

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of meeting held 8 December 2004 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

Present Cllrs P A Peet (Chair), K Almond, J Forrest, A Maddran, S Parkinson, B Thompson.

Also Present Borough Cllr M Iddon, PC Plummer and 3 members of the public.

99.04 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors D Clough (work commitments), and J Kearton (previous engagement).

100.04 Personal/Prejudicial interests

None declared.

101.04 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 November 2004

Proposed the Chairman, seconded Cllr Almond and agreed the Minutes (as circulated) be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

102.04 Matters for Report

Parish Business Plan (87.04) R Hayton, from Lancashire County Council, has expressed a willingness to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss the Plan. Proposed Cllr Forrest, seconded Cllr Thompson and agreed an invitation be sent along with a copy of the Croston Parish Plan.

Recycling Facilities (97.04) Chorley Borough Council are to request Cleanaway empty the litter bin more frequently. The bin is intended for carrier bags for the transportation of recyclates to the site rather than for the recycling of plastic bags.

Developers Contributions (97.04) the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services at Chorley Borough Council is gathering information and will respond in the near future.

Proposed the Chairman, seconded Cllr Thompson and agreed to bring forward item 10 on the agenda.

103.04 Correspondence

The Chairman read out a letter of resignation from Miss M A Iddon. A vote of thanks thanked for her services to the Council was proposed by Cllr Parkinson and seconded by Cllr Thompson.

Wicksteed Leisure advised the playground equipment inspection is due. Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded the Chairman and agreed Wicksteed Leisure be instructed to carry out an unaccompanied inspection, risk assessment and Disability Discrimination Act assessment at a combined cost of £90.00 (+VAT).

Chorley Borough Council advised of a proposal to introduce special expenses into the Council's budget. This would result in the withdrawal of parish amenity grants for future years. It is intended to consult with Parish Council's, however the Clerk pointed out the consultation would take place after the setting of the precept. Proposed the Chairman, seconded Cllr Thompson and agreed the Clerk asks the Borough Council whether the Parish Council is to receive a grant for the current financial year, should the loss of the grant be precepted for and what areas are covered by the amenity grant.

Lancashire County Council advised of the setting up of a panel to consider renewable energy.



Wallwork and Co advised of an application for a transfer of licence for The Mill Hotel, Moor Road. Cllr Forrest queried the current position with the planning refusal for the signage. The Clerk is to request an update from the Enforcement Officer.

SLY provided details of a youth theatre project.

Proposed Cllr Forrest seconded Cllr Thompson and agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak.

104.04 Police Matters

PC Plummer presented crime and incident figures for Croston for the period between 1 November 2004 and 8 December 2004, and reported on a particularly quiet month.

105.04 Residents Points of Interest

It was reported that the surface water drains on Grape Lane were being repaired.

The public footpath from Out Lane to the Orchard is being damaged by school children on their way to and from school.

Borough Cllr Iddon will report a post on the car park to the side of the Village Green which requires attention.

Residents commented the presence of PC Plummer has been noticed within the village.

Proposed the Chairman, seconded Cllr Thompson and agreed to restore Standing Orders.

106.04 Finance

The financial monitoring statement was circulated.

Proposed Cllr Thompson, seconded the Chairman, and agreed the following payments be approved, the invoices having been inspected by Cllr Thompson:

£ 208.55	Employee 1	Salary
£ 243.38	Employee 2	Salary
£ 68.86	Inland Revenue	Tax
£ 875.00	Chorley Borough Council	Election recharge
£ 130.35	C Wilson	Plants
£ 10.00	OPSTA	Membership

Councillors were reminded of the approaching precept.

107.04 Planning Matters

No applications for consideration.

Cllr Parkinson queried the situation regarding the Methodist School. Work appears to have commenced internally and residents are thinking the redevelopment has commenced. The Chairman advised that the planning application has not yet been determined. Cllr Forrest mentioned the railings outside the school are in need of attention.

108.04 LAPTC Chorley Area Committee

The Chairman volunteered to replace Cllr Thompson as a Parish Council representative. No further volunteers were forthcoming.

109.04 Parish Plan

The Chairman congratulated the Steering Group on the production of the impressive brochure.



Cllr Parkinson updated the Council. The Official Launch was very successful. This is to be seen as the starting point to attend to points raised by residents and a meeting will be held in February to attempt to get the relevant bodies to action the plans. Cllr Forrest mentioned the Countryside Agency has proven extremely difficult to deal with and the remaining funding has not yet been received.

110.04 Matters for Further Discussion

The Clerk had attended the Parish and Town Councils - Making the Link Conference. Details from the presentations were placed in the mail bag for distribution. The LAPTC advised that training for the Quality Parish Council Clerk's Portfolio should commence in January, once the new assessors have been appointed.

The Clerk had attended the Policing 05 meeting which was intended to obtain views on what is required of Lancashire Constabulary for the forthcoming year in order that its budgets and priorities may be identified. Information will be distributed once it has been collated.

A draft newsletter was circulated to Councillors. The Clerk is to be advised of amendments as soon as possible.

The Clerk has completed the Charity Commission Return for the Village Green.

The Chairman reported an intermittent problem with the tripswitch on the Christmas lights, however they seemed to be operating satisfactorily at the moment. Cllr's Almond and Forrest suggested more, or brighter, lights should be obtained. Cllr Parkinson mentioned the output of the existing transformer may not allow this. Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded Cllr Thompson and agreed the Clerk is to query the amount due for the work done to date and, if funds are available within the budget, replacement items are to be purchased.

The Chairman suggested a Christmas hamper be provided for the Lengthsman in recognition of his service. Cllr Maddran queried the areas of responsibility of the Lengthsman and was advised he was employed to attend particularly to the centre of the village. Cllr Almond felt such an award to be inappropriate and suggested chocolates or biscuits as an alternative. Councillors considered the suggestions and Cllr Parkinson recommended gift vouchers rather than a hamper. Proposed the Chairman, seconded Cllr Thompson and agreed £25 in gift vouchers be given to the Lengthsman.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

