Road Cycle Track

- a) Council noted that Cllr A. Taylor had inspected the cycle track three times during the week commencing 2nd June. The track was well used on fine days but there was quite a lot of litter, which the young riders helped to pick up at the time. There were no problems noted with the track itself.
- b) The Clerk presented a proposal to Council, including four quotations for the supply of an additional litter bin at the Cycle track to address ongoing littering issues. Council considered the quotes but preferred the appearance of the bin previously purchased several years ago. It was agreed to defer to the next meeting so that a quote could be sought to match the existing litter bin and to discuss who will remove the waste and install the bin. Cllr A. Taylor will confirm in the meantime whether he has a spare bin in storage.

9. Finance

- a) **It was resolved** to sign off the Bank reconciliation for the month of May 2025, signed by Cllr E Houghton, unanimously agreed.
- b) Council noted the following bank transactions that left the account in the month of May as per the bank reconciliation:

Date	Recipient	Amount	For
01/05/2025	Easywebsites	36.96	Web/Email hosting
19/05/2025	B/P: NoticeboardsOnline	180.00	Logo redrawn
19/05/2025	B/P to: Comm FTL Insurance	317.99	Employers and public liability insurance
19/05/2025	B/P to: Amanda Partington	150.00	Internal Audit
19/05/2025	B/P to: H Sanderson	84.99	Microsoft 265 renewal
19/05/2025	B/P to: Amy Evans	81.04	Clerks April reimbursements
19/05/2025	B/P to: Amy Evans	685.40	Clerks April salary
19/05/2025	B/P to: Harry Jackson	136.00	Lengthsman April invoice
19/05/2025	B/P to: LALC	390.66	LALC annual membership
19/05/2025	B/P to: Kerian Hayes	54.99	Reimbursement for Ancestry subscription
31/05/2025	Service charge	6.00	Banking service charge
	Total	2,124.03	

- c) **It was resolved** to authorise the following payments, proposed by Cllr E. Houghton, seconded by Cllr A. Taylor and unanimously agreed:
 1. Clerks' May gross salary in the amount of £530.01
 2. Clerks May reimbursements in the amount of £42.83 (£33.54 for mileage, £5.00 for Lebara PAYG Sim and £4.29 for stapler)
 3. H Jackson invoice for May in the amount of £824.89 (£672 for hours worked and £152.89 for goods purchased)
- d) Council noted the financial monitoring report prepared by the Clerk dated 31.05.2025

10. Footpaths & Gardens

- a) Council noted the following update prepared by Cllr P. Cocker and presented by the Clerk. The village lengthsman, using the newly purchased equipment, has cutback 'extensively' on undergrowth and brushwood on FP22. Additionally, he has recently cutback undergrowth on FP10 (Acre Grove) and FP19 (entrance at Carr Lane). Arrangements have been discussed between Cllr P. Cocker and the village lengthsman, to arrange new PROW signposts for FP8 and FP26 potentially for early July. Earlier under correspondence from members of the public, the resident wished the council to record thanks to the lengthsman for his work on Liverpool Old Road. The Council recorded a vote of thanks to the lengthsman for his exceptional work maintaining the village and the agreed for the Clerk to send a letter of thanks expressing the councils' thanks. Additionally, the Council expressed their thanks to Cllr P Cocker for his exceptional and continued hard work on all the footpaths.
- b) Council considered the proposal for the second stage refurbishment of FP11. **It was resolved** that the quote of £2,203.00 received from MH Groundworks to complete the necessary work and the quote of £246.00 received from Mayors for the cost of materials be approved. This was proposed by Cllr R. Lea, seconded by Cllr A. Taylor and unanimously agreed.

11. Grants

- a) Council noted that St Michaels Church have withdrawn their grant application and cannot advise why they have withdrawn the grant application at present.
- b) Council reviewed and discussed the grant application received from Little Hoole Primary School for £300. Cllr T. Hewitt informed the Council that LHPC provided the funding last year, so MHPC was asked this year. **It was resolved** that the grant be awarded, proposed by Cllr A. Taylor, seconded by Cllr T. Hewitt and unanimously agreed.

