

Minutes of the Little Hoole Parish Council Meeting
Held at 7pm on Monday 10th Nov 2025, at Old Mill Court
In attendance: Cllrs L Dryden (Chair), S Evald, S Rainsbury,
J Rainsbury, T Wilcock & D Owen. Mr P Cafferkey (Clerk &
Responsible Financial Officer); and 8 members of the public.



1. **Apologies for absence.** None (1 Vacancy)
2. **To agree the minutes of the last Parish Council mtg. It was resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th Oct 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.** None.
5. **Public Time - matters raised by members of the public.** A member of the public enquired as to the work that has been ongoing recently on the corner of Dob Lane and Liverpool Old Road; this is covered at item 20 below.
Concern was expressed that parking in Gill Lane, near to the junction with Liverpool Old Road has deteriorated.
Cllr Evald has cleaned the pump (as purchased by Little Hoole Parish Council) in the pond at Old Mill Court. A resident made a suggestion that there needs to be a guard on the outlet of the pump for when the water level gets low, to protect ducklings.
Cllr Evald confirmed, as discussed at previous meetings, that a public meeting has been arranged with Lancashire Police to allow members of the community to raise any matters of concern they may have; this is to be held at Walmer Bridge Village Hall at 19:15 on 18th Nov 2025.
6. **Planning Applications.**
 - a) 07/2025/00775/CLD. Shaunleigh Dob Lane Walmer Bridge PR4 4SU. Lawful Development Certificate for the erection of a detached outbuilding to be used as a garage and domestic storage
 - b) 07/2025/00801/DIS. 363A Liverpool Road Walmer Bridge PR4 5JS. Discharge of condition 11 (Surface Water Drainage) of planning permission 07/2023/00829/FUL
There were no objections to the above planning items.
7. **To approve the following transactions in the bank for Oct 2025.**

Date	Payee	£	Description
01-Oct-25	Direct Debit (GOCARDLESS)	62.04	Website & email monthly fee
13-Oct-25	B/P to: Martin Worthington	70.00	Grounds Mntnce Sept 2025
13-Oct-25	B/P to: Festive Lights	737.04	Christmas Lights
13-Oct-25	B/P to: McCluskey Window	25.00	Clean Bus Shelters Sept 2025
13-Oct-25	B/P to: Autocross Euroshel	924.00	Bus Stop replacement roof panel
13-Oct-25	B/P to: LT Dryden	148.84	Refund re: reflective pendants
13-Oct-25	B/P to: Lancashire County	120.00	Move SPiD
20-Oct-25	B/P to: Clerk	190.00	Refund to Clerk re wreaths & lamp post poppies
20-Oct-25	B/P to: Clerk	41.34	Salary Tax Month 7
23-Oct-25	Direct Debit (HMRC SDDS)	166.20	HMRC employee's tax
24-Oct-25	SOUTH RIBBLE BC	- 1,482.08	To be ascertained
31-Oct-25	Service Charge	6.00	Monthly bank charge

It was resolved that the above transactions be approved.

8. Payments approved by email or pre-approved and retrospectively noted.

- a) purchase of replacement pads for defibrillator £64.95 (excl VAT)
- b) purchase of reflective pendants for pupils of Little Hoole Primary School £148.84.
- c) Hire hall at Walmer Bridge Village Hall re public meeting with Police £33.00
- d) A5 flyers for public mtg with Police £76.00.

The Clerk also mentioned that there was an invoice pending of £50 for the distribution of the A5 flyers (item d above) to all households in Little Hoole.

It was resolved that the above payments be approved.

- 9. Clerk's Claim for Oct 2025.** It was resolved that the Clerk's claim of 17.26 hours and postage of £1.70 be approved.
- 10. Annual Subscription for Microsoft 365 (MS365).** It was resolved that the annual subscription of £84.99 for MS365 for use by the Clerk in carrying out his duties be approved.
- 11. Finance Statement as at 30 Oct 2025.** The Clerk reported that the Parish Council is forecast to have a closing balance as at 31 March 2026 of £51,918 compared with an opening balance at 1 April 2025 of £66,424. This represents an estimated net expenditure during 2025-26 of £14,506. Of the estimated balance of £51,918 as at 31 March 2026, an amount of £8,252 is earmarked for CIL expenditure, but as yet remains uncommitted against any specific project.
- 12. To Discuss Possible Use of Remaining CIL monies.** Cllr J Rainsbury, who is also a South Ribble Borough Councillor, reported that SRBC may look to the Parish Council to use some of its CIL monies to contribute towards completing the pathway around Dod Lane Recreation Park. It was agreed that a formal approach would need to be made by SRBC for this to be considered by the Parish Council.
- 13. Section 137 of the Local Government Act.** As part of the Agenda the Clerk had circulated guidance on Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 which gives Parish Councils authority to spend money for the direct benefit of some or all the Parish's inhabitants. The current limit is £11.10 per person listed on the electoral roll. In the case of Little Hoole Parish Council this is approximately £20,000 per annum. Cllr Evald also highlighted section 19 of the

