

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 12 September 2007 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

Present Cllrs P A Peet (Chair), K Almond, J Kearton, B Thompson

Also Present PC Plummer and 1 Member of the Public.

106.07 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors J Forrest, C Gibbons, S Parkinson, S Thompson and Borough Councillors D Dickinson and M Iddon

107.07 Personal/Prejudicial Interests

Cllrs Almond and Thompson, as members of the Croston/Azay-le-Rideau Twinning Association, declared personal interests in agenda item 8 (Village Green).

108.07 Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 July 2007

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

109.07 Public Participation

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

i) Police Report

The monthly crime report was provided. Locations for the operation of the hand held speed gun are being identified.

ii) Residents Points of Interest

A resident advised of concerns regarding potential accidents in the vicinity of the entrance to Bishop Rawstone School on Highfield Road which it is feared will be further exacerbated once the new entrance road is constructed.

iii) Borough Councillors

No reports

Resolved: Standing Orders be restored.

109.07 Financial Matters

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 a grant application from Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue Team towards the training and equipping of volunteers.

Resolved: a grant of £50 be awarded.

Councillors considered a grant application from Vitalise towards operating costs. There was no proposer for this request.

Councillors considered a grant application from Lancashire Youth Services towards the production of its Annual Report. There was no proposer for this request.

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	HM Revenue & Customs	Tax
£ 109.18	Employee 1	Reimbursements
£ 14.00	Croston Old School	Room hire
£ 158.63	BDO Stoy Hayward	Audit fee
£ 8.75	Chorley Community Housing	Lengthsmans supplies
£ 64.63	T & L Kirkham	Hedgecutting
£ 27.00	CPRE	Subscription
£ 75.00	Croston Sports Club	Newsletter delivery
£ 600.00	C Barbour	Grasscutting
£ 250.00	C Wilson	Summer planting

110.07 Planning Matters

The following applications were considered:

07/00858/FUL Conversion of former coach house to dwelling/garage and 2 new attached garages and implement storage at The Lodge, 3 Grape Lane.

07/00865/FUL Erection of single storey sun lounge to rear and erection of replacement detached garage at 90 Station Road.

07/00918/TCON Felling of Chestnut Tree (T1) and crown thinning of Chestnut Tree (T2) within Croston Conservation Area at Croston Park Care Home, Town Road.

07/00950/FUL Conversion of existing garage to study, erection of first floor side extension and conservatory to rear at 30 Yarrow Close.

07/00987/FUL Erection of new detached dwelling for staff at Royal Umpire Caravan Park, Southport Road, Ulnes Walton.

Resolved: no comments be lodged.

111.07 Annual Return for the year Ended 31 March 2007

Councillors considered the Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2007, together with the Issues Arising Report.

Resolved: the Annual Return be approved and accepted.

112.07 Fidelity Guarantee Insurance Cover

The Issues Arising Report within the Annual Return advised the level of fidelity guarantee cover appears insufficient in the light of bank balances held at 31 March 2007 and the amount of precept subsequently received in April 2007. Councillors reviewed the level of cover and the safeguards in place to prevent potential losses.

Resolved: the level of fidelity guarantee cover be increased to £20000.

113.07 Library Car Park Gates

Current arrangements for the locking and unlocking of the Library Car Park gates were considered. If the Council is to continue with the arrangements a rota is required to prevent the responsibility falling on one or two councillors. The matter was deferred until the next meeting in order to allow the views of other councillors to be sought.

114.07 Bus Services and Shelters

Residents using the local bus services requested the Council's assistance to obtain a bus stop by Wyevale Garden Centre on Southport Road. The recent failure of a bus to arrive due to a breakdown had caused problems as no information had been provided. The bus shelter on Station

Road was felt to be in need of maintenance. The new bus stop was felt to be a good idea as it could also service The Highfield and the Royal Umpire Caravan Park. The shelter on Station Road has had some maintenance work carried out.

Resolved: the Clerk is to contact Stagecoach querying whether a bus stop could be introduced by Wyevale and to ask what can be done to alleviate problems in the event of the non arrival of a bus.

115.07 Memorial Bench on the Village Green

Councillors considered a request from Croston/Azay-le-Rideau Twinning Association for permission to site a memorial seat, in memory of one of the French founder members of the association, on the Village Green.

Resolved: the Twinning Association be granted permission to site the memorial seat on the Village Green. The installation is to take place alongside the redesign of the noticeboard area.

116.07 Pavement on Bretherton Road

A request for provision of a pavement on Bretherton Road between Station Bridge and Lostock Bridge was considered at the May meeting. As it was felt a large degree of public support for this would be required before Lancashire County Council would consider the provision, it was resolved to place an article in the June newsletter requesting resident's opinions and to ask Bretherton Parish Council to do the same. Responses were received from three Bretherton residents, two in favour and one against, who feared the loss of free bus passes for school children. No responses were received from residents of Croston. In view of the lack of any demonstrable requirement from Croston residents it was felt the matter should not be pursued.

117.07 Reports from Outside Bodies

The Lancashire Local - Chorley advised the Out Lane traffic calming scheme would be proceeding to final consultation and consultation responses would be considered by a future meeting of the Lancashire Local.

118.07 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 10 October 2007.

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