

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 14 November 2007 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

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

Also Present PC Plummer and Borough Councillor D Dickinson.

135.07 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr B Thompson.

136.07 Personal/Prejudicial Interests

Cllr Forrest, as a Trustee of Villages in Partnership, declared a prejudicial interest in an item forming part of Agenda Item 6 (Financial Matters).

137.07 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 October 2007

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

138.07 Public Participation

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

i) Police Report

The monthly crime report was provided. Four minor road traffic accidents were reported and there was an incident of theft by a bogus caller. A 'Nominate a Neighbour Scheme' has been implemented whereby elderly and vulnerable residents can direct callers to a neighbour, who will check the credentials prior to taking them back to the original house. There were three incidents of egg throwing around Halloween and a suspect is to be contacted. The Station has suffered serious vandalism and the Council's closed circuit television system may be deployed on the station in the future, once the necessary permissions have been obtained.

ii) Residents Points of Interest

No matters raised.

iii) Borough Councillors

No matters raised.

Resolved: Standing Orders be restored.

139.07 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 North West Air Ambulance towards operating costs.

Resolved: a grant of £100 be awarded.

Councillors considered a grant application from Villages in Partnership towards Christmas lights for its Christmas event.

Cllr Forrest left the meeting.

Resolved: a grant of £204.51 be awarded.

Cllr Forrest rejoined the meeting.

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:

£ 310.96	Employee 1	Salary
£ 326.71	Employee 2	Salary
£ 92.26	HM Revenue & Customs	Tax
£ 14.00	Croston Old School	Room hire
£ 20.72	Euxton Parish Council	Training Course
£ 720.00	A P Griffiths	Noticeboard

140.07 Planning Matters

The following applications were considered:

07/01124/REM Reserved matters application for the erection of new dwelling and garage at Land 30m North West of The Gables, 88 Station Road.

07/01159/FUL Erection of extension to existing conservatory at 9 Drinkhouse Road.

07/01187/FUL Erection of replacement agricultural building at Butterfly Hall Farm.

Resolved: no comments be lodged.

07/00764/FUL Erection of awning to front elevation at 29-31 Town Road - Councillors had no objections to the awning but suggested the cassette box should also be in green to reduce the visual impact on the red brick from which the building is constructed.

141.07 Internal Audit

Councillors reviewed the effectiveness of the current system of internal audit, as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (2003) and Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006. All cheques are verified against the relevant invoices by a Councillor before signature by two Councillors. A quarterly internal audit of the receipts and payments, invoices, payroll and bank statements is completed by a Councillor, reconciling the figures with bank balances. The Council also conducts an annual risk assessment.

Resolved: the current system is found to be effective.

142.07 Village Green Traffic Bollard

Councillors considered a quotation for a removable bollard to be sited at the rear of the Village Green to prevent vehicles parking on the pavement and Green. A removable bollard is necessary to allow authorised vehicular access. Installation costs are in the region of £100.00.

Resolved: a removable bollard be ordered from Broxap Ltd at cost of £289.00 including carriage (+VAT and installation).

143.07 Christmas Lights

Councillors considered costings for replacement lights for damaged strings, and new lights for the tree opposite the War Memorial.

Resolved: replacement blue lights and new white lights be ordered from MK Illumination Ltd at cost of £50.00 (+VAT) and £300.00 (+VAT) respectively.

144.07 Out Lane Traffic Calming Scheme

Lancashire County Council had requested comments on the Scheme.

Resolved: the Clerk is to advise that the Parish Council has received no feedback from residents and that it trusts local residents have been consulted on the issue.

145.07 Library Car Park

Councillors discussed a rota for the locking of the car park on Sunday evenings.

Resolved: Councillors would undertake to lock the car park for a period of one month in rotation, the key to be handed to the next Councillor on the rota at the subsequent Council meeting.

146.07 Lancashire Police Authority Community Meetings

The Authority wishes to avoid discussing matters at Community Meetings which it feels should be dealt with at other existing forums including Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings.

Resolved: the Clerk is to advise that, as Councillors had not attended any of the meetings, the Council is not qualified to comment but Councillors will attempt to attend future meetings.

147.07 Parish Precept 2008-2009

Councillors were reminded the Precept will be set at the January meeting and are to advise the Clerk of any items which may require the obtaining of quotations prior to the meeting.

148.07 Reports from Outside Bodies

The West Area Forum was shown the proposed new recycling bin for plastic, glass, cans and paper. Lancashire Constabulary responded to the Council's complaint regarding the withdrawal of the Community Beat Manager to assist in policing the Conservative Party Conference.

The Chorley Council/ Parish Council Liaison meeting considered election costs and the possible reintroduction of amenity grants.

149.07 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Councillors considered the exclusion of members of the press and public for an item of business, in accordance with Part 1 (sections 1, 2 and 3) of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Resolved: members of the press and public be excluded for the consideration of the following item.

150.07 Personnel Issues

Councillors considered a means of recognition for the efforts of the Village Lengthsman following the village's achievement of full marks in Cleanliness Section of the North West in Bloom 2007 Competition.

Resolved: the efforts of the Village Lengthsman in the achievement of full marks in Cleanliness Section of the North West in Bloom 2007 Competition be recognised.

151.07 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 12 December 2007.

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