

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 10 December 2008 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

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

Also Present Borough Councillor S Moulton.

142.08 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor J Kearton and Borough Councillor D Dickinson.

143.08 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

Councillors Almond, Peet and B Thompson, as Trustees of Croston Old School, declared prejudicial interests in an item forming part of agenda item 5 (Financial Matters).

144.08 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 November 2008

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

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

145.08 Public Participation

i) Police Report

No report.

ii) Borough Councillors

The planning application for the erection of two new dwellings in the rear garden of 79 Station Road is to go before the Development Control Committee in January.

iii) Residents Points of Interest

Residents with concerns regarding the future use of Café Rendezvous had formed a group and requested information on the Parish Council's position on the matter. It was reported that the new owners of Café Rendezvous had contributed towards this year's Christmas Festivities.

146.08 Financial Matters

Councillors considered the financial update and bank reconciliation.

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

Councillors Almond, Peet and B Thompson withdrew from the meeting.

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Councillors considered the appointment of a Chairman for the forthcoming item of business

Resolved: Cllr Parkinson be elected as Chairman for the forthcoming item of business.

Cllr Parkinson took the Chair.

Councillors considered a grant request from Croston Old School towards the purchase of outside Christmas lights, to form part of this years' village Christmas festivities.

Resolved: a grant of £200.00 be awarded.

Councillors Almond, Peet and B Thompson rejoined the meeting and Cllr Peet resumed the Chair.

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

£ 372.79	Employee 1	Salary
£ 339.36	Employee 2	Salary

£ 84.80	HM Revenue & Customs	Tax
£ 532.85	Employee 2	Reimbursements
£ 14.50	Croston Old School	Room hire
£ 387.40	C Barbour	Grasscutting
£ 29.38	Tell Tale Signs	Disabled parking sign

147.08 Planning Matters

The following applications were considered:

08/01116/TCON Felling of 4 Silver Birch Trees adjacent to footpath between Church Street and the Old School Croston at Land 45m South Of Manor House Farm Carr Lane.

08/01168/FUL Proposed rear extension at Cotswold, 295 Moor Road.

Resolved: no comments be made relating to the applications.

148.08 Standing Orders

Councillors reviewed the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. Revisions to the Financial Regulations are to be examined by the Working Group.

Resolved: the revisions to the Standing Orders be approved.

Resolved: the following amendments to financial limits be approved.

Standing Order 31 (b) limit raised to £500.

Standing Order 31 (c (i)) limits raised to between £500 and £1000.

Standing Order 31 (c (ii)) limits raised to between £1000 and £5000.

Standing Order 31 (c (iii)) will be amended to read 'For expenditure of between £5000 (+VAT) and £25000 (+VAT) quotations from at least three firms (wherever possible) shall be obtained'.

A new paragraph (c (iv)) to be inserted to read 'For expenditure exceeding £25000 (+VAT) the Clerk shall (wherever possible) invite tenders from at least three firms'.

149.08 Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members and Employees

Councillors considered a consultation document regarding amendments to the Code of Conduct.

Resolved: the Clerk is to respond on behalf on the Council.

150.08 Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition 2008

Councillors consider the Judge's Report for the Best Kept Village Competition.

Resolved: the report be noted.

151.08 Alternative Names and Styles for Parish Councils

Councillors discussed an option, provided within the Local Government and Public Involvement in Heath Act 2007, to change the name of the Parish Council to "community, neighbourhood or village" council. There was no support for a change.

152.08 Reports from Outside Bodies

No reports.

153.08 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 14 January 2009.

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

..... (Chairman)