

**Minutes of the Little Hoole Parish Council Meeting  
Held at 7pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026, at Walmer Bridge  
Village Hall**



**In attendance:** Cllrs L Dryden (Chair), S Evald, E Moore, S Rainsbury, and J Rainsbury. Mr P Cafferkey (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer); and 3 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Cllrs T Wilcock & D Owen.
2. **To agree the minutes of the last Parish Council mtg.** It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026, 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.** Two members of the Walmer bridge Village Hall Committee were in attendance, they have started (Jan 2026) a Coffee and Cake Club each week on a Tuesday which is free to those attending. The Village Hall requested if the Parish Council could help towards funding the cost of this activity. The Village Hall committee members were also seeking funding towards the cost of a replacement roof for the Village Hall which may cost in the region of £20,000 to £25,000. The Clerk agreed to forward the Village Hall a grants and donations application form.
6. **Planning Applications.**
  - a) 07/2026/00128/HOH. 12 Great Gill Walmer Bridge PR4 5QP. Construction of dormer to front roof slope / west elevation.
  - b) 07/2026/00120/HOH. 8 Rockburgh Crescent Walmer Bridge PR4 5RD. Erection of two storey side extension with front and rear dormers following removal of car port.

There were no objections to the above planning items.

7. **To approve the following transactions in the bank for Jan & Feb 2026.**

Date	Payee	£	Description
02-Jan-26	Direct Debit (GOCARDLESS)	62.04	Mthly email & website subs
05-Jan-26	B/P to: Sparkles	25.00	Bus Shelter Cleaning
05-Jan-26	B/P to: Clerk	84.99	Refund for MS365 annual subs
19-Jan-26	B/P to: SLCC	116.00	Annual subs for SLCC
19-Jan-26	B/P to: Mayor & Sons Ltd	240.00	Erection of Christmas Tree
19-Jan-26	B/P to: Clerk	202.81	Clerk Tax Mth 10 Salary
23-Jan-26	Direct Debit (HMRC SDDS)	141.60	Employee quarterly tax
31-Jan-26	Service Charge	6.00	Monthly Bank Charge
02-Feb-26	Direct Debit (GOCARDLESS)	62.04	Mthly email & website subs
12-Feb-26	B/P to: Sparkles	25.00	Bus Shelter Cleaning
19-Feb-26	B/P to: Paul Cafferkey	263.78	Clerk Tax Mth 11 Salary
28-Feb-26	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.** It was resolved that the Clerk's claim for Jan 2026 for 19.19 hours be approved.
9. **Payments for approval** It was resolved that the Clerk's claim for Feb 2026 for 7.23 hours be approved.
10. **Finance Statement as at 28 Feb 2026.** The Clerk reported that Little Hoole Parish Council is forecast to have a closing balance as at 31 March 2026 of £52,155 compared with an opening

balance at 1 April 2025 of £66,424. This represents an estimated net expenditure during 2025-26 of £14,626. This does not take into account the decision at the November 2025 meeting to purchase two bus stops, at a cost of £19,130 (incl VAT), which are now looking likely to be purchased in 2026/27. **It was resolved** that the Finance Statement be approved.

