

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of meeting held 14 September 2005 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

Present Cllrs P A Peet (Chair), K Almond, C Gibbons, S Parkinson, B Thompson, S
Thompson.

Also Present Borough Councillor Dickinson and 1 member of the public.

64.05 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Forrest, Kearton and Maddran and Borough Councillor Iddon.

65.05 Personal/Prejudicial interests

None declared.

66.05 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 July 2005

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

67.05 Matters for Report

Croft Field Footpath (54.05) - Supporting information has been received and the application form to amend the Definitive Map completed.

Town Bridge (55.05) The Conservation Officer and Lancashire County Council have been advised of the damage.

Boundary Signs (59.05) The replacement signs have been installed.

Land at Rectory Farm (63.05) The Diocese advises the land is not currently for sale. A follow up letter, with a copy to L Hoyle MP, is to be sent requesting the Council be considered as a potential developer.

68.05 Police Matters

No matters raised.

Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded Cllr Almond and agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak.

69.05 Residents Points of Interest

A resident advised a bollard on the car park by the Village Green was damaged. The Clerk is to check with Borough Cllr Iddon as to the responsibility for the bollard.

A resident queried whether the Scout Group could apply for a grant. Councillors advised applications, describing the purpose of the grant, may be submitted anytime.

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

70.05 Borough Councillors

No points raised.

71.05 Finance

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

The Clerk reported receipt of the following:

£	30.00	Croston Pre School	Newsletter advert
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£ 30.00	Handprints	Newsletter advert
£ 30.00	Village Newsagents	Newsletter advert
£ 400.00	Green Partnership Awards	Grant towards village entrances project

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

£ 280.15	Employee 1	Salary
£ 571.08	Employee 2	Salary
£ 161.26	Inland Revenue	Tax
£ 57.96	Employee 2	Reimbursements
£ 106.63	Employee 2	Reimbursements
£ 25.00	Bowland Pennine MRT	Donation
£ 50.00	J Lawson	Internal audit fee
£ 15.00	Croston Old School	Room hire
£ 75.00	Croston St Michaels Scouts	Newsletter delivery

Councillors considered the report of the Internal Auditor. The Clerk is to advise the Internal Auditor that his comments have been noted and the recommendations will be implemented.

72.05 Planning Matters

05/00842 Demolish existing 2 sheds and erect replacement shed and replace existing boundary fence at 15 Church Street - no comment.

05/00827 Demolish existing single storey shop and construct replacement two storey structure with retail on the ground floor and ancillary offices on the first floor at The Veg Patch, 74A Station Road - concerns were expressed regarding parking facilities and the effect on neighbouring properties in what is an already congested area of the village. The facility of off site parking as detailed in the application was also queried.

Borough Councillor Dickinson entered the meeting

05/00893 Single storey rear extension, provision to form dormer to front and rear and a side extension to form garage at 71 Drinkhouse Road - no comment as the application would be viewed by the Conservation Officer.

05/00898 Erection of first floor rear extension at 75 Westhead Road - no comment

05/00569 Demolish existing workshop bungalow and construct a two storey house with detached double garage and workshop and associated external works at Croftlands, 34 Grape Lane - the Borough Council had received amended plans. The Planning officer had provided details of the amendments which did nothing to address the Parish Council's objections.

04/01085 Outline application for erection of agricultural workers dwelling (siting and access) - An appeal against the Borough Council's refusal to grant planning permission has been lodged and additional comments are invited. The Parish Council did not comment on the original application and Councillors had no comment on the appeal.

73.05 Closed Circuit Television System

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

74.05 Methodist School Railings

The Highways Partnership has advised it is unwilling to incur further expenditure on the railings. Councillors discussed the options available, including removal. Cllr Almond felt the poor condition detracts from the appearance of the area, and the redevelopment of the former Methodist School has, to some extent, rendered the railings redundant. Cllr Parkinson felt protection for pedestrians



was required, but the maintenance of publicly owned property should be carried out by the County or Borough Council and not adopted by the Parish Council, and suggested bollards may be a better alternative.

Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded Cllr Gibbons that Lancashire County Council be requested to replace the railings with some form of alternative protection for pedestrians. The subsequent vote was 4 in favour, with 2 against and the motion was carried.

