

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held 11 January 2006 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

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

Also Present Borough Cllrs Dickinson, Iddon and 5 members of the public.

130.05 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr S Thompson (prior engagement).

131.05 Personal/Prejudicial interests

None declared

132.05 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 December 2005

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

Cllr Gibbons joined the meeting

133.05 Matters for Report

Noticeboard (116.05) The Clerk is to make enquiries direct with the relevant department within Lancashire Constabulary.

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

134.05 Police Matters

PC Plummer advised of incidents including two burglaries, theft from, and damage to, vehicles, and vandalism, with an incident involving a neighbour dispute occurring on Pear Tree Road.

PC Plummer is now a Community Beat Manager, and will be arranging Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings to the future.

Cllr Maddran joined the meeting

Cllr Parkinson requested a light for the telephone outside the Police Station. PC Plummer will look into the matter. Cllr Parkinson also advised of an increase in dog fouling on Station Road. Councillors also mentioned Westhead Road and Castle Walks were also affected. Borough Cllr Iddon will advise the Dog Warden.

Cllr Kearton joined the meeting

Cllr Thompson mentioned an assault involving youths on Grape Lane over the New Year period.

Cllr Forrest reported parking on the pavement outside the Co-op. PC Plummer has been taking details of vehicles to ascertain persistent offenders.

135.05 Residents Points of Interest

A resident of Pear Tree Road advised of a dispute with neighbours on Pear Tree Road involving the depositing of leaves and litter in her garden. The Chairman read out an email from the resident which suggested the incident had occurred following the advice of a Councillor. The Chairman advised this matter had not been raised with the Parish Council prior to this meeting, and explained Councillors have authority outside of a meeting only when it has been conferred upon them by the Parish Council during a meeting. This was not the case. The Clerk is to clarify the situation, in writing.

Residents of Moor Road advised of problems encountered walking on Moor Road and Highfield Road. Hedges overhang the pavement at several locations and Highfield Road has to be crossed three times to remain on the pavement. Councillors mentioned the points at which Highfield Road is crossed are inappropriate and dangerous, being located on bends in the road. Also soil spreading beneath hedges reduces the usable width of the pavements, particularly on Westhead Road.

Borough Cllr Iddon will inform Lancashire County Council of the hedges and the Clerk is to contact the Road Safety Partnership regarding the crossing of Highfield Road at inappropriate locations.

136.05 Borough Councillors

No points raised.

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

137.05 Finance

Proposed Cllr Forrest, seconded Cllr Maddran and agreed the financial update and bank reconciliation be received and accepted and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded Cllr Thompson and agreed the sum of £20 be paid to a resident for the use of their premises for siting of the closed circuit TV system during December.

Cllr Almond advised the newsletter had not been delivered on the Grape Lane and Brookfield.

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

£	176.75	Employee 1	Salary
£	285.65	Employee 2	Salary
£	80.52	Inland Revenue	Tax
£	135.00	Minuteman Press	Newsletter printing
£	30.00	Eccleston Electrical Services	Armoured cable
£	12.00	Croston Old School	Room hire
£	75.00	Croston Scout Group	Newsletter delivery
£	20.00	Resident	Siting of CCTV system

Mrs Wilson thanked the Council for the contribution towards the cost of the Christmas tree and advised that, as the tree is donated, further contributions would not be accepted.

Croston Cricket Club thanked the Council for the donation towards junior cricket equipment.

138.05 Planning Matters

06/00010 Demolishing existing bungalow and construct a two storey house with detached double garage and workshop with new vehicular access at Croftlands, 34 Grape Lane – The Clerk advised this is a new application subsequent to the granting of permission for application 05/. Cllr Almond queried whether this application, if granted, would supersede the previous permission. The Clerk will contact the Planning Officer. Councillors were of the opinion that this application is far more aesthetically pleasing than the previous one and that, as such, the Council has no objections.

139.05 Recreation Ground

Cllr Gibbons provided information following his survey. Cllr Almond provided information Community Design, which provides a design, planning and cost estimates service to community groups. The Clerk is to investigate the availability of the service. Cllr Forrest suggested Villages in Partnership may also help with funding applications. The lighting of the area and location of the youth shelter were discussed and Councillors suggested Community Design may offer advice.

Councillors considered the disposal of the half-pipe.

Proposed Cllr Parkinson, seconded Cllr Gibbons and agreed the Council disposes of the half pipe.

The Clerk is to ask NALC and the LAPTC whether any member councils may be interested in purchasing the half pipe.

140.05 Parish Precept for the Year Ending 31 March 2007

Councillors considered the Precept for the forthcoming financial year. It was acknowledged that, given the absorption of the withdrawal of Chorley Borough Council's amenities grant in last year's precept, a substantial increase was inevitable.

Proposed Cllr Kearton, seconded Cllr Parkinson and agreed that the Precept be set at £20664 representing an increase of £6.98 in council tax, on a band D property, to residents over the previous year's figure.

Any article outlining the main reasons for the increase is to be included in the next newsletter.

141.05 Parish Business Plan

The County Council Officer dealing with the Plan is on leave. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Cllr Kearton left the meeting

142.05 Parish Plan

Cllr Parkinson requested certain issues arising from the Parish Plan be taken on by the Council. The Steering Group is to fold following completion of the Heritage Trail and CRAG will take forward some projects. A comprehensive list of items will be provided for consideration at the next Council meeting. The Business Directory is almost completed.

143.05 Reports from Outside Bodies

The Chairman reported on a recent meeting for Parish Council representatives with Lindsay Hoyle MP. Topics included local and national policing, road safety issues, working with other authorities and parliamentary boundary changes. Mr Hoyle expressed support for the merger of Lancashire and Cumbria Police Forces and is discussing the possibility of border cameras for vehicle identification purposes on all roads into Lancashire with the County Council and Police.

144.05 Correspondence

Chorley Borough Council provided details of a Borough/Parish Councils Liaison Meeting on 18 January. The Chairman and Cllr Thompson are to attend.

North West in Bloom provided details of this year's competition.

NALC advised of a Quality Parish Scheme Workshop. Cllr Parkinson and the Clerk are to attend.

145.05 Matters for Further Discussion

Councillors agreed to a request from Villages in Partnership to attend the Joint Meeting with Bretherton and Ulnes Walton to discuss services intended to be offered to local communities.

Cllr Almond suggested relocating the village entrance sign on Highfield Road to the junction with Moor Road. The Clerk is to ask Lancashire County Council for its opinion.

The older style street lighting columns are in need of repainting, particularly by the old police station and the Black Horse.

The signage on the post on the Village Green is positioned at a height which may cause injury. The Clerk will request Lancashire County Council arranges to have it raised.

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