

Minutes of the Little Hoole Parish Council Meeting
Held at 7pm on Monday 8th Dec 2025, at Old Mill Court
In attendance: Cllrs L Dryden (Chair), S Evald, S Rainsbury,
 J Rainsbury, and D Owen. Mr P Cafferkey (Clerk &
 Responsible Financial Officer); and 3 members of the public.



1. **Apologies for absence.** Cllr T Wilcock (1 Vacancy)
2. **To agree the minutes of the last Parish Council mtg. It was resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th Nov 2025, be accepted as a true record and were agreed unanimously.
3. **To receive declarations of interest.** Cllrs L Dryden and S Evald declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 8.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes of last meeting.** The Chair (Cllr Dryden) reported that Mr Worthington has been undertaking some winter planting in the last couple of weeks.
5. **Public Time - matters raised by members of the public.** A member of the public queried whether the new style galvanised metal gates which are starting to appear on public rights of way are part of a rolling programme of replacement by Lancashire County Council; the Clerk confirmed that yes this is the case.
6. **Planning Applications.**
 - a. 07/2025/00882/HOH. Meadow View Dob Lane Walmer Bridge PR4 4SU. First floor rear extension, addition of slate roof on existing conservatory together with the erection of a porch on the front elevation.
 - a) 07/2025/00790/HOH. 1 Airey Houses Dob Lane Walmer Bridge PR4 4SU. Part double storey and part single storey rear extension.
 There were no objections to the above planning items.

7. **To approve the following transactions in the bank for Nov 2025.**

Date	Payee	£	Description
03-Nov-25	Direct Debit (GOCARDLESS)	62.04	Website & email monthly fee
03-Nov-25	B/P to: Walmer Bridge VH	100.00	Rental of Hall WBVH re Public mtg
03-Nov-25	B/P to: Walmer Bridge VH	33.00	Rental WBVH mtgs Apr-Jul 2025
03-Nov-25	B/P to: LT Dryden	76.00	A5 flyers for Public Mtg
03-Nov-25	B/P to: Defib Warehouse	77.94	Defibrillator Pads
14-Nov-25	B/P to: Bolton Chris Trees	720.00	1x Large Christmas Tree & 2x small Christmas Trees
19-Nov-25	B/P to: LT Dryden	183.27	Refund to Cllr Dryden re Winter Plants
19-Nov-25	B/P to: D A Braithwaite	50.00	Distribution of A5 flyers re Public mtg
19-Nov-25	B/P to: Acer Gardens	350.00	Remove old lights and install new
19-Nov-25	B/P to: LT Dryden	76.00	Duplicate pyt (to be recovered)
19-Nov-25	B/P to: LT Dryden	36.78	Refund Cllr
24-Nov-25	B/P to: Clerk	1.70	Expenses (postage) Tax Month 8
24-Nov-25	B/P to: Paul Cafferkey	237.13	Salary Tax Month 8
30-Nov-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. It was resolved** that the invoice submitted by Cllr Dryden for £200 for Lengthsman type duties, be approved. Cllrs Dryden and S Evald did not vote on this item, (see item 3).
- 9. Clerk's Claim for Nov 2025. It was resolved** that the Clerk's claim of 20.95 hours be approved.
- 10. Finance Statement as at 30 Nov 2025.** The Clerk reported that the Parish Council is forecast to have a closing balance as at 31 March 2026 of £57,492 compared with an opening balance at 1 April 2025 of £66,424. This represents an estimated net expenditure during 2025-26 of £8,932. Of the estimated balance of £57,492 as at 31 March 2026, an amount of £15,348 is earmarked for CIL expenditure, but as yet remains uncommitted against any specific project. **It was resolved** that the Finance Statement be approved.
- 11. The Parish Council's budget and precept for 2026/27.**
 - a) It was resolved** that the Parish Council's net budget for 2026/27 be set at £28,718.
 - b) It was resolved** that the Parish Council's precept for 2026/27 be increased by 5%. For a Band D property this means that the annual precept will rise by £1.24 from £24.73 in 2025/26 to £25.97 in 2026/27. In taking this decision the Council were minded that the precept had not been increased in the last three years.
- 12. Proposal for the Parish Council to fund 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). It was resolved** that this proposal be approved. The cost is as per a quote from Euroshel, Lancashire County Council's approved supplier for the provision of bus shelters installed on the public highway. The majority of this cost will be funded by the remaining CIL monies of £15,348 held by the Parish Council.
- 13. To approve re-allocation of project costs regarding Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). It was resolved** that following advice from the Clerk the cost of the three parish council noticeboards (£4,808) and their fixings (posts etc £805) purchased in early 2023 would not be categorised as being charged to CIL. The new restated balance of monies held against CIL now stands at £15,348.
- 14. Confirmation of receipt of CIL income £1,482.08.** The Clerk reported that the previously unidentified income of £1,482, received from South Ribble Borough Council (SRBC), has now been confirmed by SRBC as CIL.
- 15. Confirmation of Internal Auditor for 2025/26 Parish Council accounts.** The Clerk confirmed that Helen Broughton has accepted the role of Internal Auditor for the 2025/26 accounts.
- 16. To agree amendment to Oct 2025 minutes, item 18 i.e. £350.00 to put up Christmas lights, not £150.00 as erroneously in stated minutes. It was resolved** that this amendment be approved.