75.05 Recreation Ground

Cllr Almond reported that a recent clean up of the area had revealed the bins to be full, the bin in the children's play area appeared not to have been emptied properly for several months, the Lengthsman's bags uncollected and large amounts of glass on the ground. There is also a dead tree, an overgrown path and an area to the rear of the youth shelter where glass is regularly smashed. The Clerk is to request Chorley Borough Council collect the bags, and instruct the Lengthsman to provide plastic bags for the bins on the play area and empty and replace the plastic bags as necessary. Also the Police and Neighbourhood Wardens are to be asked to keep an eye on the area.

The Chairman suggested Councillors inspect the area, and the issue will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

76.05 Reports from Outside Bodies

The Chairman reported on the recent Chorley Borough Council Pilot Area Forum for Lostock Ward, where local organisations, together with the Police, Borough Council and neighbouring parish council's are to meet, on a quarterly basis, with a part set and a part open agenda. The idea being to obtain answers to problems and queries more quickly. Councillors who attended felt that, theoretically, the Forum should have merit but could only be judged on results.

Cllr Parkinson had suggested minutes of meetings should be distributed to neighbouring Parish Councils. Ulnes Walton Parish Council suggested a joint meeting for the exchange of information. The Clerk is to reply accepting the invitation and advising the Council considers it to be a good idea.

The Clerk provided details of the Station Adoption Group meeting on 27 September. Northern Rail's Station Manager (Lancashire), will provide a safety briefing, discuss the type of work the group may wish to carry out and answer queries.

77.05 LAPTC Subscriptions Revisions Working Group

Having studied the report Councillors felt unable to provide a constructive response as the information provided seemed unduly complicated.

78.05 Correspondence

Chorley Borough Council advised of a forthcoming Borough/Parish Council Liaison meeting. The Chairman and Cllr B Thompson will attend.

Chorley Borough Council requested comment on the Local Development Framework by 26 October 2005. The information was placed in the mailbag for consideration.

Lancashire Constabulary advised of forthcoming events - a Local Awareness Day, a Bogus Official Awareness presentation and a Police Authority Community meeting.

Local Works is seeking support for its campaign for sustainable communities. The information was placed in the mailbag and will be considered at the next meeting.



The Joint Advisory Committee provided details of a public consultation on proposed changes to draft Supplementary Planning Guidance on Landscape and Heritage. The information was placed in the mailbag.

The LAPTC AGM will take place on 5 November 2005.

The West of Lancashire Community Rail Partnership provided a Station Adoption Guidebook. The information was placed in the mailbag.

The Charity Commission Annual Return for the Village Green was received and completed.

79.05 Matters for Further Discussion

Councillors discussed the recent successes in the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition. The Chairman and Cllr Almond offered to attend the Awards Ceremony. Cllr Parkinson suggested other Councillors may wish to attend to volunteer to spread the burden. The Chairman thanked Cllr Almond for her efforts. Thanks are also to be communicated to Mr Walsh, at Lancashire County Council, and Messrs Hart, Nicholson and Walmsley at Chorley Borough Council for assisting with additional cleaning and grasscutting visits. Cllr Almond suggested British Telecom Payphones Division is also thanked for their assistance in repairing the box.

Details of a mobile Speed Indicator Device, which is available for purchase, were placed in the mailbag.

Cllr Parkinson mentioned problems caused by parked vehicles obstructing the entrance to Bramblewood. The County Council's assistance with parking restrictions has been requested by both the Borough Council and the Parish Council.

Following recent notification of the closure of the Halifax Building Society agency a letter is to be sent advising of the Parish Council's sadness in the loss of a local service and a copy sent to L Hoyle MP.

Councillors discussed provision of Library Services. It was suggested the matter could be considered at the forthcoming joint meeting with Ulnes Walton Parish Council.

Cllr Almond suggested the round concrete litter bins on Station Road, Pear Tree Road and Westhead Road are not in keeping with the village. The Clerk will request their replacement with the Borough Council.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the public meeting closed to enter into private session.

Exclusion of Press and Public

Pursuant to section 1(1) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and defined in Paragraph 13, Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 it was resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the press and public be excluded from the forthcoming item of business.

80.05 Code of Conduct and Probity

Councillors are to revisit their existing Register of Interest forms and revise them as necessary.

All deviations to items previously agreed by Council are to be referred to the Clerk.

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

