

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of meeting held 11 May 2005 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

Present Cllrs P A Peet (Chair), K Almond, J Forrest, J Kearton, A Maddran, S
Parkinson, B Thompson.

Also Present Borough Cllr Iddon and 3 members of the public.

17.05 Apologies

Proposed Cllr B Thompson, seconded Cllr Almond and agreed apologies received from Cllr S Thompson, Borough Cllr Dickinson and PC Plummer be accepted.

18.05 Personal/Prejudicial interests

None declared.

19.05 Election of Chairman for 2005 - 2006

Cllr Peet was nominated by Cllr B Thompson and seconded by Cllr Almond. There were no further nominations and Cllr Peet was elected unanimously.

20.05 Election of Vice Chairman for 2005 - 2006

Cllr B Thompson was nominated by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Almond. There were no further nominations and Cllr Thompson was elected unanimously.

21.05 Appointment of Planning Committee for 2005 - 2006

The Committee will comprise of the Chairman and Cllrs Almond, Forrest and Parkinson.

22.05 Appointment of Representatives for Outside Bodies for 2005 - 2006

The Chairman will represent the Council on the Chorley Area Committee of the LAPTC, with the remaining place to be nominated at a future date.

Cllr Forrest will represent the Council on the Management Committee of ECET.

23.05 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 April 2005

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

24.05 Matters for Report

Quality Parish Council (06.05) - The NALC bursary has been received.

Croft Field Footpath (06.05) - Lancashire County Council advises the likely cost to divert a public footpath is between £1500 and £2000, dependant on the advertising costs.

Boundary signs (06.05) - Cllr Almond has discussed replacement signs with Lancashire County Council and Chorley Borough Council, which will provide its crest for the new signs. The Clerk is to obtain a quotation for the signs and arrange collection of the crests.

Flagpole (06.05) - In view of the impending arrival of the Heritage Trail boards Councillors are to survey the Village Green before the next meeting with a view to a possible redesign of the area. The Clerk is to investigate the implications with the Conservation Officer.

Closed Circuit Television (06.05) - Details of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 were provided by the Senior Neighbourhood Warden. Cllr Parkinson has had discussions regarding this, the Human Rights Act and the Data Protection Act, and is awaiting written confirmation of the responses.



107/108 Bus Service (09.05) - A reply is awaited from Lancashire County Council. Cllr B Thompson reported a residents' receipt of a letter from County Councillor Whittaker advising subsidies on the service are running at over £9 per passenger journey.

Traffic Survey (16.05) - The information had been sent to Inspector Edmondson who will forward it onto Traffic Management, the Road Safety and Community Safety Partnerships and local Officers as an area of community concern. Hand held equipment and signs, which are for community concern sites, are to become available for use by local Officers, once training has been completed.

25.05 Police Matters

Nothing reported. Inspector Edmondson is to be advised of Councillors' concern at the lack of a Police presence at recent meetings.

Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded Cllr Forrest and agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak.

26.05 Residents Points of Interest

No points raised.

27.05 Borough Councillors

Borough Cllr Iddon is liaising with Lancashire County Council regarding traffic problems caused by parking on the bend by the School entrance on Highfield Road. Councillors wondered why a "Walking Bus" scheme has not been considered.

Proposed Cllr Thompson, seconded Cllr Forrest and agreed to restore Standing Orders.

28.05 Finance

The Clerk reported receipt of the precept from Chorley Borough Council.

The budget monitoring statement was circulated and the Chairman carried out the reconciliation of monies received in accordance with the fidelity guarantee.

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

£ 223.10	Employee 1	Salary
£ 285.65	Employee 2	Salary
£ 80.52	Inland Revenue	Tax
£ 1242.75	Allianz Cornhill Insurance plc	Annual premium
£ 68.95	Chorley Borough Council	Emptying of dog waste bins
£ 50.61	E.ON Energy	Electricity - Christmas Lights 2003
£ 335.00	Norris Sheds	Painting of wayside seats
£ 12.00	Croston Old School	Room hire

28.05 Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2005

Councillors considered the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2005.

