

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 9 January 2008 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

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

Also Present Borough Councillors D Dickinson and M Iddon and PCSO Featherstone.

01.08 Apologies for absence

None received.

02.08 Personal/Prejudicial Interests

None declared.

03.07 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 December 2007

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

04.08 Public Participation

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

i) Police Report

The monthly crime report was noted. Residents have expressed concerns regarding youth nuisance. Councillors were invited to accompany the Police Officers on patrol, and also to go out in Chorley Council's CCTV Van.

ii) Borough Councillors

The West Area Community Forum has been suspended whilst Chorley Council examines options for neighbourhood working in general. A bin for cardboard recycling is still awaited for the Recycling Centre.

iii) Residents Points of Interest

A resident of Church Street advised of problems exiting Church Street onto Town Road as the line of sight is often obstructed by parked vehicles. The information has been passed onto the Police.

Resolved: Standing Orders be restored.

05.08 Financial Matters

Councillors considered the financial update and bank reconciliation.

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

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:

£ 310.96	Employee 1	Salary
£ 301.54	Employee 2	Salary
£ 84.82	HM Revenue & Customs	Tax
£ 14.00	Croston Old School	Room hire
£ 437.10	Environplas	Litter bins
£ 681.50	I M Brown	Installation of litter bins and bollards
£ 10.95	Chorley Community Housing	Graffiti remover
£ 75.00	Croston Sports Club	Newsletter delivery

06.08 Planning Matters

The following applications were considered:

07/01407/FUL Demolition of existing rear conservatory and replacement with a new conservatory at Sherwood House, Ridley Lane.

07/01416/FUL First floor rear extension at 101 Station Road.

07/01417/FUL Proposed first floor extension to side and rear, front porch and a detached garage to the rear at 99 Station Road.

Resolved: no comments be lodged.

07.08 Parish Precept for the Year Ending 31 March 2009

Councillors considered the Precept for the forthcoming financial year. Funding is to be provided for an additional noticeboard, deployment of the Speed Indicator Device which is shared with Heskin and Bretherton Parish Councils and the publishing of an up-to-date business directory. Additional funds are to be provided for the Recreation Ground and Village Green projects.

Resolved: the Precept be set at £21890, representing an increase of 4.8% in the cost of the Parish Council portion of council tax to residents.

08.08 Castle Bridge

Councillors considered a proposal to take up the replacement of the existing fencing on the approaches to the bridge with Victorian type railings to match the bridge. Grant funding may be available to assist with the works.

Resolved: the Clerk is to contact the Bridge Inspector at Lancashire County Council regarding the possibility of grant funding.

09.08 Syd Brook Lane

Councillors considered a request to apply to reduce the speed limit on Syd Brook Lane to 40mph. Lancashire County Council advised there have been seven reported accidents, on the lane, in the past five years. Some Councillors felt that the road was dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists and, in view of the number of accidents, a reduction in the speed limit was required. Overgrown hedges mean the verge may not be used as a refuge for pedestrians along most of the lane. Others felt the problems were more to do with the lack of visibility of pedestrians and cyclists and that. It was also felt that a reduced speed limit on a minor road would not be enforced and that efforts to improve traffic problems should be concentrated on the village itself. A campaign to encourage pedestrians and cyclists to wear high visibility clothing or light coloured clothing was suggested

It was proposed the Council should apply for a reduction in the speed limit to 40mph. The proposal was defeated.

A second proposal to attempt to set up an awareness scheme for cyclists, pedestrians and drivers was considered.

Resolved: the setting up of an awareness scheme is to be instigated.

10.08 Reports from Outside Bodies

Councillors attending the Chorley Council Planning Issues training advised copies of the Parish Plan were required by Chorley Council. A small focus group, involving Parish Councillors, is to be set up to consider planning issues.

11.08 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 13 February 2008.

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