

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of meeting held 14 July 2004 at 7.00 pm in The Old School, Croston.

Present Cllrs P A Peet (Chair), K Almond, D Clough, J Forrest, J Kearton, M A Iddon, S Parkinson, B Thompson.

Also Present Borough Cllr D Dickinson and 4 members of the public.

45.04 Apologies

Cllr A Maddran, PC Whittaker

46.04 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 June 2004

Proposed the Chairman, seconded Cllr Iddon the Minutes (as circulated) be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record with one amendment: (41.04) the Heritage Trail is to finish at the Surgery on Out Lane.

47.04 Matters for Report

Croft Field (15.04) The Clerk read out a reply from the Parochial Church Council advising the Croft Field is to remain under its control.

Proposed Cllr Iddon, seconded Cllr Parkinson and agreed to suspend standing orders to allow members of the public to speak.

Grounds keepers from the Parochial Church Council described future plans for the Croft Field and provided details of maintenance plans for the Church grounds and woods.

Proposed the Chairman, seconded Cllr Parkinson and agreed to re-instate standing orders.

Parish Business Plan (36.04) The Clerk has written to senior management at Lancashire County Council and County Councillor Whittaker requesting assistance in obtaining a reply to correspondence.

Lengthsman (36.04) Cllr Kearton and the Clerk met the Lengthsman to check the suitability of the room at the Sports Club. Cllr Kearton is to arrange steps to enable the litter trolley to be stored in the room. Once the Lengthsman begins to use the room D Nicholson of Chorley Borough Council has offered the Parish Council its own wheely bin which will be emptied free of charge. As the Methodist Chapel has now been sold, with vacant possession, the shed is to be emptied and removed from site as soon as possible. Cllr Clough offered storage space for the Christmas Tree fence and chain in the short term. The Chairman suggested the shed be sold for a reasonable price with the buyer to empty the contents and arrange removal. Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded the Chairman and agreed Cllr Almond's offer of £30 be accepted. The Clerk is to advise the Methodist Church accordingly and the Chairman will contact the new owner to request the shed remains until it can be emptied. Cllr Almond suggested the railings be removed however Cllr Forrest pointed out they offered protection to pedestrians.

Police Matters (37.04) Inspector Edmondson is to attend the September meeting.

Information Boards (41.04) Valuations have been provided by the Green Centre. The Interpretation Boards are valued at £1847.75 and Signage at £1250.00.

BT Payphones (42.04) Further correspondence has been received advising that, due to the incorrect posting of notices the consultation period has been extended.



Woodyard (43.04) A reply has been received from the owner advising of the intention to demolish the buildings. The Clerk is to write thanking the owner for assistance and requesting the site be cleared.

Graffiti on play equipment (43.04) The National Probation Service provide people sentenced to carry out Community Service. The Clerk is to complete an on line application.

Flower beds (43.04) The marketing department of Wyevale has advised that, in order for sponsorship of the Moor Road flower beds to be considered, costings for the project are required. This will then be considered and any donation may take the form of plants or an amount of money. The Chairman is to discuss costings with Mrs Wilson.

48.04 Police Matters

The Clerk read out an email from PC Whittaker advising he has now returned to duty and providing an overview of the past month. Coffee Day passed over relatively peacefully with only two arrests, both for very minor public order offences, and a couple of instances of travellers attempting to gain access to land off Meadow Lane. The travellers were escorted out of Lancashire and warned not to return.

49.04 Finance

The financial monitoring statement was circulated and the reconciliation of monies received was carried out by the Chairman prior to the meeting.

NALC, via the LAPTIC, advised that the matter of the election recharge invoice should be raised at Borough Councillor level. Proposed the Chairman, seconded Cllr Kearton, and agreed the matter should be taken up with the Borough Council by Cllr Iddon.

Councillors considered the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2004.

Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded Cllr Iddon, and agreed the Statement of Accounts be approved by Council and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed Cllr Kearton, seconded Cllr Forrest, and agreed the Statement of Assurance be approved by Council and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

Proposed the Chairman, seconded Cllr Almond, and agreed the following payments be approved, the invoices having been inspected by Cllr Parkinson:

£ 252.000	Employee 1	Salary
£ 252.60	Employee 2	Salary
£ 68.64	Inland Revenue	Tax
£ 226.30	C Wilson	Plants
£ 200.00	Employee 1	Salary - August

50.04. Planning Matters

9/04/00669 Application for Listed Building Consent for the reslating of the roof and insertion of a skylight to the rear at 3 Church Street - no comment.

9/04/00692 Two storey rear extension at 23 Highfield Road - no comment.

9/04/00702 Single storey front extension to porch 39 Grape Lane - no comment.

9/04/00712 Single storey side and rear extensions at Isle of Man Farm, Meadow Lane - no comment.