14. **Appointment of Internal Auditor.** The Clerk reported that he has received three quotes for the internal audit of the Parish Council's forthcoming 2025/26 accounts. The lowest quote of £220.00 (excl VAT) was received from Helen Broughton. Two other higher quotes had been received, both at £270 (excl VAT). All three quotes had been sourced by the Clerk through the Internal Audit Forum. **It was resolved** to accept the quote of £220 (excl VAT) from Helen Broughton.
15. **Initial Discussions re Parish Council Precept for 2026/27.** It was agreed that a meeting would try to be arranged with the Walmer Bridge Village Hall Committee to see how they could be financial assisted by the Parish Council within current legislation. Any costs would need to be factored into setting a future year(s) precept(s), although it was acknowledged this would probably be too late for the 2026/27 precept which will be set at the December Parish Council Meeting.
16. **Parish Councillor Vacancy.** The closing date for applications is the 25th Nov 2025. To date one application has been received.
17. **Summer Activities Programme for 2026.** **It was resolved** that the summer activities programme funded by the Parish Council for children during the summer school holidays 2026 will be increased to run for one day each week of the holiday (i.e. 6 days in 2026 as opposed to 4 days in previous years); subject to cost. It was noted that quotes will need to be obtained and that the provider of the climbing wall had requested early booking.
18. **Bus Shelters.** Discussion took place about the Parish Council funding two replacement bus shelters at the junction of Liverpool Old Road and Liverpool New Road (Star Garage). The cost is £15,942 (excl VAT).
19. **Update re grant to Little Hoole School PTA re playground markings.** The Little Hoole School PTA has confirmed that the planned new playground markings are likely to go ahead in Nov 2025.
20. **Update re Drain on Corner of Dob Lane and Liverpool Old Road.** Work is continuing by LCC, as in repairing the collapsed drain, a sink hole had appeared in the parking bay near to the location of the collapsed drain.
21. **Christmas Tree and Lights.** The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council has purchased (as previously approved) new commercial Christmas Lights. Discussions are ongoing as to when the Christmas Tree can be taken delivery of for installation in the garden of the Walmer Bridge Inn. In recompense for Old Mill Court allowing the Parish Council to use its lounge during the winter months for Parish Council meetings, free of charge, **it was resolved** that the Parish Council would fund a Christmas Tree for the residents of Old Mill Court at a cost of £45.00. Thanks were also given to the Lighting Room shop in Walmer Bridge who supply electricity to the Christmas Lights in the three large planters at no cost to the Parish Council, and for the free installation of the electrical junction boxes that facilitate the Christmas lights.
22. **Update re Remembrance Sunday wreaths and lamp post poppies.** Cllr J Rainsbury confirmed that the lamp post poppies had been kindly put up by two ex-service men in the

village, Steve Greenwood and Mick Norcross; the Parish Council thanks them for this important volunteer work for Remembrance Day. Cllr S Rainsbury was thanked for laying a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at Hoole St Michael and All Angels Church. A wreath has also been placed outside Walmer Bridge Village Hall.

23. **Possible Tree Sculpture on Dob Lane Recreation Park.** Enquiries are ongoing about having one of the trees which has been cut down to approx. 10 feet, due to disease, being turned into a wood sculpture.
24. **Biodiversity Grant.** This is a £200 grant available from South Ribble Borough Council. Cllrs Evald and Dryden have met with the Head Teacher for Little Hoole Primary School; it has been agreed that the Parish Council will work with the school's PTA to agree how pupils can be involved in a Biodiversity project.
25. **Nomination for The King's Award for Voluntary Service.** The Clerk confirmed he had been in touch with Walmer Village Hall but as yet had not received a response.
26. **Winter Planting.** Weeding is to be undertaken and bulbs and heathers are to be planted.
27. **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.
28. **Correspondence.** None
29. **Date & Time of Next Meeting.** It was agreed that the next meeting is to be held on Mon 8th Dec, 2025, 7pm, The Residents Lounge, Old Mill Court.

Approved as a correct record, Laurence Dryden, Chair. 8 Dec 2025.

