



DRAFT Minutes of Much Hoole Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th October 2025 at 7.30pm at The Venue, Hoole Village Memorial Hall, Much Hoole.

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

1. Apologies for Absence

None.

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 8th September 2025 were agreed to be a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr E. Houghton, seconded by Cllr R. Lea and agreed unanimously. The Chair signed the minutes.

4. Public Time

None present.

5. Correspondence from members of the public.

- Three emails were received following delivery of the annual newsletter to request a PDF version of the PROW map.
- One email re: vehicle obstructing access to Barnfield.
- One email received requesting items to be included on the agenda.

6. Reports from other meetings and information on future events

Council noted the upcoming neighbourhood forum on the 30th October from 7-8pm at Walmer Bridge Village Hall, Gill Lane, PR4 5GN. The Council also noted the Hoole St Michaels church Remembrance Day service on Sunday 9th November at 10:10am, with councillors confirming their attendance. It was additionally noted that SRBC are also holding a parade the same day from 9am at the Civic Centre in Leyland.

With regards to the upcoming LALC conference on 1st November, Cllr E. Houghton gave her apologies as she will be unable to attend. Cllrs R Lea and P Fox will attend the LCC Parish and Town Council's Conference that day.

7. Village Hall

The Council noted Cllr A. Taylors' report on the Village Hall. The management group is still actively looking at renewing the bowling/tennis pavilion and architect drawings have been updated and costs are being sought. The defibrillator needs a new battery and pads and they would like to put in a grant request to the parish council for these next month.

8. Off Road Cycle Track

a) Council noted that there was minor litter during the cycle track inspections and the track is being well used. However, there is wear at the far end banking that needs attention.

b) **It was resolved** to approve the cost of emergency maintenance repairs to the deeply worn bottom banking of the cycle track up to the amount of £500. This was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr R. Lea and unanimously agreed.

9. Finance

a) **It was resolved** to sign off the Bank reconciliation for the month of September 2025, signed by Cllr A. Taylor and unanimously agreed.

b) Council noted all payments and receipts made from the bank account during September 2025, as detailed in the approved bank reconciliation:

Date	Recipient	Amount	For
01/09/2025	Easywebsites	62.04	Web/Email hosting
12/09/2025	B/P to: Harry Jackson	256.00	Lengthsman invoice for August
12/09/2025	B/P to: Harry Jackson	362.04	Lengthsman invoice for July
12/09/2025	B/P to: Amy Evans	152.59	Clerks backpay
12/09/2025	B/P to: Amy Evans	308.55	Clerks August salary
12/09/2025	B/P to: Amy Evans	5.00	Clerks PAYG Sim August invoice

12/09/2025	B/P to: Amy Evans	52.32	Clerks July exps
30/09/2025	Service charge	6.00	Service charge
Total		1,204.54	

- c) **It was resolved** to authorise the following payments, proposed by Cllr E. Houghton, seconded by Cllr A. Taylor and unanimously agreed:
1. Clerks' September gross salary in the amount of £324.01
 2. Clerks September reimbursements in the amount of £32.82 (£27.82 for mileage and £5.00 for Lebara PAYG Sim)
- d) Council noted the payment of £217.00 raised to the lengthsman for replacement rails at the cycle track, as approved at the July meeting.

10. Footpaths & Gardens

- a) Cllr P. Cocker informed the council that he had inspected all footpaths on the East side of the village and they were all in reasonable condition, except for one fallen tree, which will be cleared at a convenient date in the future. Regarding FP18, he is waiting on a response from LCC regarding access to the road from the footpath.
- b) Re FP11 LCC attended a meeting with the landowner to discuss the refurbishment of the footpath and the way forward. LCC will consider installing a metal kissing gate at the road end. Cllr A. Taylor informed the council that he is in discussions with the groundworks company on the additional work of levelling out the spoil heaps and completing the stoning and drain work and will confirm to the council if there are any additional costs.
- c) Council agreed that no new flooding had occurred on Smithy Lane following LCCs maintenance work on pipes and noted that the gullies down Smithy Lane and Town Lane have been cleared.

11. Defibrillator

It was resolved to approve the cost of replacement Dual use Adult / Child Electrode Pads at the church lodge in the amount of £90.00 including VAT. This was proposed by Cllr R. Lea, seconded by Cllr T. Hewitt and unanimously agreed.

12. Budget Planning for Financial Year 2026-27

Council discussed the upcoming budget/precept process and unanimously agreed the inclusion of the Much Hoole Village Calendar into the 2026-27 budget. The Council also discussed ongoing speed concerns in the village and the potential inclusion of speed indicator displays, although further enquiries will need to be made first regarding costs.

13. Clerk updates

- a) Council noted that the Clerk will be unavailable for the current December meeting date. It was resolved that the date of the December Council meeting be changed from 8th December 2025 to 1st December 2025. The proposal was made by the Chair, seconded by Cllr E. Houghton, and unanimously agreed.
- b) The Clerk asked the councillors if they are experiencing any further issues with .gov emails and Outlook and the council confirmed the issues are now resolved.

