

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of meeting held 12 January 2005 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 11 members of the public.

111.04 Apologies

Proposed Cllr, seconded Cllr and agreed apologies received from Cllr and PC Plummer be accepted.

112.04 Personal/Prejudicial interests

None declared.

113.04 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 January 2005

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

114.04 Matters for Report

Pergola at the Wheatsheaf (98.04) Chorley Borough Council advises no conditions were placed on the approval to make the structure temporary.

Parish Business Plan (102.04) This matter was deferred to the February meeting which will be attended by R Hayton, from Lancashire County Council.

Developers Contributions (102.04) the Director of Finance at Chorley Borough Council advises that the Borough Council, as recipient of such funds, has to take a view on the best way of deploying them to meet the requirement of the S.106 agreement and its own policy objectives. The Clerk is to query whether monies raised in this manner must be spent in Croston.

Signage at the Mill Hotel (103.04) the Enforcement Officer at Chorley Borough Council advises enforcement is in hand and will be carried out when resources allow.

Quality Parish Council (110.04) National training Strategy (NTS) has been appointed as the new assessor. Advice on the commencement of training courses will be given shortly.

Christmas lights (110.04) The Clerk advised of the vast choice of lights available and suggested members of the Parish Council decide the type and quantity required. Cllrs Almond and Forrest will investigate.

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

115.04 Police Matters

PC Plummer reported only 1 reported crime in since the New Year. Cllr Kearton asked whether there were any problems over the New Year period. PC Plummer advised it had been quiet. Members of the public mentioned possible drug dealing around the station car park vicinity. PC Plummer will keep an eye on the area. Cllr Forrest report a seemingly abandoned car on the station car park. PC Plummer advised the owner was a local resident and had been contacted.

116.04 Residents Points of Interest



Residents requested Parish Council assistance regarding the retention of the Over 60's Club building. Cllr Parkinson suggested the Council should help in some manner, not necessarily financial. Councillors agreed the building should be retained if possible and the Parish Council will provide a letter of support if required.

Residents mentioned the lack of a pavement on Out Lane. The Chairman advised Mr Hayton from Lancashire County Council will be attending the February meeting and the matter would be discussed then.

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

117.04 Borough Councillors

Borough Cllr Iddon advised the order for litter bins is due shortly.

118.04 Finance

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

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

£ 203.70	Employee 1	Salary
£ 243.60	Employee 2	Salary
£ 68.64	Inland Revenue	Tax
£ 18.00	Croston Old School	Room hire

119.04 Precept 2004-2005

Budget figures prepared by the Chairman and Clerk were discussed at length. The Clerk attempted to explain the introduction of Special Expenses into the Borough Council's budget. The direct effect on the Parish Council is the loss of the Amenities Grant, amounting to £2377 for the current financial year, for the forthcoming year.

Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded Cllr Forrest that a portable closed circuit television system costing in the region of £1000.00 be purchased to be utilised in areas where vandalism occurred. Cllr Kearton expressed concern and a vote was called. The vote was 4 in favour, 3 against and the motion was declared carried. The Clerk is to obtain advice on the legal requirements.

Councillors also discussed the amount for grants to local organisations. Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded Cllr Almond that £2500 be budgeted. The subsequent vote was 4 in favour, 3 against and the motion was declared carried.

The Chairman advised staff salaries would be discussed in private following the closure of the public meeting.

Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded the Chairman and agreed the precept for 2005-2006 be set at £13340 representing an increase of 5%. The next newsletter is to contain an article advising residents of the implications of the introduction of Special Expenses into the Borough Council's budget.

120.04 Planning Matters

9/04/01443 Removal of condition no 19 relating to planning approval 9/00/00488 at The Stables, Croston Hall Estate, Grape Lane - the Clerk advised the condition appertained to internal floor levels which the applicant wished to lower in the light of new information regarding potential floodwater levels. No comment



9/05/0001 Listed Building Consent for internal and external restoration works at 14 Church Street - no comment

9/05/0009 Single storey extension to rear at 73 Town Road - no comment

9/05/0010 Listed Building Consent for single storey extension to rear at 73 Town Road - no comment

121.04 Parish Plan

The Plan has been distributed to all households and has received a very positive response and the next public meeting is scheduled for early February. Cllr Kearton complimented the Steering Group Committee on the quality of the Plan

122.04 Bridle Paths

Cllr Almond provided information regarding the development of bridle paths by Lancashire County and Blackburn with Darwen Councils. The Clerk is to contact the Footpaths Officer for information.

123.04 Correspondence

CBC requested contact details for Tree Wardens in the area. The clerk is to submit the names of Cllr Almond and Mrs Richardson

Chorley Borough Council advised no election has been called to fill the casual vacancy. The vacancy is to be advertised in the noticeboards with a closing date of 31 January 2005. Applicants are to be invited to a separate meeting of the Council which will be conducted in private.

Chorley Borough Council is holding a Liaison meeting with parish councils. The Chairman and Cllr Thompson will attend.

Chorley Borough Council revised its list of areas covered by Special Expenses.

Chorley Borough Council requested comment on its Spending Plans for 2005-06 by 21 February 2005. The information is to be placed in the mailbag for circulation.

Chorley Borough Council requested comment on its Urban Potential Study by 21 January 2005. The information is to be placed in the mailbag for circulation.

124.04 Matters for Further Discussion

Cllr Almond provided information regarding the fencing of the path through the Croft Field. The Clerk is to investigate the legality with the Footpaths Officer.

Cllr Forrest suggested a member of the Parish Council acts as liaison regarding the Over 60's building. Cllr Parkinson agreed and recommended Cllr Forrest for the role.

Cllr Forrest reported the station waiting room is badly littered. The matter will be discussed during the presentation by members of OPSTA and the West of Lancashire Community Rail Partnership at the next meeting.

Members of the public were excluded for the discussion of a confidential item.

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

