

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 8 January 2013 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

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

01.13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor R Baker and Borough Councillor D Dickinson.

02.13 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

Councillors Almond, Fenemore, Norris, Paillusson, Parkinson, Peet and Stubbs, as council tax payers resident within the parish, declared pecuniary interests in Agenda Item 7 (Precept 2013-14).

Councillors considered the granting of dispensations to all Members, in accordance with Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011, relieving them of restrictions contained within Section 31 of the Act referring to pecuniary interests to enable the setting of the precept for the parish of Croston. All Councillors submitted a written request for a dispensation, until the end of the current terms of office, to the Clerk.

Resolved: dispensations were granted to Councillors, with a pecuniary interest, enabling participation in the setting of the precept until the end of their current terms of office.

03.13 Minutes of Meeting held 12 December 2012

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

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

04.13 Public Participation

Croston Village Festivities Group thanked the Council for its support for the Christmas lights switch on and Christmas Market. It is hoped to repeat the events this year.

The Flood Action Group thanked Chorley Council's Head of Environment and Neighbourhoods for his assistance. Information was provided on recent gritting activity. Little Lane was gritted this time but the path by the garages on Pear Tree Road and one side of approach to the bridge on Castle Walks were not.

Resolved: Standing Orders were restored.

05.13 Financial Matters

Councillors considered the financial update and bank reconciliation.

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

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

£ 360.53	Employee 1	Salary
£ 368.66	Employee 2	Salary
£ 72.40	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE
£ 17.00	Croston Old School	Room hire
£ 100.00	Croston Scout Group	Newsletter delivery

06.13 Planning Matters

The following applications were considered:

12/01234/FUL Change of roof covering from stone slate to grey slate at 17 The Hillocks.

Councillors had no comments in respect of this application.

07.13 2013-2014 Precept

Councillors considered the Precept for the forthcoming financial year. The Council Tax Base, has been reduced by almost 7% as a direct result of the impact of the localised council tax benefit support scheme which will be partially offset by a grant from Chorley Council. Councillors approved an additional budget of £2000 for flood related issues.

Resolved: the Precept for 2013 - 2014 was set at £20071, a reduction of £936 over the previous year however, due to the reduction in the Council Tax Base this will result in a increase of 2.5% in the cost of the Parish Council portion of council tax to residents.

08.13 Cross on Church Street

The alternative suggested cast iron bollard, suggested by a local foundry, designed to protect the base of the Cross from vehicular was not acceptable to the Conservation Officer.

Resolved: the base of the Cross is to be repaired.

09.13 Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Proposed 2014 Admissions Policy

Councillors discussed the proposed admissions policy. Councillors expressed concerns that the policy may lead to residents of Croston, one of the five Foundation Parishes, being disadvantaged by applicants from outside the area. Councillors also believed that the favouring of applicant demonstrating a faith commitment to be discriminatory.

Resolved: the Governors, and the Diocesan Board of Education, are to be notified of the Council's concerns that the proposed policy may lead to residents of Croston being disadvantaged by applicants from outside the area and that the requirement of a faith commitment from the parents as an admission criteria is discriminatory.

10.13 Reports from Outside Bodies (for information only)

The Flood Action Group attended the Making Spaces for Water Group meeting. Several schemes put forward by the Flood Action group are being considered by the Environment Agency. The Group is to be established formally at a committee meeting to be held in the near future.

11.13 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 13 February 2013.

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

Budget 1 April 2013 - 31 March 2014

	Salaries	10400
	General Administration	400
	Lengthsman Expenses	150
	Room Hire	250
	Insurance	1300
	Newsletter	1500
	Subscriptions/entry fees	500
	Training	200
	Flowers/Planting	1350
	Recreation Ground	3000
	Grounds Maintenance	2000
	Street furniture	700
	Environmental	100
	Flood	2000
	Repairs and Replacements	1000
	Christmas Expenses	500
	Audit Fees	300
	Grants	1500
	SID Deployment	500
	Sundries	725
	Earmarked Reserves	23108
		<u>51483</u>
		<u><u>51483</u></u>
	Estimated Balance as at 09.01.13	32000
Add:	Anticipated income to 31.03.13	1727
		<u>33727</u>
Less:	Anticipated requirements to 31.03.13	3755
	Balance forward	29972
Add:	Proposed precept	20071
Add:	Chorley Council top up grant	1440
		<u>51483</u>
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