



## Minutes of Much Hoole Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.30pm at The Venue at Hoole Village Memorial Hall, Liverpool Old Road, PR4 5QA.

**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 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 1<sup>st</sup> December 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.

- a) One enquiry received regarding overdevelopment in South Ribble Villages. Cllr R. Lea responded to the resident advising them of the Parish Council's limited control on planning matters and is awaiting a response.
- b) One email requesting the council discuss Speed Indicator Devices. The council agreed to include this on the February agenda with an estimated cost and breakdown. Solar-powered SPID options involve significant work, and the council will decide at the next meeting whether to proceed with the project.
- c) One enquiry about enlarging the font size of the minutes to make them easier to read on noticeboards. This has been done.

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

None attended or planned.

### 7. Village Hall

- The Council noted Cllr A. Taylors' report on the Village Hall. The Christmas lunch had over 80 attendees and the Christmas market attracted around 500 people and raised £1500. Regular Sunday organ concerts are very well attended, as was the Eccleston Brass band Christmas concert. The management group is still actively looking for funding to renew the bowling pavilion.
- Cllr R. Lea reported that, following the Council's nomination of the Village Hall volunteer team for the King's Award for Voluntary Service, letters have been received indicating the two next steps. Cllr R. Lea on behalf of the Parish Council, and Howard Davidson, Chairman of the Trustees of the Village Hall, will work to prepare for the visit from a Lancashire Assessor who will want to have seen several documents and who, at the visit, will want to meet both volunteers and beneficiaries of the activities at the Village Hall.
- Lastly, Cllr R. Lea reported that the Village Hall is hosting a music evening on Friday 13th February at 7:30pm.

### 8. Off Road Cycle Track

Cllr E. Houghton raised concerns over damage to the track, as reported on Facebook. Cllr R. Lea informed the council that it is believed misuse of a powerful electric bike caused the damage and

that the cycle track lengthsman will repair it soon. Cllr E. Jackson also informed the council that the village lengthsman had cleared a lot of litter including from the hedges around the cycle track.

## 9. Finance

- a) **It was resolved** to sign off the Bank reconciliation for the month of November 2025, signed by Cllr E. Jackson and unanimously agreed
- b) **It was resolved** to sign off the Bank reconciliation for the month of December 2025, signed by Cllr E. Jackson and unanimously agreed.
- c) **It was resolved** to approve the following payments, proposed by Cllr E. Houghton, seconded by the Cllr K. Hayes, and unanimously agreed:

No.	Inv Date	Payee Name	Value	Description of goods
1.	12/2025	Amy Evans (Clerk)	£234.85	Clerks December salary
2.	17/12/2025	Amy Evans (Clerk)	£5.00	Clerks December reimbursement for PAYG SIM for Clerks number
3.	12/2025	Amy Evans (Clerk)	£27.95	Clerks December reimbursement for mileage
4.	12/2025	Harry Jackson	£64.00	Village Lengthsmans December invoice
5.	01/12/2025	Hoole Village Memorial Hall	£62.50	Room hire for 5 Parish Council meetings

## 10. Financial monitoring report for 2025-26

The council reviewed the Clerk's financial monitoring report as of 31st December 2025 and noted that budgeted expenditure remains available for grants and community projects. Cllr R. Lea will chase an update regarding the potential library grant for St Michael's Junior School and Cllr A. Taylor will follow up with M. H. Groundworks regarding the continuation of 2<sup>nd</sup> stage works on FP11, pending dryer weather. Cllr K. Hayes will chase the LCC manager for an update on the delivery of the FP11 gate. Ongoing projects discussed later in this agenda.

## 11. 2026 Parish Council Meeting Dates

**It was resolved** that all remaining 2026 meeting dates be held at Hoole Village Memorial Hall on the second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. This was proposed by Cllr E. Houghton, seconded by Cllr K. Hayes and unanimously agreed.

## 12. Footpaths & Gardens

- a) Cllr P. Cocker informed council that he had submitted a report on the Lovecleansstreets app on the 9<sup>th</sup> December regarding flooding on Town Lane and Lund Lane and that this was fixed by LCC on the 12<sup>th</sup> December.
- Additionally, he informed the council that LCC had laid crushed stone on a 500m length of the footpath, had erected stiles and added drainage at the bottom of Station Road. Little Hoole Parish Council and the landowner farmer had also been involved, with Cllr P. Cocker assisting in his capacity as a volunteer for the PNFS. Council noted the updates and thanked Cllr P Cocker for his dedication to the task of liaising with LCC to improve our footpaths.
- Cllr P Cocker advised that a survey has been added to the Much Hoole Village Facebook for people to comment on the state of public footpaths across Lancashire, with a deadline of the 16<sup>th</sup> January.
- b) The item regarding ongoing monitoring of drainage on Smithy Lane and Town Lane over the winter months was not raised during the meeting and will be included for discussion at the next meeting.

### **13. Much Hoole business directory of services & suppliers**

Cllr R. Lea informed the council he is waiting on the graphic designer from Preston City Council printers to send a specification and price for design and printing and that council should be able to confirm quantities needed once this is received.

### **14. Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition**

Cllr R. Lea confirmed he is waiting for confirmation of the 2026 competition rules, categories and closing date from the organisers. Council agreed to wait for this information before deciding whether Much Hoole should participate.

### **15. Lancashire County Council – CrowdFund Lancashire**

The council reviewed the information circulated with the agenda but unanimously agreed not to participate this year.

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

Due to Cllr T. Hewitt's absence, an update on the competition winner could not be received and the matter was deferred to the next meeting.

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

The Clerk informed the council that a quote had been received from Trueform for two bus shelters but that there was no discount for two. In view of the poor state of the current bus shelter, **it was resolved** that the council proceed with ordering the new bus shelter for the junction of Liverpool Old Road and the A59 Liverpool Road at a cost of around £9,500 to include any traffic management and permit costs. This was proposed by Cllr R. Lea, seconded by Cllr P. Cocker, and unanimously agreed.

### **18. Fallen Soldiers' Plaques**

Cllr K. Hayes asked the council if they were happy for the plaque to state 'Hoole Parish' and it was unanimously agreed that this was appropriate wording. Cllr K. Hayes will confirm all names in a spreadsheet and send this to the Clerk to order the plaques. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda until the plaques are received.

### **19. Planning**

Council noted planning applications 07/2025/00964/NMA and 07/2025/00961/FUL and had no comments.

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

Speed Indicator Devices

Monitoring of drainage on Smithy Lane and Town Lane

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 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7.30pm at The Venue, Hoole Village Memorial Hall, Liverpool Old Road, Much Hoole, PR4 4QA. The meeting closed at 20:27.