

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 13 January 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.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Council observed one minutes silence in memory of John Kearton.

01.10 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors S Mosalski and B Thompson.

02.10 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

Councillors Almond and Forrest, as Members of Croston Community Centre Committee, and Cllr Almond, as a relative of the owner of a property on Westhead Road, declared personal interests in items forming part of Agenda Item 5 (Financial Matters).

03.10 Minutes of Meeting held 9 December 2009

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

04.10 Public Participation

i) Police Report

No report.

ii) Borough Councillors

No report.

iii) Residents Points of Interest

A number of complaints had been received from residents regarding the condition of the side roads, leading to the Doctor's Surgeries, during the recent cold weather which are not on Lancashire County Council's Precautionary Gritting Schedule.

05.10 Financial Matters

Councillors considered the financial update and bank reconciliation.

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

Councillors Almond and Forrest left the meeting.

Councillors considered a grant request from Croston Community Centre towards the cost of refurbishment of the kitchen area. It was mentioned that a grant of £500 had been awarded, in October 2009, towards the refurbishment of the toilets. Councillors felt that, as the building is used by a number of local community groups, further assistance should be provided.

Resolved: a grant of £1000 be awarded.

Councillors Almond and Forrest rejoined the meeting.

A request for a contribution towards the costs of installation of a security gate for the passageway between no's 38 - 40 Westhead Road was considered. Councillors expressed concerns regarding the obstruction of a right of way for the adjoining properties and using public funds for, what was considered to be, a private issue. There was no proposer for the application.

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
£ 18.75	Croston Old School	Room hire
£ 75.00	Croston Scout Group	Newsletter delivery
£ 450.00	C Barbour	Grasscutting

06.10 Planning Matters

No matters for consideration.

07.10 2010 - 2011 Precept

Prior to the setting of the Precept the existing subscriptions to the Lancashire Association of Local Councils, Ormskirk, Preston and Southport Travellers Association and the Campaign for the protection of Rural England and entries to Lancashire Best Kept Village and North West in Bloom competitions were reviewed.

Resolved: the existing subscriptions and competition entries be continued.

Councillors considered the Precept for the forthcoming financial year.

A further £3000 is to be provided for the Recreation Ground Project. The newsletter budget is to be increased to cover an additional page, which will be printed in full colour, in each edition.

Resolved: the Precept for 2010 - 2011 be set at £21740, a reduction of £130 on last year's Precept figure.

08.10 Streetscene Delegated Services Protocol

A consultation document whereby the Parish Council may bid to provide services which are currently the responsibility of Lancashire County Council was considered. The Parish Council is expected to identify the services and develop a business case which would require the obtaining of quotations or tenders, completion of risk assessments and identification of Health and Safety procedures and the cost of the service to Lancashire County Council. It was felt that, as information regarding costings and procedures is already available to the County Council, the procedure should be amended whereby the Parish Council is provided with this information upon completion of an expression of interest.

09.10 Joint Lancashire Mineral and Waste Development Framework

Councillors considered a consultation document regarding possible minerals and waste site allocations and development management policies. Nothing was found in the document directly affecting the village and the details of the document were noted.

10.10 Reports from Outside Bodies (for information only)

No reports.

11.10 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 10 February 2010.

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

..... (Chairman)