11. **Proposal for the Parish Council to approve the Clerk to undertake ILCA (Introduction to Local Council Administration).** **It was resolved** that the Clerk be approved to undertake ILCA at a cost to the Parish Council of £140 (excl VAT) plus approx. 10 hours study at approx. £180.
12. **Review and approval of the Parish Council's Grants and Donations Policy.** **It was resolved** that this policy be re-approved subject to it being amended to allow groups and organisations to submit more than one application in a financial year as all applications are subject to the approval of the Parish Council.
13. **Update: re addition of signatory to the Parish Council's Bank Accounts.** As resolved at the Jan 2026 meeting, the Clerk reported that Cllr Moore has now been added to the Parish Council's Bank Accounts. Cllr Moore has permissions to view the bank accounts and authorise payments.
14. **Update: re the replacement of the two bus shelters at the junction of Liverpool Old Road and Liverpool New Road (Star Garage) at a cost of £15,942 (excl VAT).** The Chair reported that he is still awaiting communication from SRBC, despite a number of reminders, as to whether SRBC will contribute towards the cost of the two new bus shelters.
15. **Update re Memory Bench.** The Chair reported that he is still in communication with SRBC and the supplier of the bench with regard to finalising details of the memory bench.
16. **Update re tree carving on Dob Lane Recreation Park.** Cllr Evald reported that she is having difficulty obtaining a reasonable quote and that some contractors will not provide a quote unless they know what budget the Parish Council has allocated. It was agreed that a budget of approx. £1,000 was reasonable. Any agreement to proceed with this would still be subject to approval of the Parish Council.
17. **Update re PRoW 0707050, corner of A59 and Gill Lane.** The Clerk reported that he had received a response from Lancashire Public Rights of Way which states that "The developers have submitted an application under s.257 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to permanently divert the route of the path to accommodate the development. Lancashire County Council are currently in consultation with South Ribble Borough Council on this with regards to the specification of the new route. The developers have also applied for a temporary closure of the footpath whilst the work is ongoing, and this is currently in process with Lancashire County Council and will be issued as soon as possible." The response was noted but the Parish Council expressed concern that this had not been addressed during the planning application process.
18. **To review the cost of moving SPiDs and consider alternative contractor.** The cost of moving the SPiD by Lancashire County Council has increased from £100 (excl VAT) to £200 (excl VAT). Another contractor has quoted £140 (excl VAT) and this will be formally considered at a future meeting when the contractor provides their certificate of insurance.
19. **Update re Insurance Claim.** The insurance company has still not provided an adequate response. The Clerk is to make an official complaint to Zurich Insurance.

20. **Update re training for GDPR and Data Protection.** The Clerk is awaiting an update on the training available through LALC.
21. **Update re pedestrian access to Longton Health Centre & Longton Library.** The Clerk reported that Longton Parish Council had arranged a meeting with Longton Health Centre on the 23 Feb 2026, to which a representative from Little Hoole Parish Council had been invited. However, Longton Health Centre subsequently cancelled the meeting, referring all future queries to NHS Property Services. The Chair reported he has emailed NHS Property Services and is awaiting a response.
22. **Update re Community Action Network.** The Clerk reported that he had attended a Community Action Network (CAN) meeting, as arranged by South Ribble Borough Council; he reported that the CAN seemed more appropriate to voluntary bodies as opposed to Parish Councils.
23. **Discussion re Extension of Footpath on Dob Lane Recreation Park.** Cllr J Rainsbury, who is also a South Ribble Borough Councillor, reported that the Western Parishes Group (SRBC) had agreed to allocate £2,000 towards the approximate total cost of £14,000 to complete the path around the park. SRBC are intending to ask Little Hoole Parish Council to fund the remaining £12,000. The Parish Council will consider this when a proposal is formally put forward by SRBC.
24. **Discussion re Purchase of 2 permanent SPiDs for existing posts.** An up-to-date quote is to be obtained from ELAN City for the provision of two SPiDs for the two existing spare posts. A formal proposal will be considered once the quote has been received. Cllr J Rainsbury is to approach SRBC to see if they can provide a new post and SPiD in Hall Carr Lane i.e. to be located prior to the 20mph sign on the approach to the village.
25. **Discussion re Dog Fouling.** Cllr Evald reported that she had received a number of complaints about dog fouling in the village. It was agreed that this would be a future agenda item with a view to a formal proposal for a campaign, funded by the Parish Council, to warn against dog fouling.
26. **Summer Planting.** A quote has been requested from ACER Gardens.
27. **To consider response to consultation on Local Government Reorganisation. It was resolved** that the Parish Council would not submit a response.
28. **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.
29. **Correspondence.** None.
30. **Date & Time of Next Meeting.** It was agreed that the next meeting is to be held on Mon 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 7pm, Walmer Bridge Village Hall, in the Lounge.

Signed as a true record, Laurence Dryden – Chair – 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026.