

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of meeting held 13 July 2005 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

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

Also Present Borough Councillors Dickinson, and Iddon, PC Plummer and 1 member of the public.

48.05 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Gibbons (work commitments).

49.05 Personal/Prejudicial interests

The Chairman declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 (Planning Matters).

50.05 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 June 2005

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

51.05 Matters for Report

Closed Circuit Television (37.05) - Cllr Parkinson advised the Council of the legal requirements for operating the system. As the camera is not to be used covertly its use falls outside of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and as it will be used only in public areas there is no requirement to register under the Data Protection Act. The Parish Council should adopt a code of practice and keep a log of the activity and who views the tapes. Warning signs, containing contact details, are recommended. Video footage may be used in evidence in both criminal and civil courts. The information was placed in the mailbag for circulation and the purchase of the system will be considered at the next meeting. Cllr Parkinson and the Clerk are to liaise regarding quotations.

Traffic Survey (42.05) Inspector Edmondson advised the speed trailer does not record speeds or numbers. The Police are in the process of acquiring speed indication devices which may be attached to lamp posts and a new hand held speed detection device which may be suitable for Moor Road.

As PC Plummer had not yet arrived Agenda Item 5 (Police Matters) was deferred.

52.05 Residents Points of Interest

No points raised.

53.05 Borough Councillors

No points raised.

54.05 Croft Field Footpath

Councillors considered a request made by FrY, and a number of residents, to apply to amend the Definitive Map to include a claimed path by the river. Letters received from residents were read out. Eleven residents were in favour and two against. Cllr Kearton mentioned that, historically, there had been no restrictions imposed on walking in the Field. Cllr Parkinson pointed out, if the recognised footpath is fenced, it may mean anyone walking by the river may be deemed to be trespassing. Cllr S Thompson queried the possibility of litigation should anyone be injured walking by the river. Cllr Parkinson advised the liability would lie with the landowner. The Chairman questioned whether the low response rate to the newsletter article of 11 residents, representing 6 households, supporting the application and 2 against actually reflected the wishes of the village as a whole.



Proposed Cllr Almond, seconded Cllr S Thompson that the Parish Council applies to amend the Definitive Map to include the claimed path. The subsequent vote was 6 in favour, 2 against and the motion was carried.

55.05 Town Bridge

Councillors discussed a suggestion to consider the implications of the closure of the bridge. Vehicles are using the bridge as a rat run to avoid the main road and concerns have been expressed regarding road safety issues when drivers reverse onto Town Road to allow vehicles to pass over the bridge. The Chairman mentioned closure of the bridge may cause delays for emergency vehicles. Councillors felt it would not be feasible, at the present time, to suggest closure. The Clerk is to request the Conservation Officer and the Highways Department investigate a crack which has appeared on the bridge.

PC Plummer entered the meeting

Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded Cllr B Thompson to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak.

56.05 Police Matters

PC Plummer reported an increase in youth nuisance and general drink related problems. Coffee Day created several problems, including the impromptu fair off Yarrow Close, and drunken behaviour later. Cllr Parkinson suggested the Parish Council could be involved in the organisation. Cllr Forrest mentioned that lack of communication regarding road closures had caused problems. Cllr S Thompson advised the Coffee Day Committee intended to invite the involvement of the Parish Council. The Parish Council newsletter could be used to advise of road closures, provided they were notified in time.

Cllr Parkinson advised of comments received regarding over-aggressive behaviour by the Police Support Unit. Cllr Kearton felt the Police did a good job on the day.

Cllr Forrest mentioned incidents of parking on the pavement outside the Co-op, causing problems for pedestrians, and Cllr Parkinson mentioned similar occurrences at the entrance to Bramblewood. PC Plummer will look into both areas.

Proposed Cllr B Thompson, seconded Cllr S Thompson and agreed to restore Standing Orders.

57.05 Finance

The budget monitoring statement was circulated and the Chairman carried out the reconciliation of monies received in accordance with the fidelity guarantee.

Councillors considered a grant request from the Bowland and Pennine Mountain Rescue Team. Cllr Parkinson outlined the workings of the mountain rescue team.

Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded Cllr S Thompson that a donation of £200 be awarded. The subsequent vote was 2 in favour, 5 against with 1 abstention and the motion was lost.

Proposed Cllr Maddran, seconded Cllr Kearton that donation of £50 be awarded. The subsequent vote was 6 in favour, with 2 abstentions and the motion was carried.

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

£ 237.65	Employee 1	Salary
£ 285.65	Employee 2	Salary
£ 80.52	Inland Revenue	Tax
£ 275.10	C Wilson	Supply of plants
£ 156.00	R Sutton	Grasscutting



£	52.09	E.on Energy	Electricity - christmas lights 2004
£	12.00	Croston Old School	Room hire
£	200.00	Employee 1	August salary
£	135.00	Minuteman Press	Newsletter printing

Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded Cllr Kearton and agreed the Internal Auditor be retained for this years Annual Audit.

58.05 Planning Matters

The Chairman declared an interest in the following application and took no part in the discussions.

Cllr B Thompson took the Chair.

05/00654 Erection of two storey side extension incorporating garage at 102 Moor Road - no comment.

Cllr Thompson vacated the Chair and Cllr Peet took the Chair.

05/00699 Extension of front dormer at 29 Rectory Close - no comment

59.05 Boundary Signs

Councillors considered a quotation from Lancashire County Council for replacement signs. The signs are to be as proposed, with the Parish Council name and logo in dark green. Cllr Forrest requested a price be obtained for installation of a new sign on Moor Road. Cllr Almond advised a local company may also produce the signs.

Proposed Cllr Forrest, seconded Cllr Parkinson and agreed the Clerk source new signs at a cost not to exceed £192.80 (+VAT) each, excluding installation.

60.05 Trafalgar Day

Councillors discussed participation in the Trafalgar Day celebrations. Several suggestions were made and it was agreed the Parish Council would not become directly involved.

Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded Cllr Almond and agreed the Council produces and distributes, in the same manner as the newsletter, an A4 leaflet advertising events organised by individuals and other bodies.

61.05 Reports from Outside Bodies

Cllr Parkinson provided details of the Community Ownership of Assets seminar which provided information on land acquisition for public use. Any schemes must be self sustainable and Cllr Parkinson suggested the land at Rectory Farm may be obtained in this manner. Cllr Kearton suggested the land by the Sports Club could also be included but Cllr Parkinson felt it better to concentrate on Rectory Farm initially.

Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded Cllr Maddran and agreed the Clerk is to advise the Diocese of the Council's interest in the land.

The Chairman reported on the recent meeting of the LAPTIC Chorley Area Committee. The Neighbourhood Watch are distributing cards advising of contact details of Next of Kin of the holder. The Borough Council has been advised of concerns regarding the Planning and Enforcement Departments.

Cllr Forrest advised work has commenced on the station shelter.

62.05 Correspondence



BT Payphones advised of the potential conversion of the Town Road payphone to cashless operation subject to Ofcom approval. Councillors felt this alternative, allowing emergency, operator controlled, reverse charge, credit and chargecard calls only, to be preferable to losing the facility.

The Green Centre advised of its closing down party on 29 July at Ecclestone Youth Centre.

LAPTC reported on the findings of its Subscriptions Revision Working Group. The information was placed in the mailbag for consideration and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Defra provided a timetable for implementation of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 which will, in the future, allow Parish Councils to issue fixed penalties for dog fouling.

The Rural Community Partnership Trust advised of the securing of funding to the value of £180,000 which should enable operation for, at least, the next three years.

Chorley Borough Council requested members for the Sustainable Resources Consultee Group. The information was placed in the mailbag for consideration.

63.05 Matters for Further Discussion

Cllr Forrest queried who had carried out the clean up following Coffee Day and was advised it was the Chairman, Cllr Almond and a small number of residents. Councillors mentioned the pubs should take more responsibility. Cllr Parkinson re-iterated previous comments regarding the Parish Councils involvement in the organisation of the day.

The grant application for the village entrances project has been submitted.

The Chairman asked for volunteers to carry out a clean up prior to the judging for the North West in Bloom competition. Cllr Almond asked whether the businesses had been asked to become involved following the judges comments from last year. The Clerk advised that, due to computer problems, they had not but would be asked to next year.

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

