

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 11 November 2009 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

Present Cllrs A Peet (Chairman), K Almond, R Baker, J Forrest, C Gibbons, S Mosalski, S Parkinson.

Also Present 2 members of the Public.

120.09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors J Kearton and B Thompson and Borough Councillor D Dickinson.

121.09 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

Councillors Almond and Forrest, as Trustees of Croston Community Centre, declared prejudicial interests in items forming part of Agenda Item 5 (Financial Matters).

122.09 Councillor Vacancy

Councillors considered an application for co-option from Mr Robert Baker.

Resolved: Robert Baker be co-opted.

123.09 Minutes of Meeting held 14 October 2009

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

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

109.09 Public Participation

i) Police Report

No report.

ii) Borough Councillors

No report.

iii) Residents Points of Interest

A resident queried the venue for Parish Council meetings, why they were not held in local pubs, and why meetings were not advertised. Councillors advised a building was required which was fully accessible, that the Council may not meet on licensed premises and that agendas are always displayed in the Council's noticeboards. The resident stated he regularly collects litter on Grape Lane, particularly in the vicinity of the entrance to the Hall. Councillors advised the Lengthsman concentrates on the major routes through the village and is paid for a limited number of hours, so the extremities of the village are visited less frequently. The Hall entrance is private land which Council employees are not permitted to enter, as they would be trespassing. The resident also mentioned an issue with dog fouling on Grape Lane. Councillors advised there were several areas of the village which suffered more. The resident advised of carved log figures which were being placed on the Croft Field and suggested the Council should contribute. Councillors advised of the procedure for grant requests.

A representative of Croston United Charities advised of difficulties in accessing fields, which are in need of maintenance work, in the vicinity of The Orchard and Little Lane. Land ownership at the entrance area is unclear and the Parish Council's assistance was requested. A map, clearly identifying the area in question, is to be sent to the Clerk. The Council was also asked to assist with problems relating to the Jubilee Almshouses, which are at risk of being struck by vehicles travelling over Fishery Bridge.

Resolved: Standing orders be restored.

124.09 Financial Matters

Councillors considered the financial update and bank reconciliation.

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

Councillors considered a grant request from North West Air Ambulance towards operational expenses.

Resolved: a grant of £100 be awarded.

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

£ 326.73	Employee 1	Salary
£ 320.76	Employee 2	Salary
£ 80.20	HM Revenue & Customs	Tax
£ 272.96	Employee 2	Reimbursements
£ 15.00	Croston Old School	Room hire
£ 500.00	Croston Community Centre	Grant
£ 116.40	B Coulton	Winter planting

125.09 Planning Matters

The following applications were considered:

09/00775/TPO Works to Laurel tree at 1 Hall Cottages, Grape Lane.

09/00815/LBC Erection of new 900mm high perimeter wall and metal railings at Land at 5 - 7 Back Drinkhouse Lane.

09/00856/CTY Creation/extension to school based adventure trail incorporating 6 agility play pieces at Trinity and St Michaels Church Aided Primary School, Out Lane.

Councillors had no comments regarding the applications.

126.09 Noticeboard

Councillors considered the purchase of a notice board to be located in the vicinity of the Surgery on Pear Tree Road, at a cost of £400, subject to the approval of the siting by the Surgery.

Resolved: a noticeboard be purchased at a cost of £400, subject to approval of the siting.

127.09 Policies and Protocols

The adoption of policies for health and safety, equal opportunities and publicity were considered.

Resolved: the Health and Safety, Equal Opportunities and Publicity policies be adopted.

128.09 North West in Bloom

A report was provided by Councillors who had attended the Awards Ceremony. The village was placed a very creditable Joint Runner Up, along with Wrea Green, in the Large Village category, behind Woolton, winners of the national award in last year's competition. The village also received the Tidy Britain 'Clean Sweep' Award, presented to the cleanest area in the competition. In the Neighbourhood Awards Church Street was awarded an 'Outstanding' Certificate, 14 - 24 The Orchard received a Certificate of Merit and Trinity and St Michaels Primary School received an Environmental Award Certificate for Schools for work in raising awareness of environmental issues.

Councillors commended residents and members of the Croston in Bloom and Croston Residents Environmental Workforce groups for their efforts.

The awards and certificates will be displayed in the window of 'Favourites', on Town Road for a time.

129.09 Reports from Outside Bodies (for information only)

Chorley Council's Parish Clerks meeting received details from Neighbourhood Officers regarding their work in fly tipping removal, dog fouling and litter enforcement and stray animal collection. The lack of availability of land for allotment purposes was also discussed.

130.09 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Councillors considered the exclusion of members of the press and public for an item of business, in accordance with Part 1(section 1) of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Resolved: members of the public be excluded for the consideration of the following item.

131.09 Personnel Matters

Councillors considered a means of recognition for the efforts of the Village Lengthsman following the village's receipt of The Tidy Britain 'Clean Sweep' Award, awarded to the cleanest area in the North West in Bloom Competition 2009.

Resolved: the efforts of the Village Lengthsman be recognised.

132.09 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 9 December 2009.

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

..... (Chairman)