

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of meeting held 9 February 2005 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

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

Also Present 11 members of the public.

125.04 Apologies

Proposed Cllr Thompson, seconded Cllr Almond and agreed apologies received from Cllr Parkinson (family commitments), Borough Cllr Iddon and PC Plummer be accepted.

126.04 Personal/Prejudicial interests

None declared.

127.04 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 with the following amendment:

Cllr J Kearton be added to the list of members present.

128.04 Matters for Report

Play Area Inspection (103.04) Wicksteed Leisure have carried out the inspection, risk assessment and Disability Discrimination assessment. The report was placed in the mail bag for circulation to Councillors. Cllr Forrest mentioned the ground at the main entrance gate was worn to a hollow and waterlogged.

Developers Contributions (114.04) The Director of Finance at Chorley Borough Council advises each agreement is individually negotiated. Some contributions for affordable housing may be spent anywhere within the borough whilst others have to be spent in the specific locality.

Quality Parish Council (114.04) A training session has been arranged for Saturday 19 March at a cost of £40.00. Proposed Cllr Thompson, seconded Cllr Forrest and agreed the Clerk should attend.

Closed Circuit Television System (119.04) The Community Safety Partnership has a number of questions relating to the system. The Clerk is to liaise with Cllr Parkinson.

Bridle Paths (122.04) The Clerk has written to Lancashire County Council offering the Parish Council's assistance with the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Tree Wardens (123.04) Mrs Richardson's permission to pass on her details is required.

Croft Field footpath (124.04) The site of the footpath was identified on a map and the Clerk will contact Lancashire County Council with the exact location

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

129.04 Police Matters

Problems are occurring with youths congregating in the Station Road area. PC Plummer is holding an open meeting for residents to discuss the issue. The Clerk will an item in the noticeboard outside the Co-op confirming the date, time and venue.



PC Plummer is resurrecting the Pubwatch scheme where staff of local pubs can contact each other to warn of problems as recent crimes had included burglaries from living quarters.

130.04 Railway Station

Mr Bell, of the Ormskirk, Preston and Southport Travellers Association, and Ms Bell, of the West Lancashire Community Rail Partnership, addressed the meeting regarding the Station Adoption scheme whereby volunteers help to keep local stations tidy. Small grants may be available for volunteer groups. Adoption of the station may be of assistance in supporting the retention of the line. Many questions were asked by members of the public and Councillors and a public meeting was arranged for Monday 11 April 2005. The meeting will be publicised in the Parish Council newsletter and Ms Bell will arrange for the venue and publicity leaflets to be distributed.

131.04 Parish Business Plan

Mr Hayton, of Lancashire County Council addressed the meeting regarding the lack of progress on the Plan which has been caused by a major staffing shortage within the department. Of the areas nominated some resurfacing of Grape Lane has taken place and the remainder is on the County Engineers list of non-urgent items which will be attended to when resources permit. A traffic count had been completed on Moor Road, but Mr Hayton did not have the results to hand. Measures are available including Community Concern speed enforcement where the local residents perceive a problem. A Community Roadwatch scheme is being trialled whereby communities have access to speed guns and some Parish councils are purchasing variable interactive speed messaging signs. The pavement for Out Lane was put forward however the allocation for the whole county is only £600,000. A 20mph speed limit will be introduced on Out Lane later in the year. The problems of parking in the centre of the village will only be resolved with the provision of land for off street parking. The Police and Traffic Wardens are empowered to deal with illegal or obstructive parking.

Cllr Forrest expressed the Council's bitter disappointment with the lack of response. Mr Hayton proffered his apologies and said that Chorley and South Lancashire area has suffered a 25% loss of working days due to staff sickness. The Chairman, given this, queried whether it was worth submitting a 2005-06 plan. Mr Hayton said it was

132.04 Residents Points of Interest

There are leaves on the footpath opposite the War Memorial. The Clerk will report this.

Problems are still occurring with the Woodyard site. The Police have been called numerous times. The Clerk will query the situation with the Building Control Manager at Chorley Borough Council.

Lights on the Station car park are out. The Clerk will notify Northern Rail. Contact details for British Transport Police are to be included in the next newsletter.

