

**Minutes of the Little Hoole Parish Council Meeting
Held at 7pm on Monday 11th Aug 2025, at Walmer Bridge
Village Hall**



In attendance: Cllrs L Dryden (Chair), S Ewald, D Owen, S Rainsbury, J Rainsbury. Mr P Cafferkey (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer); and 2 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Cllr T Wilcock. Cllr P Ashby had submitted his resignation with immediate effect as of 8th Aug 25.
2. **To agree the minutes of the last Parish Council mtg. It was resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2025, be accepted as a true record and were agreed unanimously.
3. **To receive declarations of interest.** None
4. **Matters arising from the minutes of last meeting.** Cllr Ewald confirmed that she had written to the young person thanking the Parish Council for listening to the wishes of young people and providing the Zip Wire on Dob Lane Park.
5. **Public Time - matters raised by members of the public.** A member of the public enquired as to whether there was any news on planning application 07/2025/00194/FUL. Erection of 2 no. self-build dwellings. Land Adjacent, 26 Hall Carr Lane, Walmer Bridge. The Parish Council confirmed that the Planning Authority (SRBC) has approved this planning application.
6. **Planning Applications.** None
7. **Planning Item 07/2025/00194/FUL. Land Adjacent 26 Hall Carr Lane Walmer Bridge. Erection of 2 no. self-build dwellings.** The Planning Authority (SRBC) has approved this planning application
8. **To approve the following transactions in the bank for July 2025.**

Date	Payee	£	Desc.
01-Jul-25	Direct Debit (GOCARDLESS)	62.04	Website & Email monthly fee
09-Jul-25	B/P to: McCluskey Window	25.00	Cleaning of bus shelters 4 July
09-Jul-25	B/P to: LT Dryden	302.84	Refund re purchase of plants
09-Jul-25	B/P to: Bouncelona	1880.00	Hire of bouncy castles
18-Jul-25	B/P to: LT Dryden	282.42	Refund re compost, shrubs etc
18-Jul-25	B/P to: Clerk	245.01	Salary re Tax Mth 4
22-Jul-25	B/P to: Martin Worthington	420.00	Weeding & pruning
24-Jul-25	Direct Debit (HMRC SDDS)	195.40	Employee's tax to HMRC
28-Jul-25	B/P to: Martin Worthington	70.00	Planting of box hedge etc
31-Jul-25	Service Charge	6.00	Monthly bank charge

It was resolved that the above transactions be approved.

9. **Payments approved by email or pre-approved and retrospectively noted.**

a) Refund of £302.84 to Cllr Dryden re plants for village.

- b) Refund of £282.42 to Cllr Dryden re plants for village.
- c) Payment of £420.00 to Mr M Worthington re weed removal and pruning of shrubs.
- d) Payment of £70.00 to Mr M Worthington re planting of box hedge, border development, and replacing begonias.

It was resolved that the above payments be approved.

10. **Clerk's Claim for July 2025.** It was resolved that the Clerk's pay claim for July 2025 be approved, comprising 14.27 hours.
11. **Clerk's Pay Award.** It was resolved that the Clerk's Pay Award (backdated to 1st April 2025) be approved.
12. **Finance Statement as at 31 July 2025.** The Clerk reported that as at 31st July 2025, Little Hoole Parish Council is forecast to have a closing balance as at 31 March 2026 of £50,117.99, compared with an opening balance at 1 April 2025 of £66,424.88. This represents an estimated net expenditure during 2025-26 of £16,306.89. Of the estimated balance of £50,117.99, as at 31 March 2026, an amount of £8,252.43 is earmarked for CIL, but as yet remains uncommitted against any specific project.
13. **Drain on Corner of Dob Lane and Liverpool Old Road – Update.** Cllr Dryden confirmed that he had met with an engineer from Lancashire County Council. A private contractor had inserted a camera down the drain but due to debris in the drain and the expensive nature of the camera the contractor stopped any further investigation. However, LCC confirmed that they would investigate the drain with their own equipment and assured Cllr Dryden that the problem would be rectified in time for winter. Cllr Dryden had also mentioned to the engineer that during flooding episodes water could be seen bubbling up through the cobbles in front of the shops. The engineer confirmed that they would also investigate this. Also, the engineer confirmed that LCC will replace the broken bollard in front of the Walmer Bridge Inn.
14. **Summer activities programme funded by the Parish Council – Update.** It was confirmed that the first Thursday of the activities had been extremely well attended although it was noted that most parents did not realise that the event was entirely funded by the Parish Council. Cllr Dryden is to arrange for some signs. Cllr Evald did report concern that the park gates were found to be unlocked when she arrived to open the park for the providers of the Bouncy Castles and Climbing Wall. Due to the success of the summer activities over the past few years, discussion took place about extending the activities to each Thursday of the School Summer Holidays in future years.
15. **Lengthsman type duties including summer and winter planting – Update.** The Parish Council recognised that in the past it has been problematic in securing a reliable contractor to undertake Lengthsman type duties around the village. Cllr Dryden spends a great deal of time trying to find a contractor, supervising the contractor, sometimes lending the contractor his own personal tools and even having to undertake the duties himself for which he has previously made no charge. In light of these difficulties, **it was resolved** that in such future circumstances the Cllr Dryden would be paid £25 per hour to carry out these duties. Nevertheless, efforts will continue to find a reliable contractor and it was noted that a local resident, Mr M Worthington, could undertake some of the Lengthsman type duties but his inability to drive meant that he

cannot transport any materials.

16. **Memory Bench.** Previously, SRBC has agreed to provide a bench including hardstanding for the Community Garden, but with no specified time line. Cllr Dryden proposed that the Parish Council purchases its own Memory Bench and SRBC will be approached again to see if they will provide the hardstanding. This was seconded by Cllr J. Rainsbury. People would be able to purchase a memory plaque to be installed on the Memory Bench. **It was resolved** that the Parish Council purchase a Memory Bench subject to satisfactory quotes being obtained.
17. **Community Asset – Walmer Bridge Inn.** The Parish Council expressed its support for the Walmer Bridge Inn to be formally listed by SRBC as a Community Asset. It was noted that Punch Inns is currently appealing to SRBC against it being listed as a Community Asset.
18. **SPID – Gill Lane.** It was noted that the two new SPID devices that have recently appeared on Gill Lane have been installed by LCC. The Parish Council currently have two spare posts (inc solar panels) and therefore exploratory quotes are to be obtained for SPIDs to be purchased and installed on these two posts.
19. **Declarations of Interest for Parish Councillors.** The Clerk noted that all Parish Councillors had now confirmed that their Declaration of Interests, as published on the Parish Council Website, are still relevant and up to date.
20. **Information and Updates.** This item is purposefully not recorded; it is to allow Councillors a short time to discuss any matters that might result in a future agenda item. No financial or legal decisions are made.
21. **Correspondence.** The Parish Council acknowledged the correspondence regarding the East Irish Sea Transmission Project. Cllrs Dryden and Evald attended an on-line presentation regarding this project; they have asked to be kept updated as to any future developments.
22. **Date & Time of Next Meeting.** It was agreed that the next meeting is to be held on Mon 13th Oct, 2025, 7pm, The Residents Lounge, Old Mill Court. Cllr Owen offered his apologies for this meeting. There will be no Parish Council meeting in Sept 2025.

Signed as a true record, Laurence Dryden, Chair, 13th Oct 2025

