

## **CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of meeting held 8 September 2004 at 7.00 pm in The Old School, Croston.

Present Cllrs P A Peet (Chair), K Almond, J Forrest, M A Iddon, A Maddran,  
S Parkinson.

Also Present County Cllr A Whittaker, Borough Cllr D Dickinson, Inspector Edmondson,  
PC Whittaker and 2 members of the public.

### 60.04 Apologies

Cllrs D Clough, J Kearton, B Thompson.

### 61.04 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 July 2004

Proposed the Chairman, seconded Cllr Iddon the Minutes (as circulated) be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### 62.04 Matters for Report

Parish Business Plan (47.04, 55.04) Lancashire County Council provided an update on progress made to date. A stretch of Grape Lane is to receive a new surface dressing this financial year, a traffic count has been arranged for Moor Road, the views of the Pedestrian and Mobility Officer have been requested regarding footway provision on Out Lane and further investigations and discussions are required prior to a response regarding parking in the centre of the village.

Lengthsman (47.04) Cllr Kearton is to meet with the Lengthsman this week regarding access to the room at the Sports Club for storage of equipment.

Woodyard (47.04) A request for the clearance of rubble following the demolition has been sent

Graffiti (47.04) The National Probation Service advised the Parish Council's request for assistance under the Community Service scheme is being considered.

Borough Council Properties (53.04) Chorley Borough Council advised the closing date for tenders was today. This will be followed by the procurement process and the repair programme may take a further 3 months.

A reply to the Mayoral invitation to the Remembrance Day Parade (58.04) is awaited.

Website (58.04) Construction of crostonparishcouncil.org.uk has now commenced. The Clerk acknowledged the assistance provided by Cllr Parkinson.

A letter of support for the grant application (58.04) was sent to FRY.

Lancashire County Council has investigated the request to relocate the double yellow lines at the junction of Station Road and Westhead Road (33.04) and advised accident figures do not justify the costs involved in amending parking restrictions. The installation of a mirror to assist motorists vision is to be followed up.

### 63.04 Police Matters

PC Whittaker advised of recent crimes which included thefts of garden ornaments. Travellers had been observed at Aughton and moved on towards Formby. Hand held speed cameras are currently on trial and may be of benefit on Moor Road as the width of the road does not allow the use of the static vehicle camera due to safety constraints. Cllr Parkinson suggested



traffic calming measures are required as a long term solution. Cllr Almond mentioned the flashing speed indicator boards installed at Mawdsley. Inspector Edmondson suggested these should be referred to the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership and The MAPS team at Chorley. New signage could be considered as part of the Parish Business Plan.

Inspector Edmondson advised PC Whittaker is to move on. The position has been advertised and it is hoped it will be filled shortly. In the meantime the PC's from Ecclestone and Mawdsley, together with ECSO Lewis will provide cover.

The Chairman mentioned a Police meeting where it was concluded Community Beat Managers offered a better service to the local areas. Inspector Edmondson is currently comparing the role of Rural Beat Officers, who remain part of a response team, with Community Beat Managers. Inspector Edmondson wishes to keep the PC's within the Lostock ward wherever possible.

The Rural Beat newsletter will be published soon and Cllr Parkinson suggested its inclusion on the website. Cllr Parkinson also offered the results of the Parish Plan consultation to the Inspector to provide local resident's input to the Police.

Inspector Edmondson also mentioned the Police and Communities Together (PACT) initiative where local monthly surgeries will be held for residents to air concerns, followed by a meeting of a panel, consisting of community leaders, which will prioritise issues.

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

A member of the public advised of a recent incident of juvenile nuisance on the Bowling Green when the response time was in excess of four hours. Inspector Edmondson was unable to comment on individual cases but advised that calls are prioritised. She has also spoken with the owner of Drinkhouse Farm following problems regarding access and advised Councillors the Police will respond to reports and deal with them on face value.

Proposed the Chairman, seconded Cllr Parkinson and agreed to restore standing orders.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Edmondson for attending the meeting.

#### 64.04 Residents Points of Interest

No issues were raised.

#### 65.04 Drinkhouse Farm

County Cllr Whittaker provided a report from a meeting with the owner, his agent and members of Chorley Borough Council Planning section. The owner is keen to relocate however a house would be required for security purposes and the proposed new site lies within the Green Belt. The proposed relocation would have to be financed by a development of housing on the existing site and any planning applications would need to demonstrate a planning gain for the area.

