

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Meeting held 11 May 2011 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

Present Cllrs A Peet (Chairman), K Almond, P Fenemore, S Parkinson, G Stubbs.

Also present Borough Councillor D Dickinson and 1 Member of the Public.

53.11 Election of Chairman for 2011 - 2012

Resolved: Cllr Peet be re-elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

Cllr Peet signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Resolved: The Declaration of Acceptance of Office be received.

54.10 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors J Forrest and K Iddon.

55.10 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

None declared.

56.10 Election of Vice Chairman for 2010 - 2011

Resolved: Cllr Parkinson be elected as Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year.

57.10 Appointment of Planning Committee

Resolved: the following be appointed:

The Chairman and Councillors Almond, Forrest and Parkinson.

58.10 Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies

Resolved: the following be appointed:

Lancashire Association of Local Councils Chorley Area Committee - Cllr Peet.

Tree Warden - Cllr Almond.

Appointments to Croston United Charities and Peter Lathom's Charity are to be made as and when vacancies arise.

59.11 Minutes of Meeting held 13 April 2011

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

60.11 Public Participation

Resolved: Standing Orders be suspended to allow Members of the Public to speak.

A group of young residents had contacted the Chairman with regard to the provision of skate park equipment in the village similar to the equipment at Mawdesley and Eccleston. The young residents had provided a petition containing over 100 names. Councillors suggested this could be looked in conjunction with the Recreation Ground improvements, once funding becomes available.

Damage to the base of the Cross on Church Street was reported. Both Lancashire County Council and Chorley Borough Council deny any responsibility for the Cross and it was suggested the Parish Council might take on the responsibility.

Representatives from United Utilities are to provide information regarding improvements to the Croston Waste Water Treatment Works, in advance of a planning application, immediately prior to the next parish council meeting.

Resolved: Standing Orders be restored.

61.11 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 application from the former Croston Bank Estate Neighbourhood Watch Group for the purchase of a winter grit bin and grit. Councillors mentioned that, as the application is linked to a specific neighbourhood, residents who will directly benefit should also contribute with the Council providing a contribution towards the purchase.

Resolved: a grant of £200 be awarded.

Councillors considered a grant application from the Croston Community Links for a contribution towards the purchase of an electric pump to increase the ability to control surface water flooding from Spent Brook.

Resolved: a grant of £300 be awarded, subject to Croston Community Links arranging any planning permissions required for the housing for the pump.

Councillors considered a grant application from Lancashire Constabulary towards the purchase of high visibility armbands for young cyclists. Councillors discussed whether responsibility for items of this nature should lie with parents and that educating young cyclists may be preferable.

Resolved: a grant of £95.68 be awarded.

Councillors considered an offer to reduce insurance premium costs, and provide an extension of the first year's insurance by four months at no extra cost, in return for the signing of a 3 year long term agreement which will end in October 2014.

Resolved: the Council enters into the long term agreement.

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

£ 350.39	Employee 1	Salary
£ 325.76	Employee 2	Salary
£ 75.20	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE
£ 20.00	Croston Old School	Room hire
£ 60.00	J R Lawson	Internal audit fee
£ 283.20	Wignalls Landscapes	Japanese Knotweed treatment
£ 1077.67	Broker Network	Annual insurance premium

62.11 Planning Matters

No matters for consideration.

63.11 Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2011

Councillors received the report of the Internal Auditor.

Resolved: the report be noted.

64.11 Residential Car Parking Provision

A Chorley Council consultation regarding the number of parking spaces to be provided with new residential developments was considered.

Resolved: a suggestion for a minimum of 1 parking space per bedroom be submitted.

65.11 Lancashire County Council Community Transport Review

Councillors considered a Lancashire County Council review of Community Transport, being carried out as a result of a significant financial shortfall with the national concessionary fares scheme following the takeover of the scheme from district councils. Councillors mentioned that the continuing erosion of rural services has resulted in elderly and vulnerable residents being disadvantaged. The Dial a Ride service is heavily used in rural areas and some form of community transport is a necessity.

Resolved: a response be submitted mentioning that the continuing erosion of rural services has resulted in elderly and vulnerable residents being disadvantaged and some form of community transport is a necessity.

66.11 Village Green

Cllr Stubbs, as a member of Trinity and St Michaels Parent Teachers Association, declared a personal interest in this item.

A request to use the Village Green, the Trinity and St Michaels PTA, for the Stone the Crows Event, on Thursday 23 June 2011 was considered.

Resolved: permission be granted subject to applicants holding the requisite Public Liability insurance cover and agreeing to make good any damage to The Green and its fixtures and fittings.

67.11 Reports from Outside Bodies (for information only)

No reports.

68.11 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 8 June 2011.

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

..... (Chairman)