14. Crime prevention in Much Hoole

- a) The Clerk reported on discussions with LALC and Little Hoole Parish Council's (LHPC) Clerk regarding erecting speed indicator displays in the village. Council noted that SPIDs have to be moved location within a 3–6-month period and cannot return to the same place within 1 month. LHPCs Clerk confirmed that LCC move their SPIDs to different locations and provide an invoice for the service. The Clerk advised the Council that an email was sent to LCC's Traffic and Road Safety Team with queries that still need to be answered regarding the relevant permissions.
- b) Council considered LCC's proposal to update and remove outdated speed limit orders in Preston and South Ribble. Cllr R. Lea informed the council he wrote a lengthy email to LCC and they replied that the proposals are merely administrative and there are no changes to speed limits planned.

15. Much Hoole Village Calendar

Council discussed the photo selection presented by Cllr R. Lea. Cllr T. Hewitt proposed putting another post on the Much Hoole Village Facebook page asking residents to submit photos. Cllr R. Lea will obtain a quote for printing costs for approval at the November meeting, along with the final decision on photographs. It was agreed that the calendar will be ready for distribution in December 2025.

16. Much Hoole business directory of services & suppliers

Following the distribution of the annual newsletter, which included an invitation for local businesses to be listed in a potential village business directory of services/suppliers, Cllr R Lea reported that only three responses had been received. The Council agreed to contact local small businesses based in Much Hoole directly to obtain details of businesses who wish to be included in the directory.

17. Fallen Soldiers Plaques

- a) The Chair informed the council that she has addresses for most of the fallen soldiers and has been working through old maps to confirm which addresses are correct, with 5 currently being confirmed as correct. The council expressed their gratitude for the effort put in so far.
- b) The Chair proposed to the council that a total of 28 plaques would need to be purchased and the Clerk confirmed this would give an overall cost of around £1100 which is within the current remaining budget for the current year for 'Community Projects'. Council noted that, as the names have already been collated, the plaques could be ordered and put at the appropriate address once these have been confirmed or a suitable alternative. **It was resolved** to approve the plaque quote from Photocast in the amount of £31.39 + VAT each, plus the carriage charge of £15.00 + VAT. This was proposed by Cllr E. Houghton, seconded by Cllr R. Lea and unanimously agreed.

18. A59 crossing

It was agreed that no further update could be discussed until Cllr T. Hewitt sends the email received by LCC to the Chair so that a response can be drafted.

19. Allotments

Cllr R. Lea advised there has been no response following a request in the newsletter. Council agreed to remove this topic from future agendas but to review the situation if the need arises.

20. Newsletter

Council noted the Clerks earlier update that three emails had been received requesting a PDF version of the PROW map. Cllr R. Lea informed the council that he had also sent the PDF of the map to a further four residents at their request and had also received some lovely photographs to be included in the village calendar. Cllr R. Lea also reported that he had received some requests with interest on pickleball and an event will be organised off the back of this. Council noted that the Village Hall Committee continues to look for volunteers and that no feedback had been received following the request for views on the proposed MUGA (multi-use games area) at the Village Hall. Distribution of the newsletters went smoothly.

21. Nomination for King's Award for Voluntary service

The Chair has started an application to nominate the volunteer team at the Village Hall on behalf of the parish council and two supporting letters need to be sent, with one being received so far.

22. Annual Halloween Competition

Cllr T. Hewitt informed the council that she has found a supplier of sweet boxes at £7.50 each for 6 boxes. The deadline for entries is at the end of Sunday 31st October and applicants must post images of their entries on the Spooky Much Hoole Facebook group or the Much Hoole Village Facebook page. Winners will be announced on Monday 1st November 2025. **It was resolved** to approve the prize fund of £50.00, proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr E. Houghton, and unanimously agreed.

23. Remembrance Day Arrangements

It was resolved to approve the purchase of a wreath from the Royal British Legion for Remembrance Sunday, within the previously agreed annual budget of £100. The Council agreed not to proceed with the purchase of poppy lamp post signs. The Clerk will contact St Michaels church to confirm the wreath has been ordered and present the invoice to the Council at the next meeting if received by then.

24. Planning

Council noted planning application 07/2025/00730/HOH and had no comments.

25. Items for next agenda

Defibrillator battery and pads grant from the Village Hall
 Appointment of Internal Auditor for the next financial year
 New Bus shelter for Liverpool Old Road
 Speed Indicator Displays
 Much Hoole Village Calendar
 Kings award
 To approve payment for the two Christmas trees and new lights if necessary.

26. Date of the next meeting

It was noted that the date of the next Council meeting listed at the end of the agenda (Monday 10th September) was incorrect. **It was resolved** that the next meeting would be held on Monday 10th November 2025. The proposal was made by the Chair, seconded by Cllr T. Hewitt and unanimously agreed. The meeting closed at 20:59pm