#### 66.04 Finance

The financial monitoring statement was circulated and, as none had been received, no reconciliation of monies received was carried out.

Councillors considered the report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended 31 March 2004.

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



£ 151.00	Employee 1	Salary
£ 486.98	Employee 2	Salary August and September
£ 137.50	Inland Revenue	Tax
£ 5000.00	Chorley Borough Council	Contribution - youth facilities
£ 416.00	R Sutton	Grasscutting
£ 25.00	CPRE	Subscription

Councillors discussed the election recharge invoice from Chorley Borough Council, who have offered to accept £700 this financial year, and the balance following receipt of next year's precept. Cllr Parkinson requested the opinion of County Cllr Whittaker, who concurred with the Parish Council's stance. Proposed the Chairman, seconded Cllr Almond, and agreed a copy of the letter received from NALC be forwarded to the Borough Council.

The Clerk reported the Fidelity Guarantee has been increased to £18000 with no additional cost.

#### 67.04 Planning Matters

9/04/00956 Single storey rear extension at 15 Moor Road - no comment.

A reply to the Parish Council's query to the Planning Department regarding the lack of notification of the application for works to the entrance at The Royal Bank of Scotland was circulated. The Planning Department advised it had been due to an administrative error, but stated correct procedure had been followed in this instance.

The Chairman advised of an invitation from the owner of the Methodist School for Councillors and members of the public to view plans for the proposed development at the School on Saturday.

#### 68.04 Youth Facilities

The Chairman reported on a meeting with Grant Murdoch of Lancashire County Council Youth and Community Services. Croston is to lose its Youth Workers. County Cllr Whittaker advised of a 20% shortage in staff numbers within the Youth Services, which has been operating significantly over budget. Youth Workers at Mawdesley, Astley Village and Croston are to be re-instated once new appointments have been made.

#### 69.04 Parish Plan

Cllr Parkinson updated the Council. Confirmation is awaited from the Countryside Agency regarding the remainder of the funding. The launch is scheduled for 4 December with a medieval market. Grant funding has not been approved for the market so fund raising events are being considered. Work on the final summary is proceeding according to plan.

#### 70.04 Correspondence

Lancashire County Council provided details of its attendance at the LAPTIC Chorley Area Committee meeting to discuss the Quality Parish and Town Council scheme.

Lancashire County Council provided details of a Green Partnership awards scheme

Chorley Borough Council advised of a grant scheme providing funding for restoration and improvement of war memorials

Chorley Borough Council requested comment on its Draft Licensing Policy by 19 November 2004. Details were placed in the mail bag for consideration by Councillors



County Cllr Whittaker described proposals for sand extraction in Euxton by Tarmac, who have invited two representatives from each neighbouring Parish Council to attend a presentation meeting. The Chairman and Cllr Parkinson volunteered and Cllrs Almond and Forrest also requested to attend. The Clerk will pass on the request to Tarmac and also request to include ward and county councillors.

#### 71.04 Matters for Further Discussion

The village has won an award in the North West in Bloom competition. Representatives will be attending the awards ceremony on 24 September.

Councillors agreed to delay publication of the September newsletter to allow the inclusion of the North West in Bloom award.

Cllr Almond requested a telephone number for Chorley Borough Council be obtained for the recycling skips.

A letter of support was requested for a grant application to upgrade the footpath in the Croft Field to allow disabled access. Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded Cllr Almond and agreed a letter of support be sent.

The new noticeboard is due for installation at the end of next week.

A quotation of £15 was provided for the cutting of grass on the verge opposite the Mill Hotel.

Cllr Forrest mentioned the lack of a boundary sign on Moor Road. The Clerk is to contact Lancashire County Council regarding availability. Councillors also discussed decorative signage for 'gateways to the village'.

Cllr Parkinson queried the current position regarding the Quality Parish Council scheme. The Chairman advised a small number of items including a contract of employment and a complaints procedure needed to be addressed prior to the Clerk's portfolio registration. The Clerk will arrange for the registration in time for the next meeting.

Cllr Parkinson suggested a form of check list be kept of previously discussed items to reduce timescales for concluding the items. Councillors could take ownership of items they have brought to Council and awareness should be raised at the next meeting.

Cllr Iddon has arranged for the straw on the highways to be cleared once mowing has been completed.

Cllr Parkinson congratulated Cllr Almond on her successful grant application, on behalf of FRY, for the riverbank fencing.

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