Cllr Forrest queried the lack of notification of application 9/04/00429 for works to the entrance at The Royal Bank of Scotland which had subsequently been refused. The Clerk had



investigated prior to the meeting and found the application had not appeared on any of the Borough Council's weekly planning lists. Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded Cllr Forrest and agreed the Clerk write to the Head of Planning requesting an explanation for the omission and querying whether the correct planning procedure has been followed in this instance.

51.04 Insurance

The Clerk advised the review of damage cover items has been carried out. Rawcliffes advise the replacement value of the Cross is in the region of £10,000 and the cover should be increased accordingly. Cover is to be removed on the half pipe and other skate park equipment.

52.04 Dropped Kerbs

Councillors reported on their accompaniment of disabled residents, in their vehicles, around the village. Areas of concern were highlighted including the narrowness and gradient of some areas of pavement, inconsiderate parking leaving insufficient to pass, parking obstructing dropped kerbs and the width of dropped kerbs being insufficient for disabled vehicles to pass over safely. The items are to be brought to the attention of the Highways Agency.

53.04 Borough Council Properties

Cllr Forrest mentioned the poor state of the paintwork on properties on Brookfield, The Orchard and Riverside Crescent. Cllr Iddon advised new doors are to be fitted within ten weeks, with a planned follow up programme of repainting as necessary. Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded Cllr Almond and agreed the Clerk advise Chorley Borough Council of the Parish Council's concerns regarding the condition of the properties and requesting a timescale for the completion of the works.

54.04 Flagpole

Councillors reviewed the situation regarding the flagpole. Following the removal and theft of two flags the pole has now been treated to prevent climbing. A warning notice has been attached for insurance purposes and the Clerk requested Councillors advise of any removal of the notice so it may be replaced.

55.04 Business Between Meetings

Cllr Forrest expressed concern regarding time taken to resolve certain matters, in particular the problem of speeding traffic on Moor Road, as a result of having to report and discuss them at meetings. Moor Road was first mentioned in October of last year and, despite its inclusion in the Parish Business Plan, action has yet to be taken by the relevant authority. The Chairman explained the Clerk would normally deal with responses to letters and enquiries between meetings and report the results. Cllr Forrest suggested more activity between meetings and offered to deal with the County Council on this issue. Proposed Cllr Peet, seconded Cllr Thompson and agreed that Cllr Forrest take up the Parish Business Plan with Lancashire County Council.

The Clerk drew Councillors attention to the ramifications of actions taken outside of meetings, without the approval of the Council. In certain instances Councillors may be held personally liable for the results of actions taken without the minuted approval of the Council and the Clerk requested Councillors exercise caution in these matters.

56.04 Parish Plan

The Chairman complimented Cllr Forrest on the high quality of the recent display. The next display will be on the Heritage Open Day. The final draft is currently being completed and the



remaining grant application has been submitted. A medieval banquet theme is being considered for the Christmas Fair.

57.04 Correspondence

The Charity Commission annual return has been received. The Clerk is to complete it.

Mr Ainscough advised of potential developments at Moss Farms. Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded Cllr Kearton and agreed County Councillor Whittaker be invited to a meeting to pass on the results of a recent meeting with Mr Ainscough.

58.04 Matters for Further Discussion

The Mayor of Chorley is to be invited to the Remembrance Day Parade and Service.

Cllr Maddran had advised the development signs remain on lampposts around the village and dog fouling signs on the Station Road to Twin Lakes footpath are missing. The signs are being dealt with by Borough Council and Cllr Iddon will report the dog fouling signs to the Warden.

Councillors agreed to place residents points of interest earlier on the agenda to allow residents who may be unable to attend an entire meeting time to raise issues.

The next newsletter will not be published until after the September meeting. Councillors agreed to a larger format and agreed prices, for the next edition only, of £15 per small advert and £30 per large advert.

Cllr Iddon advised the cutting of the grass at Croston Bank has been arranged with the developers and the Housing Association.

Proposed Cllr Forrest, seconded the Chairman and agreed the Clerk will liaise with Cllr Parkinson regarding the initial registration and set up of the Parish Council website.

Lancashire County Council advised re-surfacing work between the roundabout and the car sales on Moor Road may result in its closure for two or three days.

Cllr Thompson provided a newspaper article regarding the European Court of Human Rights denying travellers the right to site their caravan on land they had purchased.

Cllr Thompson mentioned disturbances caused by light aircraft flying over the village. Councillors were of the opinion the pilots should offer due care and consideration to residents and, if possible the registration numbers should be obtained and reported to the Civil Aviation Authority.

The Chairman offered thanks to Woods Design for the donation of time and materials involved in the production of the Croston in Bloom brochure.

The grant for the fencing of the riverbank footpath will now be applied for by FRY and a letter of support will be provided by the Parish Council.

59.04 Residents Points of Interest

The condition of the Croft Field remains a matter of concern for residents.

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

