

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 10 October 2012 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

Present Councillors A Peet (Chairman), P Fenemore, K Iddon G Stubbs, B Paillusson and S Parkinson.

Also present Borough Councillor D Dickinson and 3 Members of the Public.

110.12 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors K Almond and R Baker.

111.12 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

Cllr Parkinson, as a Trustee of Croston Old School, declared a personal interest in an item forming part of Agenda Item 6 (Financial Matters).

112.12 Minutes of Meeting held 12 September 2012

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

113.12 Councillor Vacancy

Applications for co-option from Miss Eva Norris and Mr Brian Johnson were considered.

Resolved: Eva Norris be co-opted.

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

114.12 Public Participation

A query was raised regarding whether United Utilities had released water from reservoirs contributing to the recent flooding and whether the flap valves to the river were operating. The Friends of the River Yarrow had been advised water had been released for maintenance purposes, but not at that particular time. Lancashire County Council had previously offered to inspect the flap valves.

An overgrown hedge is obstructing the Little Lane public footpath and the path is collapsing. Other overgrown areas were reported including Moor Road and by the Highfield.

Village Festivities Group Members provided an update on the Christmas Lights Switch On.

Bretherton Parish Council had advised of a letter sent to Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy regarding the effects of the proposed admissions policy for 2014.

The long standing redirection of the public footpath from Station Bridge should be resolved shortly subject to approval by Chorley Council.

Croston-Azay Twinning Association had asked whether the Council wished to become more involved with the Association and whether the Council would assist in publicity. Members of the Association are to submit items for the newsletter.

Lancashire County Council has agreed to resurface Riverside Crescent.

Resolved: Standing Orders be restored.

115.12 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 Croston Village Festivities Group towards the costs of hiring Charnock Richard Brass Band for the Christmas Lights Switch On.

Resolved: a grant of £150 be awarded.

Councillors considered a grant application from Croston Old School towards the reimbursement of costs of repairs to the community pump and fuel supplied for the pump during the recent flooding.

Resolved: a grant of £175 be awarded.

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

£ 350.39	Employee 1	Salary
£ 368.66	Employee 2	Salary
£ 72.40	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE
£ 17.00	Croston Old School	Room hire
£ 849.60	Wignalls Landscapes	Japanese knotweed treatment
£ 170.05	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance	Grass cutting
£ 27.90	Euxton Parish Council	Refuse sacks
£ 120.00	DWG (NW)	Summer planting maintenance
£ 100.00	Croston Scout Group	Newsletter delivery
£ 409.00	Minuteman Press	Newsletter printing

116.12 Planning Matters

12/00942/FUL and 12/00943/CON To demolish the existing dwelling (127a) and other out buildings situated on the site and construct a replacement dwelling fronting Station Road and also four further dwellings to form a small residential street on the rest of the application site, with associated access road, driveways, private gardens and communal landscaping at 127A Station Road.

Resolved: the request, relating to the original application, for conditions to be applied to ensure the Work Pods (offices) annexed to each property remain as such be reiterated along with requests that all roofs should be pitched to match the roofs of the main body of the dwellings and the Work Pods and feature walls to be finished in matching brick.

12/0852/FUL Removal of existing building and erection of two hay and straw storage buildings at Littlewood Hall Farm, Ridley Lane.

Councillors had no comment in respect of this application.

117.12 Internal Audit

The annual review of the effectiveness of the internal audit was carried out. Councillors agreed, despite there no longer being a requirement to separately complete this review, that it should be undertaken. The appointment of an Internal Auditor was deferred pending further information.

Resolved: the current system of internal audit was found to be adequate.

118.12 Remembrance Sunday

Lancashire Constabulary is unable to police the road closures at the traditional time. Councillors discussed several alternatives including the Parade going through Croston Park to assemble across the road from the War Memorial, members of the Council to close the road or amending the time of the Parade to suit Police availability.

Resolved: subject to the agreement of the Church, the Parade will leave The Old School at 1:00pm, with Lancashire Constabulary policing the road closures.

Councillors considered the amount of the donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Resolved: a donation of £100 is to be made.

119.12 Village Green

A request from Croston Village Festivities Group to use the Village Green and car park on Sunday 9 December 2012, for the Christmas Festivities, was considered.

Resolved: permission be granted subject to the applicant holding Public Liability insurance cover for the event and that, in order to protect local businesses, no commercial food vendors (burger vans, hot dog stands, ice cream vans etc) are allowed to use the car park.

120.12 Flooding Issues

Following the recent flooding, residents of Church Street had expressed gratitude for the assistance provided by the Fire Service and Chorley Council.

The Making Spaces for Water Meeting was cancelled. Issues had arisen with sandbags during the latest flooding as residents had been removing sandbags placed to protect properties or their own use. A more suitable location is required to store the sandbags. The Study Group is looking to establish a statutory body with charitable status to apply for grant funding.

A further public meeting, to expand on parts of the Community Flood Plan attributable to directly affected residents, is to be arranged to harness the community spirit demonstrated during the recent flooding.

Enquiries are to be made regarding responsibility for the pump stored at The Old School.

121.12 Reports from Outside Bodies (for information only)

No reports.

122.12 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Councillors considered the exclusion of members of the press and public for an item of business,

Resolved: in accordance with Section 1 (3) of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. members of the public be excluded for the consideration of the following item.

123.12 Personnel Matters

Councillors considered a revision to the hourly rate of pay.

Resolved: the hourly rate of pay for the Village Lengthsman be revised.

109.12 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 14 November 2012.

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