133.04 Borough Councillors

Borough Cllr Iddon had provided the Annual Report detailing the activities of the Neighbourhood Wardens which was placed in the mailbag for perusal.

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

134.04 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 Forrest, seconded Cllr Almond, 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

135.04 Planning Matters

05/00043 Listed Building Consent for the erection of a single storey front extension with first floor balcony at Yarrow Cottage, Carr Lane - no comment as the application would be considered by the Borough Council's Conservation Officer.

05/00048 Replacement of windows at Bank House, 57 Town Road - no comment.

05/00051 Erection of conservatory to rear at 45 Station Road - no comment.

05/00053 Erection of a single storey front extension with first floor balcony at Yarrow Cottage, Carr Lane - no comment as the application would be considered by the Borough Council's Conservation Officer.

05/00075 Felling of two trees within Croston Conservation Area at 15 Church Street - no comment.

05/00087 Erection of conservatory to rear at 130 Moor Road - no comment.

05/00089 Single storey rear extension at 11 Coniston Way - no comment.

05/00108 Prior notification of installation of 15m high O2 mini macro micropole, 2G equipment cabinet, 3G equipment cabinet, 1m cabinet with a 2m high fence and a single access gate at Twin Lakes Industrial Estate, Brickcroft Lane - no comment as Councillors considered the location in an industrial area to be far more acceptable than in a residential area.

Amendments have been filed for application 04/01187, the conversion of Trinity and St Michaels Methodist School and the Council was reconsulted. The number of units has been reduced to five and parking spaces reduced to ten. Councillors felt the previous areas of concern had been addressed however concern was expressed that the Council had not been consulted regarding the proposed new entrance to the Recreation Ground. The new entrance should prove beneficial given the condition of the existing entrance so the Clerk is merely to mention the lack of consultation to the Planning Officer.

136.04 Parish Plan

At the next public meeting on 2 March 2005 it is hoped to select a new Steering Group. The remainder of the grant has still not been received from the Countryside Agency.

137.04 Correspondence

The Chairman read out a letter of resignation from Mr D Clough. The Clerk is to write offering the Parish Council's thanks for the past service and to wish Mr Clough well for the future.

St Michael's and All Angels PCC requested a grant to restore a collapsed grave. Councillors discussed the application but felt, given the lack of available funds, unable to grant the request. Proposed Cllr Maddran, seconded Cllr Almond and agreed the request be denied.

The Community Safety Partnership requested comment on its Community Safety Strategy by 25 February 2005. The information was placed in the mailbag for circulation.



Lancashire County Council wishes to update the Parish Portal. The Clerk is to liaise with Cllr Parkinson for the response.

Chorley Borough Council requested comment on a proposal for an Off Road Motorcycling Facility. The information was placed in the mailbag for circulation.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister advised that the Clerk is the qualified person for the Freedom of Information Act.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister provided information on Citizen Engagement and Vibrant Local Leadership. The information was placed in the mailbag for circulation.

138.04 Matters for Further Discussion

The Chairman and Cllr Thompson reported on their attendance to the Borough/Parish Council Liaison meeting. The main topics were Special Expenses and Recycling and information from the meeting was placed in the mailbag for circulation. It was felt the meeting was conducted in the form of a lecture to the Parish Council representatives.

The Chairman reported on her attendance at the LAPTIC Chorley Area Committee meeting. The Parish Council's proposal for elections called as a result of a casual vacancy to be funded by the Borough Council was put forward. The conduct of the Borough/Parish Council Liaison meeting was discussed and a letter of concern sent to the Chief Executive.

Cllr Parkinson had mentioned recent storm damage to the Gas Works site. The Clerk is to liaise with Borough Councillor Iddon for contact details.

Cllr Forrest mentioned the refurbishment of the Borough Council properties appears to have halted. The Clerk will make enquiries.

Cllr Almond pointed out the North West in Bloom judges comments regarding the lack of effort on the part of business premises on the main road. It was suggested a letter be sent advising the businesses of the entry into the competition and requesting their assistance.

The next newsletter is to be published following the Borough Council meeting to approve the budget.

A risk assessment is to be carried out at the next meeting. Councillors were provided with examples for consideration.

A revaluation of the Parish Council's assets is to be carried out at the next meeting.

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

