

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 13 December 2006 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

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

Also Present Borough Councillors D Dickinson and M Iddon.

115.06 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr J Kearton (prior engagement)

Resolved: the apologies be accepted.

116.06 Personal/Prejudicial interests

None declared.

117.06 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 November 2006

Resolved: the Minutes (as circulated) be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

118.06 Clerks Report

Evidence of completion of the Village Green Charity Commission Annual Return was provided.

The Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils is holding a Quality Parish Scheme Workshop on 15 February 2006.

Trinity and St Michaels Primary School is holding an Open Evening on 31 January 2007.

119.06 Police Matters

No matters reported.

120.06 Residents Points of Interest

No points raised.

Resolved: Standing Orders be suspended to allow Members of the public to speak.

121.06 Borough Councillors

Chorley Borough Council has swept the footpaths and gullies. The surface water drains are cleared annually by Lancashire County Council and it was suggested the optimum time should be late November or early December when the leaves have fallen. Problems with surface water drainage have also been reported on Moor Road, The Orchard and Station Road.

Councillors reported that, on several occasions, the refuse and recycling collection vehicles have not been able to access Bramblewood due to vehicles being parked at the entrance. Lancashire County Council has previously inspected the area with a view to possible parking restrictions, and an update will be sought.

Councillors mentioned that the recycling collection vehicle was blocking Out Lane at the time pupils are arriving at the schools. The Borough Councillors advised no reports of this had been received.

Groundworks are being carried out on the site of the Former Orchard on Moor Road. Planning permission for the proposed builders yard has been refused and the area will be monitored.



School Travel Plans for Trinity and St Michaels Primary and Bishop Rawsthorne Schools have been completed in conjunction and submitted.

Resolved: Standing Orders be reinstated.

122.06 Financial Matters

Resolved: the financial update and bank reconciliation be received and accepted and signed by the Chairman.

Resolved: the following payments be approved, the invoices having been inspected in accordance with fidelity guarantee requirements:

£ 301.38	Employee 1	Salary
£ 294.10	Employee 2	Salary
£ 82.94	Inland Revenue	Tax
£ 454.38	Employee 2	Reimbursements
£ 13.00	Croston Old School	Room hire
£ 65.00	KGS Landscaping and Building	Planting
£ 75.00	Croston Scout Group	Newsletter delivery

123.06 Planning Matters

Details were provided of Chorley Borough Council's cessation of use of the Windfall Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance. Concerns were raised that the Guidance has served Croston very well in the past and the Parish Council has highlighted applications in direct contravention of aspects of the Borough Council's Planning Policy. It is feared that these aspects are now being eroded in order to facilitate otherwise unacceptable development. It is also hoped that this is not an attempt by the Borough Council to pre-empt potential Central Government proposals which are yet to become policy.

Resolved: a letter be sent to the Planning Policy Manager outlining the Council's concerns.

The following applications were considered:

06/01293/FUL Rear porch at Willow Cottage, 7 Grape Lane - no comment

06/01308/FUL Proposed front porch and single storey rear extension at Willow Barn, Finney Lane - no comment

OC1065224 SI Application for a Heavy Goods Vehicle Operators' Licence for Dianne Bonney, for five vehicles and two trailers operating from Twin Lakes Industrial Estate was considered. Councillors had no objections but suggested the applicant be requested to avoid the village if possible.

124.06 Speed Indicator Device

An invitation to join with neighbouring Parish Councils for the joint purchase and operation of a device was considered. The Clerk is to clarify points raised regarding running costs and the rota of availability of the device.

125.06 Parish Precept for 2007-2008

Suggestions for the forthcoming precept were put forward including wireless connection for the closed circuit TV system, additional Christmas lighting for the trees on Highfield Road opposite the Grape Lane junction, the possible floodlighting of Town Bridge. Additional funding may be required for planting next year following the withdrawal of the existing supplier, although it was suggested sponsorship from local nurseries could be sought. The area of land between the Police Station and the Sports Club is being investigated with a view to installation of a raised garden.



The Chairman brought forward agenda items 14 and 15.

126.06 Reports from Outside Bodies

Presentations by North West in Bloom and the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition had been attended. Many useful pointers were obtained from members of the North West in Bloom Committee including the requirement for sustainability of planting with permanent shrub planting supplemented with bedding, grass verges not to be mown within 1 metre of the highway, involvement of the local community and schools.

127.06 Matters for Information

Problems with overgrown pavements outside the village centre were mentioned. Meadow Lane is particularly problematical with overgrown hedges and vegetation encroachment significantly reducing the useable width of the pavement.

Traffic diverted as a result of a recent accident which closed the A59 at Tarleton virtually gridlocked the village. A suggestion was made for the authorities to direct traffic in the village in the event of future diversions.

128.06 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved: Members of the public be excluded for the following item of business in accordance with Part 1, Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

129.06 Personnel Matters

The work of the Lengthsman is to be recognised in view of the success in the North West in Bloom Competition, particularly the high mark achieved in the Local Environment Quality Section.

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

