

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Meeting held 9 May 2007 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

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

Also Present Borough Cllr M Iddon, PC Plummer and Sgt Clayton.

68.07 Election of Chairman

Resolved: Cllr Peet be elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

Cllr Peet signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and assumed the Chair.

Resolved: The Declaration of Acceptance of Office be received.

69.07 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr J Forrest and Borough Cllr D Dickinson.

70.07 Election of Vice Chairman

Resolved: Cllr B Thompson be elected as Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year.

71.07 Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies

Resolved: the following appointments be made:

Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Council Chorley Area Committee - Cllr Peet

Chorley West Area Forum - Cllr Peet

Croston United Charities - Cllr B Thompson

Tree Warden - Cllr Almond

Peter Lathom Trust - Cllr B Thompson

72.07 Personal/Prejudicial Interests

Councillor B Thompson, as a Trustee of Croston United Charities, declared a prejudicial interest in items forming part of agenda item 9 (Planning Matters).

Councillors Almond and Parkinson, as members of Croston Rural Action Group, declared prejudicial interests in an item forming part of agenda item 9 (Planning Matters).

73.07 Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 April 2007

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

74.07 Public Participation

Resolved: Standing Orders be suspended to allow members of the public to speak.

Representatives from Lancashire Constabulary advised a new Police Community Support Officer is to commence duties in June. The monthly crime report was distributed to Councillors. Preparations for Coffee day are under way and local public houses are to be encouraged to employ door security.

Resolved: Standing Orders be restored.

75.07 Financial Matters

The Clerk provided evidence of the receipt of the precept.

Councillors considered the financial update and bank reconciliation .

Resolved: the financial update and bank reconciliation be received and accepted and signed by the Chairman.

Councillors considered requests for payment to the Council.

Resolved: the following payments be approved, the invoices having been inspected in accordance with fidelity guarantee requirements:

£ 301.38	Employee 1	Salary
£ 294.10	Employee 2	Salary
£ 82.94	Inland Revenue	Income tax
£ 14.00	Croston Old School	Room hire
£1143.76	Allianz Cornhill Insurance	Annual premium
£ 83.99	Eccleston Electrical Services	Repair to play area light
£ 82.97	Wicksteed Leisure	Replacement swing seats
£ 71.79	Chorley Borough Council	Dog bin emptying
£ 400.00	Croston Cricket Club	Grant
£ 100.00	Croston Sports Club	Grant

76.07 Planning Matters

The following applications were considered:

07/00379/FUL Demolish existing outrigger and erect a single storey rear extension at 28 Town Road

07/00433/COU Change of Use of gymnasium to two apartments at Former Zodiac Gymnasium, Station Road

07/00485/FUL Erection of rear conservatory at 14 Out Lane

Resolved: no comments be lodged.

Councillor B Thompson declared a prejudicial interest in the following items and withdrew from the meeting.

07/00476/FUL Single storey side and rear extension at 7 Back Drinkhouse Lane

07/00477/LBC Listed Building consent for single storey side and rear extension at 7 Back Drinkhouse Lane

Resolved: no comments be lodged.

Councillor B Thompson rejoined the meeting.

Councillors Almond, and Parkinson declared prejudicial interests in the following item and withdrew from the meeting.

The following amended application was considered:

06/01341/FULMAJ Proposed redevelopment of Rectory Farm creating six four bedroom dwellings, conversion of existing barn to create three three bedroom apartments with associated garage space and visitor parking. Also erection of rear extension to Croston Trinity Methodist Church to create Sunday school/community facilities with associated car parking at Rectory Farm, Town Road.

Resolved: an objection be lodged on the following grounds:

The application fails to demonstrate sufficient adherence to Chorley Borough Council's Planning Policy. The applicant has failed to explore options for the re-use of farm buildings for commercial, manufacturing, tourism or community facilities. The support information fails to demonstrate requirements regarding the marketing of the site have been complied with.

The amended affordable housing provided within the development remains unsuitable for the requirements of the village. Smaller, starter type homes/social housing are urgently needed in the village if younger residents are to be retained.

The village already suffers from serious parking problems. The development may exacerbate the parking problem as provision for potential residents on this site is grossly inadequate as larger, four bedroomed properties realistically require more than two spaces per property.

The scale, appearance and design of the proposed dwellings is not in keeping with the character of surrounding and adjacent properties within the conservation area.

One of the criteria of the village primary school's admission policy has led to children living closest to the school being given preference for school places. This could mean that children moving into the Rectory Farm Development could be given priority over other children already residing within the village.

Councillors Almond and Parkinson rejoined the meeting.

77.07 Annual Grasscutting and Planting Contracts

Councillors considered submitted tenders for the grasscutting contract.

Resolved: the tender be awarded to Brothers of Charity.

Councillors considered submitted tenders for the planting contract.

Resolved: the tender be awarded to Mrs C Wilson.

78.07 Annual Return for the year Ended 31 March 2007

Councillors considered the Annual Return (as circulated).

Resolved: the Statement of Accounts be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Resolved: the Annual Governance Statement be approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

79.07 Pavement on Bretherton Road

A request for the installation of a pavement between Station Bridge and Lostock Bridge was discussed. Councillors suggested that, in view of the likely initial response from Lancashire County Council, demonstrable public support would be required.

Resolved: an article be placed in the next newsletter requesting residents views and support and also a request be made to Bretherton Parish Council to encourage support of Bretherton residents.

80.07 Reports from Outside Bodies

No reports.

81.07 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 13 June 2007.

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