

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 21 September 2010 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

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

Also present Borough Councillor D Dickinson and 5 Members of the Public

99.10 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from County Councillor K Iddon.

100.10 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

Cllr Forrest declared a personal interest in an item forming part of agenda item 6 (Planning Matters).

101.10 Minutes of Meeting held 20 July 2010

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

102.10 Public Participation

i) Residents Points of Interest

A resident advised of problems with sewage emitting from manhole covers on Grape Lane during recent heavy rain. Another resident offered information in support of the concerns. The residents were reminded of the forthcoming Community Flood Plan meeting.

A resident provided observations on the planning application for the proposed development of the Land Adjacent 42 Moor Road.

A member of Croston Village Festivities Group expressed disapproval that the application for grant funding had been declined and queried the reasons. The manner of communication of the decision was also mentioned. The Clerk apologized for the lack of communication, which was as a result of a misunderstanding. Councillors explained the request was felt to be for running costs, which the Council has, traditionally, declined to fund.

A resident mentioned a tree on the verge opposite the War Memorial which had been thinned in recent years and has now increased in height.

ii) Borough and County Councillors

No reports.

iii) Police Report

No report.

103.10 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 Vitalise towards the cost of respite breaks for disabled people. There was no proposer for the request.

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	PAYE

£ 277.30	S J Wignall	Japanese Knotweed treatment
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£ 31.62	Lancashire County Council	Disabled car park sign
£ 395.00	Minuteman Press	Newsletter printing
£ 376.00	Ark Welding	Car park bollard extensions
£ 15.00	Croston Old School	Room hire
£ 100.00	Croston Scout Group	Replacement cheque
£ 100.00	Croston Scout Group	Newsletter delivery
£ 80.00	Croston Women's Institute	Grant
£ 360.98	Employee 2	Reimbursements
£ 334.88	BDO LLP	Annual audit fee
£ 395.00	DWG	Strimming of Recreation Ground
£ 10.00	OPSTA	Annual subscription
£ 400.00	A Powell	Grasscutting

104.10 Planning Matters

Councillors considered a Chorley Council consultation regarding a Proposed Interim Policy for Private Residential Garden Development, to help resist garden development in the Borough.

Resolved: the Council's support for the proposal be submitted.

10/00609/LBC Replacement of window frames at 38A Drinkhouse Road.

10/00643/FUL Conversion of former mill building to 4 bedroom residence and 1 bedroom annex at 5 Station Road.

10/00732/AGR Application for agricultural prior notification for the erection of an agricultural building for the storage of hay and straw at Littlewood Hall Farm Ridley Lane.

10/00766/FUL Erection of detached garage with first floor accommodation above at 73 Town Road.

Councillors had no comments in respect of these applications.

10/00659/FULMAJ Erection of 24 two-storey affordable houses (including new access from Moor Road) at Land Adjacent 32 Moor Road Croston

Resolved: the Council's objection, on the following grounds be lodged:

Highway safety - the proposed access is in the immediate vicinity of a small system of mini roundabouts which are already the scene of a number of incidents and near misses.

Need - evidence demonstrating a recognised local need is not demonstrated. Chorley Council has yet to complete a Rural Housing Needs Study which may clarify this.

Impact on local infrastructure - primary school places are currently at a premium. The type of housing proposed will add to an increase in the demand for child places. Additionally, there is an existing permission in place for a development on the site of the Former Woodyard, Station Road which will further exacerbate these problems. The village currently suffers badly from flooding and sewer problems and this development will add to the amount of surface water discharged and sewage and wastewater to be disposed of.

105.10 Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2010

The report of the External Auditor was presented.

Resolved: the Annual Return be accepted and approved.

106.10 Village Green Usage Agreement

Councillors will consider the nature of any licence/agreement etc for permission to use the

Village Green. The Council's insurers had advised applicants should hold public liability insurance cover to the sum of £5m.

Resolved: any permissions granted will be subject to proof that applicants hold Public Liability insurance cover for the event in the sum of £5m and agree to make good any damage to The Green and its fixtures and fittings.

107.10 Flowers/Planting

Councillors considered the use an outside contractor to supply and plant the winter planting.

Resolved: an outside contractor be instructed to provide the winter planting.

108.10 Recreation Ground

An application for funding to Chorley Council's Play and Recreation Fund towards improvements to the Play Area was unsuccessful. The Clerk is to meet with Officers from Chorley Council who have offered to assist with preparing for the next bidding process.

109.10 Newsletter

Councillors reviewed delivery arrangements for the newsletter. Croston Scouts currently deliver however problems occur with certain issues of the newsletter due to school holidays and dark nights.

Resolved: the Scouts be asked to provide a delivery schedule. The December newsletter is to be distributed the last weekend in November and future issues will carry a closing date for receipt of copy.

110.10 Lancashire County Council Winter Service

Councillors considered a suggestion to become involved in a pilot scheme to assist with winter gritting of areas in the vicinity of community facilities not covered by Lancashire County Council. Councillors were of the opinion the Parish Council did not have the resources for this work.

111.10 Reports from Outside Bodies (for information only)

No reports.

112.10 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 19 October 2010.

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

..... (Chairman)