

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of meeting held 9 June 2004 at 7.00 pm in The Old School, Croston.

Present Cllrs P A Peet (Chair), K Almond, D Clough, J Forrest, J Kearton, M A Iddon, S Parkinson, B Thompson.

Also Present 1 member of the public.

34.04 Apologies

Cllr A Maddran

35.04 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 May 2004

Proposed the Chairman, seconded Cllr Thompson the Minutes (as circulated) be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record with one amendment: (23.04) Cllr Parkinson suggested a meeting with LCC to put pressure on them to deal with the Parish Business Plan.

36.04 Matters for Report

Parish Business Plan (23.04) LCC advise that staff shortages caused by long term illness has delayed response to the Plans. Clerk to write to senior management and involve County Councillor Whittaker.

Risk Assessment (28.04) Cllr Kearton reported the Sports Clubs agreement to the proposal regarding the mower and strimmer and the Clerk is to arrange a meeting with Cllr Kearton and the Lengthsman to check the suitability of the room. The Clerk is to review the items on the damage cover list and obtain a valuation for the War Memorial.

Dropped kerbs (32.04) The matter will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting and Councillors were requested to draw up a definitive list of requirements for consideration at the meeting. Councillors are to contact a number of disabled residents for their input.

Cars for sale (32.04) Clerk reported several visits to the area had revealed only one vehicle on the site. Councillors advised the number of cars had reduced recently, but more cars for sale have appeared further down Moor Road.

37.04 Police Matters

Councillors expressed dissatisfaction with the apparent lack of a police presence. PC Whittaker is believed to be on leave for around six weeks and cover is being provided by the Emergency Services Community Support Officer. Clerk to invite Inspector Edmondson to attend the next meeting.

38.04 Finance

The financial monitoring statement was circulated.

The amount of the increase in Fidelity Guarantee cover (28.04) will be reduced to £18000 due to the reduction in the bank balances caused by this months payments. The Chairman signed the proposal form.

Clerk advised of a requirement of the Fidelity Guarantee cover whereby cash book entries and other records of money received must be checked against bank statements. Proposed Cllr Thomson, seconded Cllr Kearton, and agreed that the Chairman will carry out the reconciliation prior to the meeting.



The invoice from Chorley Borough Council for the election recharge remains outstanding pending receipt of advice from the LAPTC.

Proposed Cllr Thomson, seconded Cllr Kearton, and agreed the following payments be approved, the invoices having been inspected by Cllr Forrest:

£ 211.50	Employee 1	Salary
£ 243.60	Employee 2	Salary
£ 68.64	Inland Revenue	Tax
£ 350.00	B & C Norris	Wayside seat treatment
£ 200.00	Employee 1	Newsletter

39.04. Planning Matters

9/04/00547 Erection of conservatory to rear at 45 Station Road - no comment.

9/04/00576 Two storey side extension and rear conservatory at Avalon, 28A Station Road - no comment. Councillors discussed the potential loss of parking facilities caused by this type of alteration and decided there would be no loss of parking facilities in this instance.

40.04 Village Clean Ups

The Chairman requested volunteers to clear the Village Green of the aftermath of Coffee Day on 4 July and to clean up on 13 July prior to the judging for North West in Bloom. Councillors and other residents who assisted with the Clean Up on 17 May were thanked.

41.04 Parish Plan

Cllr Forrest updated the Council. Data from the questionnaire is now being analysed. The interim report has been presented to the Countryside Agency which has expressed a wish to use it as an example of good practice. The Steering Group, in conjunction with ECET and Trinity and St Michaels School, has applied for a grant for the Christmas market and lights. A Heritage Trail, starting at Fishery Bridge and finishing at the surgery on Orchard Close, has been devised and Cllr Forrest asked whether the Council would consider taking over the ongoing maintenance of three information boards, which should cost the Council less than £50 per year. Cllr Parkinson queried the value of the boards for insurance purposes and Cllr Forrest is to instruct ECET to write providing the value and officially requesting assistance.

42.04 Correspondence

North West in Bloom judging will take place on Thursday 15 July.

British Telecom requested comments on the proposal to remove the payphone. Clerk to reply advising the payphone is adjacent to the schools where children, many from outside Croston, attend after school activities. Given the availability of payphones in the Co-op and the De Trafford the Council's preferred option would be to remove the box by the De Trafford.

The next meeting of the Chorley Partnership will be 12 July.

Lancashire County Council provided a questionnaire regarding the Quality Parish Council scheme.

Chorley Borough Council requested details of local events where details of the Local Development Framework may be displayed. Councillors suggested the Heritage Open Days.

Chorley Borough Council and ECET provided information regarding the installation of cycle racks on the Village Green. Councillors suggested the Library Car Park as a possible alternative.



43.04 Matters for Further Discussion

Cllr Clough reported on the unsightly appearance of the De Trafford Arms. Cllr Iddon advised she has spoken to the owners, who informed her that the window shutters are a requirement of the insurance company. Interviews of potential tenants are being conducted presently. The bin has not been emptied and Cllr Iddon advised Chorley Borough Council are negotiating with the owners regarding the emptying. Clerk to write to the owners requesting assistance in keeping the appearance acceptable.

Cllr Forrest mentioned occurrences of under age drinking in the Woodyard buildings. Cllr Iddon will obtain details of the landowners and request the property be secured as the Council is concerned about the possibility of travellers using the area.

Cllr Clough reported the appearance of graffiti on the play equipment and suggested involving people sentenced to serve Community Service to carry out removal of the graffiti. The Clerk is to make enquiries with Chorley Borough Council regarding the procedure.

An overgrown hedge was reported by Smiths Farm on Moor Road. Cllr Iddon offered to deal with the matter.

Cllr Kearton mentioned the requirement for hedge and tree trimming around the village and was advised this was normally carried out after Coffee Day.

Cllr Almond produced a letter from LCC regarding flower beds. Cllr Almond will provide plans for Meadow Lane and Bretherton Road and the Clerk is to contact Wyevale Garden Centre to ask if they are still interested in sponsorship of the area on Moor Road.

Cllr Forrest mentioned the flagpoles and signage outside the Mill Hotel. Cllr Iddon advised the matter was being dealt with by the Enforcement Officer and a notice had been issued.

Cllr Almond requested the Councils support for the project for the fence on The Croft. Councillors were happy to support the project and Cllr Almond is to provide the Clerk with correspondence details.

Cllr Almond reported the flag had been removed from the flagpole. Proposed Cllr Forrest, seconded Cllr Parkinson and agreed that a replacement be obtained. Councillors discussed the history behind the flagpole and it will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

44.04 Residents Points of Interest

A resident concurred with the Councils ideas concerning the lack of dropped kerbs within the village and other problems encountered by people in wheelchairs.

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