12. Crime prevention in Much Hoole

Cllr R. Lea confirmed that he had emailed the local police asking why they did not attend a recent burglary in Much Hoole, to which they replied to advise they did not have the resources that evening. The Chair, Cllr K. Hayes proposed adding property security and improving personal safety to the MHPC Newsletter, urging residents to be vigilant, report crime, share on Facebook and for MHPC to provide the number for the local community support officer and the council unanimously agreed. Cllr A. Taylor proposed we write to the chief constable and crime commissioner raising the matter of the recent burglary and it was agreed that the Clerk send a letter on behalf of the Council, detailing what Cllr R. Lea had put on his email to the local police.

13. Much Hoole business directory of services & suppliers

Council discussed the creation and development of a local business directory for local services and suppliers. Cllr T. Hewitt proposed an annual or bi-annual publication of a coupon booklet for local businesses who could contribute to the cost. The coupons could be a percentage off services if you're local to the village. Cllr A. Taylor proposed collaborating with Little Hoole Parish Council and for the Clerk to contact them to see if this is something they're interested in. It was agreed that Cllrs T. Hewitt and R. Lea work together to design the project.

14. A59 crossing

Council discussed the implementation of a refuge island to improve road safety for both Little Hoole and Much Hoole residents. The Council agreed that the roundabout near Tootsies would work well and would be a new location requested to LCC. It was agreed that the Clerk ask LHPC if they are willing to collaborate and whether both councils would fund a lollipop person as an alternative. Cllr R. Lea advised we need to write to LCC with what we want specifically and where we would want a refuge island or lollipop person. It was agreed that Cllr T. Hewitt send LCC letter to the Chair, Cllr K. Hayes to draft a response to LCC.

15. Newsletter

Cllr R Lea suggested the newsletter be published and delivered in September 2025, and he will get a printing quote for the July meeting. This was unanimously agreed. The Council also agreed on the inclusion of the following topics: crime prevention, Community Orchard photographs, pickleball action photographs, allotment suggestions, MUGA opinion with potential link to survey monkey, footpath maintenance reports, PROW Map, information on the new 115 bus route, classic vehicle show, Little Hoole school summer fair, Village Hall, Much Hoole Village Calendar with request to send photos in, local business directory and request for interested businesses and reminder of grant application process for organisations.

16. Planning

Council noted planning application ref 07/2025/00326/HOH. Horse Shoe Cottage, Land Adjacent to Penny Barn, Carr Lane Much Hoole Preston Lancashire PR4 4TH. Single storey rear extension

07/2025/00280/OUT. Barkers Farm, Town Lane, Much Hoole Preston Lancashire PR4 4GJ. Outline planning application with all matters reserved for subdivision of the existing dwelling house, demolition of existing buildings and erection of 3 no dwelling houses. Council discussed this planning application as requested by resident under correspondence received. Cllr R. Lea presented Council with a map of the location. The application is to erect three houses off Town Lane rather than on it and the demolition of the building described by the resident who wrote in, is not visible from Town Lane. Cllr A. Taylor advised Council that the land cannot be used for growing. Cllr R. Lea proposed we note the planning application along with planning application 07/2025/00088 but do not object. This was seconded by the Chair, Cllr K. Hayes and unanimously agreed

Council noted planning application ref 07/2025/00331/HOH. Gabbotts Farm, Moss House Lane, Much Hoole Preston Lancashire PR4 4TE. Proposed two front dormer features to the front elevation.

The Chair, Cllr K. Hayes proposed Cllr T. Hewitt puts links to all planning applications on Facebook monthly in future to advise residents of local planning applications and the deadlines for their comments.

17. Items for next agenda

Letter re: devolution and local government to South Ribble MP Paul Foster
Business directories

Quote for printing and the content of the annual newsletter
Quote for matching refuse bin on the cycle track and other issues
Cllr P Cocker to report on action taken on FP1 with regards to health & safety concerns raised by resident.
Community Orchard fruit availability
Fallen Soldiers plaques
Crime prevention and any responses received by the police
A59 crossing

18. Date of the next meeting

The Council unanimously agreed to the date of the next meeting being held on Monday 14th July 2025 at 7.30pm at The Venue, Hoole Village Memorial Hall, Liverpool Old Road, Much Hoole, PR4 4QA.

At this point in the meeting, Cllr N. Woodcock informed the Council of his decision to resign from the parish council with immediate effect. The Council noted the resignation with regret and expressed their sincere thanks to Cllr Woodcock for his valuable contribution and work for the Parish Council and community over the years. A unanimous vote of thanks was recorded.