17. **Update re vacancy for a Parish Councillor on Little Hoole Parish Council.** The Clerk reported that two applications for the vacancy have been received and Councillors would interview the applicants on Wed 10th Dec 2025.
18. **Update re grant to Little Hoole School PTA re playground markings.** The Little Hoole School PTA has confirmed that the new playground markings have been completed, a copy of the invoice and photos of the completed works have been shared with Parish Councillors. The Clerk will arrange for the payment of the £2,000 grant.
19. **Update re Christmas Tree, as funded by the Parish Council, including approval of additional costs.** Due to unforeseen circumstances the Chair, in agreement with the Clerk, had contacted Henry Mayor's (Eccleston) to erect the Parish Council Christmas Tree. This will incur an additional cost of approximately £200. **It was resolved** that this additional cost be approved.
20. **Update re Insurance Claim.** The Clerk reported that the insurance company had still not reimbursed the Parish Council for the replacement roof to one of the bus stop shelters. The Clerk will follow this up with the insurance company.
21. **To approve the draft minutes of the Public Meeting held with Lancashire Police on the 18th Nov 2025 at Walmer Bridge Village Hall. It was resolved** that these minutes be approved.
22. **To discuss follow up on the public meeting held with Lancashire Police.** Cllr Evald commented on the public's positive response to the meeting. The meeting highlighted that Little Hoole is a safe place to live. However, a main concern for residents is speeding. It is hoped another meeting can be arranged in the next 6 to 12 months. Discussion also took place about the 20mph zones in the village and Traffic Regulation Orders.
23. **To discuss possible options as to how the Parish Council can assist Walmer Bridge Village Hall in the future.** The Clerk and Cllrs Dryden, Evald and Owen had attended the Walmer Bridge Village Hall's AGM on 1st Dec 2025. Discussions between the Village Hall Committee and the Councillors had been informative. Cllr Evald distributed information outlining how Parish Councils are able to help out their local village halls.
24. **Broken Stile at bottom of Station Road on public footpath 0706024, as notified by Hoole Parish Council, Parish Councillor Paul Cocker.** The Clerk reported that Cllr Cocker (Hoole Parish Council) has kindly reported this matter to Lancashire County Council.
25. **Update re Memory Bench.** The Clerk reported that SRBC have clarified that they have not agreed to fund a Memory Bench or a base for a bench. Cllr J. Rainsbury (also a Borough Councillor - SRBC) reported that he is to speak about this at forthcoming meeting of the Western Parishes – SRBC.
26. **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.
27. **Correspondence.** Cllr T Wilcock has reported to the Clerk that she received a complaint from a member of the public that they were not able to walk public right of way 0707050 (LCC's Mario

Map reference) after being told by a construction worker in Miller's Yard (corner of Gill Lane and A59) that there was no public footpath.

- 28. Date & Time of Next Meeting.** It was agreed that the next meeting is to be held on Mon 12th Jan 2026, 7pm, The Residents Lounge, Old Mill Court.

Signed as an accurate record – Cllr Laurence Dryden (Chair) – 12th Jan 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Dryden', with a small flourish at the end.