

## **CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Remote Meeting held on 13 January 2021 at 7.30 pm.

Present Councillors A Peet (Chairman), K Almond, R Baker, P Fenemore, K Iddon, S Myers, and B Paillusson.

Also present Borough Councillor P Sloan.

### 01.21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr G Stubbs.

### 02.21 Declarations of Interest

None declared.

### 03.21 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 December 2020

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

Resolved: Standing Orders were suspended.

### 04.21 Public Participation

Problems on public rights of way Footpath 1, involving a possible break in the sewer pipe, and Footpath 6, involving water pumped from the United Utilities site off Moor Road washing away the surface of the path, had been reported. The Clerk had notified Lancashire County Council of both problems. United Utilities were in contact with their contractor regarding Footpath 6.

Pedestrians had experienced problems with ice on the approach to Castle Bridge in the cold weather and had requested a handrail. This had been requested from Lancashire County Council.

It was mentioned the agenda for this meeting was not on the website. The Clerk advised the meeting had been advertised in the notice boards.

It was reported Croston Station Bridge, Fishery Bridge and Croston Mill Bridge have been granted Grade II listing by Historic England.

A suggestion to request the support of the MP for the Sewage (Inland Waters) Bill was made. This Private Members Bill seeks to place a duty on water companies to take all reasonable steps to ensure that untreated sewage is not released into rivers and other inland waters.

A Councillor raised a query as to whether the participation of the Chairman in a promotional video for the Sports Club project inferred the Parish Council's support. It was pointed out all comments included were factual and made no reference to the support of the Council.

Resolved: Standing Orders were restored.

### 05.21 Planning Matters

20/01322/FULHH Single storey rear extension (orangery) at 23Town Road

20/01334/FU Demolition and rebuilding of end terraced house at 6 Railway View

20/01335/FULHH Conversion of existing integral garage to utility room/WC and associated elevational alterations at Sumners Barn, Moss Lane

20/01370/PDE Notification of a single storey rear extension measuring 7.9m in depth, with eaves height of 2.49m, and maximum height of 4m at Isle of Man Farm, Meadow Lane

There were no objections to these applications.

20/01332/FUL Kerbs to be dropped to the fronts of Nos. 53, 55, 59 and 61 Moor Road with associative works to accommodate new driveways. Electric vehicle charging points to be provided as part of the works at 53 Moor Road. No objections were raised however the Planning Officer is to be asked to ensure the surface is constructed from permeable materials to avoid run off.

#### 06.21 Financial Matters

i) Councillors considered the monthly financial monitoring statement.

Resolved: the monitoring statement was received and accepted and signed by the Chairman.

ii) Resolved: the following payments were approved:

|           |                                 |                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| £ 390.00  | Countrywide Grounds Maintenance | Grounds maintenance             |
| £ 117.12  | Yates Playgrounds               | Repair to outdoor gym equipment |
| £ 1046.72 | Staff costs                     | Salaries and deductions         |
| £ 186.30  | Employee 2                      | Reimbursements                  |

iii) As a condition of the Government bailout of major clearing banks, the Royal Bank of Scotland is having to invite the transfer of bank accounts to increase competitiveness within the industry. The choice available for non-profit making organisations is between the Co-operative Bank and Metro Bank.

Resolved: the Clerk was authorised to commence arrangements for the transfer to the Co-operative Bank.

#### 07.21 Precept

The Precept for 2021-22 was considered. A draft budget was presented, which included the potential council tax support contribution. The council tax base from 2020-21 was used as confirmation of the figure for 2021-22 had not been provided. A suggestion to provide funding of approx. £2000 for the hiring of solar powered Christmas trees was not supported. A suggestion to include an amount for assistance to residents in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic was put forward. It was noted the budget for Grants had been increased and an additional amount could be included in the General Reserve towards this assistance. A proposal for a 3% increase was put forward.

Resolved: the Precept for 2021 - 2022 was set at £24200, an increase of 3% to council taxpayers.

#### 08.21 Lancashire County Council 2021-22 Budget Consultation

Cllr Iddon declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussions. Councillors had no comments.

#### 09.21 Reports from Outside Bodies

No reports.

#### 10.21 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 10 February 2021.

#### 11.21 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the exclusion of members of the press and public for the following item was considered on the grounds that the item comprises information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and, in accordance with Part 1 (3) of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, is exempt from public disclosure.

Resolved: due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, Members of the press and public were excluded for the consideration of the following item.

12.21 Recreation Ground Power Supply Feeder Pillar

A request to cover the costs of the relocation of a feeder pillar was considered. Councillors were of the opinion no action should be taken and requested to be kept informed of any further developments on the issue.

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

Croston Parish Council

Precept 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022

**Budgets**

|                          |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Salaries                 | 12800        |
| Room Hire                | 200          |
| Administration Expenses  | 500          |
| Lengthsman Expenses      | 200          |
| Repairs and Replacements | 1000         |
| Newsletter               | 1500         |
| Grounds Maintenance      | 2000         |
| Training                 | 200          |
| Flowers/Planting         | 1500         |
| Recreation Ground        | 2500         |
| Subscriptions/Entry Fees | 550          |
| Street Furniture         | 1000         |
| Grants                   | 2500         |
| Speed Indicator Device   | 250          |
| Christmas                | 1000         |
| Audit Fees               | 400          |
| Insurance                | 1500         |
| General Reserve          | 2700         |
| Sundries                 | 850          |
| Earmarked Funds          | 250          |
| CIL                      | 3125         |
|                          | <u>36525</u> |

**Funded by**

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Estimated balance as at 31.03.21              | 10885        |
| Add: Proposed precept                         | 24200        |
| Add: Anticipated Chorley Council top up grant | 1440         |
|   | <u>36525</u> |