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

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

29.05 Planning Matters



Councillors considered a request to allow access to the Recreation Ground from the former Methodist School.

Proposed Cllr Maddran, seconded Cllr Forrest and agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak.

A representative of the Development Company attended the meeting to answer questions. Councillors expressed concern regarding the point of entry onto the grass, which would rapidly erode, and were advised an area of suitable hardstanding could be laid. Ongoing maintenance of the landscaped area is to be carried out by the developments' management company. Councillors requested the plants be carefully considered to avoid species which may obscure vision and Cllr Parkinson suggested the area should not be adopted by the Parish Council.

Proposed Cllr Kearton, seconded Cllr Thompson and agreed to restore Standing Orders.

Proposed Cllr Kearton, seconded the Chairman and agreed access be granted on the understanding that the area will not be offered for adoption by the Parish Council, a suitable area of hardstanding be formed at the entrance to the grassed area and the management company is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the landscaped area.

30.05 Reports from Outside Bodies

Cllr Forrest observed that no information regarding the station adoption has been forthcoming. The Clerk is to request an update from the West of Lancashire Community Rail Partnership.

The Annual General Meeting of CRAG had recently taken place.

31.05 Standing Orders

Councillors considered amendments to the Standing Orders.

Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded the Chairman and agreed clause 1 will state the Annual Parish Meeting will commence at 7.00pm with the Council meeting will commencing at 8.00 pm.

Proposed Cllr B Thompson, seconded Cllr Parkinson and agreed the running order in clause 7 will be amended in line with the Council's current running order and will include the police report and residents' points of interest

32.05 Correspondence

Community Finance Solutions is holding a seminar on Community Ownership of Assets on 7 June. Councillors Almond, B Thompson, Kearton and Parkinson will attend.

Lancashire County Council advised of a proposed increase in the weight restriction on Town Bridge from 2 tonnes to 3 tonnes to comply with new regulations. The Clerk is to advise of the Parish Councils' concerns at the increase, given the listed status of the bridge which has suffered damage in the past year, and to request width restrictions.

Lancashire County Council advised of Parish and Town Council Bus Shelter Grants which are available in return for the Parish Council undertaking to fund ongoing maintenance of the shelters. The Clerk is to advise the Council is of the opinion that the funding would be better employed in improving the bus services or maintaining existing bus shelters.

Chorley Borough Council advised of a Renewable Energy workshop at the Mill Hotel on 12 May covering where to put renewables in Chorley.

OPSTA advised of a Community Rail Partnership Day on 14 May at Parbold station.



33.05 Matters for Further Discussion

Cllr Almond advised of a request for financial assistance from a resident traveling to Zambia to assist in the building of an orphanage for children of AIDS victims. Councillors were supportive but felt donations should be personal. An article highlighting the venture is to be included in the forthcoming newsletter.

Any articles for the newsletter should be sent to the Clerk by 25 May.

The Town Twinning Association requested the use of the Village Green on 29 July. The Association carries public liability insurance and Councillors agreed to the request.

Cllr Maddran advised of the appearance of a “to let” sign on the Westhead Road field. Councillors were advised the land is designated as Open Space under the current Local Plan. The Chairman reminded Councillors the area is under private ownership. The hedge is in need of cutting from St Michaels Terrace to the Police Station.

Cllr Maddran also mentioned debris left in the Westfields area following the recent pavement repairs. Borough Councillor Iddon will request the presence of the sweeper and gully emptier.

A general increase in dog fouling has been observed and an article is to be included in the newsletter.

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



Exclusion of Press and Public

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and defined in Paragraph 1, Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. It is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the press and public are excluded from the forthcoming items of business.

An application for co-option from Mr C Gibbons was considered.

Proposed Cllr Forrest, seconded Cllr Parkinson and agreed Mr Gibbons be duly co-opted.

