

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 11 April 2007 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 Cllr M Iddon, PC Plummer and 1 member of the public.

51.07 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Kearton and Borough Cllr D Dickinson.

52.07 Personal/Prejudicial Interests

Councillors Forrest, as a resident of Moor Road, declared a personal interest in item 12 on the agenda (Moor Road Traffic Issues).

Councillor Maddran, as Chairman of Croston Sports Club, declared a prejudicial interest in items forming part of agenda item 8 (Financial Matters).

53.07 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 March 2007

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

54.07 Clerks Report

Lancashire County Council advised that the request for parking restrictions outside The Grapes cannot be proceeded with at present but possibility of an edge marking on The Hillocks would be considered. The, previously agreed, request for restrictions on Bramblewood is, due to lack of resources, unable to be progressed may be looked at in the future.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow members of the public to speak.

55.07 Police Matters

The problems caused by staff and customers of a business on Moor Road appear to have improved. The area has been targeted recently and an improvement noticed. Staff appear to be parking further up Moor Road but customers are still blocking the pavement. The business is investigating provision of designated customer parking. Councillors advised residents in the area were now parking correctly and require visitors to the business to do the same. The area will continue to be monitored.

The monthly crime statistics were noted. Two arrested have been made in connection with a recent assault on Moor Road.

56.07 Residents Points of Interest

No points raised.

57.07 Borough Councillors

Overgrown hedges on Meadow Lane Bridge will be reported.

Standing Orders were restored.

58.07 Financial Matters

Councillors considered the financial updates and bank reconciliations for the current month and the year end.

Resolved: the financial updates and bank reconciliations be received and accepted and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Maddran left the meeting.

A grant application from Croston Sports Club for the cost of installation of a decorative raised planter on Westhead Road costing approximately £350 was considered.

Resolved: a grant of £100 towards the project be awarded.

A grant application from Croston Cricket Club for equipment for the junior teams costing £400 was considered.

Resolved: a grant of £400 be awarded.

Councillor Maddran rejoined the meeting.

Councillors considered requests for payment to the Council.

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	Income tax
£ 14.00	Croston Old School	Room hire
£1175.00	St Micheals PCC	Grant
£ 5.29	E-On Energy	Electricity - Christmas lights
£ 362.35	LAPTC	Annual subscription
£ 75.00	Croston Sports Club	Newsletter delivery
£ 174.00	R Sutton	Grasscutting
£ 58.57	Chorley Borough Council	Lengthsmans supplies
£ 143.00	Minuteman Press	Newsletter printing
£ 17.62	Employee 1	Reimbursements

59.07 Planning Matters

The following applications were considered:

07/00209/TPO Felling of two sycamores covered by TPO3 (Croston) 1993 within Croston Conservation Area at 7 Back Drinkhouse Lane

07/00210/FUL Proposed first floor rear extension at 92 Station Road

07/00336/FUL Demolition of existing house and erection of new dwelling and associated works at 16 Cock Robin Cottages, Highfield Road

07/00338/FUL Erection of single storey rear extension and loft conversion at Beech House, Highfield Road

07/00351/FUL Two storey side extension and extension to existing garage at 60 Moor Road

07/00353/FUL Erection of replacement detached garage at 11 Drinkhouse Road

07/00379/FUL Demolish existing outrigger and erect a single storey rear extension at 28 Town Road

Resolved: no comments be lodged.

07/00370/FULMAJ Erection of 17 houses with associated car parking and landscaping at Land Adjacent 32 Moor Road.

Resolved: an objection be lodged on the following grounds:

1. the application fails to demonstrate compliance with any of the requirements under Policy GN4 of the Chorley Local Plan.
2. the application fails to satisfy a single requirement under Policy HS8 of the Chorley Local Plan.
3. the application represents a windfall development.

4. the use of this land for housing will contribute to an inappropriate excess of housing stock contrary to Chorley Borough Council's Local Plan Review and the Joint Lancashire Structure Plan.

5. the proposed development will have a detrimental impact on the visual amenity of this particular part of the village as the surrounding properties are 2 storey buildings - Croston, as a village, has no tradition of what are, in effect, 3 storey properties.

6. the proposed access is in immediate proximity to a mini roundabout providing access to a large housing estate which, in turn, is in close proximity to another mini roundabout providing access to Station Road and the village of Bretherton. This area is already notorious, locally as being a problem area, traffic-wise, and an additional access will undoubtedly exacerbate the problems. Lancashire County Council expressed concerns regarding aspects of highway safety in its response to a previous application for the same site. The Parish Council would also request that any traffic survey included for consideration should be conducted at peak times.

7. One of the criteria of the village primary school's admission policy has led to children living closest to the school being given preference for school places. This could mean that children moving into this development could be given priority over other children already residing within the village. Croston has suffered acute shortages of primary school places in recent years leading to the transportation of children to other schools outside the village.

60.07 Recreation Ground/Village Green

The Working Group provided the following recommendations:

Replacement of the Village Green noticeboard, re-arrangement of the adjacent seating and the creation of a floral display. Following this work, and subject to availability of funds, a border is to be created to the rear of the Green and the seating repositioned.

Clearance of grass and weeds from the play area and the footpath and the cutting of the hedge at the top of the field.

Resolved: the recommendations of the Working Group be ratified and estimates be obtained for the works.

61.07 Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Additional time is required for the Working Group to carry out research of existing and alternative orders and regulations.

62.07 Moor Road Traffic Issues

The matter was felt to have been adequately covered under Police Matters.

63.07 Annual Audit

As the National Savings passbook had not been returned following submission for updating the matter was deferred to the next meeting.

64.07 Newsletter Advertisements

The current pricing structure for adverts was discussed. Possible amendments, including a discount for regular advertisers were considered.

Resolved: the current structure of £30 per half column and £15 per quarter column be retained.

65.07 Reports from Outside Bodies

The Lancashire Local - Chorley approved the Out Lane Traffic Calming Scheme.

The Central Lancashire City - Core Strategy Issues and Options Forum considered the formulation of a general policy for Preston, South Ribble and Chorley, with particular reference to rural areas.

Croston Rural Action Group had commissioned a report from a planning consultant regarding the proposed Rectory Farm development. The report is available for inspection.

Concerns were expressed at the lack of tangible Police presence at the recent Chorley Borough Council West Area Forum.

66.07 Matters for Information

No matters raised.

67.07 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 9 May 2007.

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