

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 13 February 2008 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

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

Also Present Borough Councillors D Dickinson and M Iddon and PC Plummer.

12.08 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr C Gibbons.

13.08 Personal/Prejudicial Interests

Cllr Almond and Forrest, as members of Croston Community Centre, declared prejudicial interests in an item forming part of Agenda Item 5 (Financial Matters). Cllr B Thompson, as a member of Town Twinning, declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 9 (Croston and District Boules League).

None declared.

14.08 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 January 2008

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

15.08 Public Participation

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

i) Police Report

The monthly crime report was noted. The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is in the process of being re-launched.

ii) Borough Councillors

The Environment Agency has arranged a Drop In Evening on 14 March 2008 to provide information on flooding. A Flood Consultation was recently held at Chorley Council. Gullies and grids have been cleared on Carvers Brow and the sewers on Grape Lane are to be de-silted.

iii) Residents Points of Interest

No points raised.

Resolved: Standing Orders be restored.

16.08 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.

Cllrs Almond and Forrest withdrew from the meeting.

Councillors considered a further grant application from Croston Community Centre towards the purchase of the building. Councillors commended the efforts of the Committee in handling the protracted negotiations.

Resolved: a grant of £1000 be awarded.

Cllrs Almond and 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
£ 301.54	Employee 2	Salary
£ 84.82	HM Revenue & Customs	Tax
£ 14.00	Croston Old School	Room hire

17.08 Planning Matters

The following applications were considered:

08/00098/FUL Erection of a conservatory to the rear and a porch to the front of the property at Woodlea, Highfield Road.

08/0129/TPO Removal of diseased Willow Tree within Croston Conservation Area.

Resolved: no comments be lodged.

08/00055/OUT Outline application for one detached bungalow with new access at Land 20m South West of 25 Coniston Way - the Clerk is to query the adequacy of the proposed access with the Planning Officer.

18.08 Surface Water Drainage

Following the recent flooding Councillors discussed problems with blocked surface water drains throughout the village. Whilst it was appreciated little can be done to combat flooding during exceptionally heavy rains it was felt cleaning of the drains would assist in less severe weather.

Resolved: Lancashire County Council be requested to increase the frequency of gully cleansing.

19.08 Planning Obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Councillors considered a suggestion brought up at a recent Borough/Parish Liaison Meeting for Parish Councils to become involved in the process of Section 106 Commuted Sums Agreements. At present sums for play space are collected by Chorley Council, held centrally and distributed by Officers. Parish Councils are concerned that parishes have no say over the utilisation of funds generated from developments within their locality. A question was raised as to whether the Village could lose monies as a result of alterations to the current procedure. It was generally felt the village received little, or nothing, under the current procedure.

Resolved: Chorley Council be requested to amend its current policy on Section 106 Agreements to allow Parish Councils to take in the preparation and implementation process.

20.08 Croston and District Boules League

Councillors considered a request for a letter of support for a funding application to improve the standard of the pitches in the Village.

Resolved: a letter of support for the grant application be sent.

21.08 Competition Entries

Entries in the North West in Bloom and Lancashire's Best Kept Village Competitions for 2008 were discussed.

Resolved: both competitions be entered for the coming year.

22.08 Risk Assessment

The Financial Risk Assessment, as recommended by the Practitioners' Guide to Governance and Accountability in Local Councils in England and Wales, was carried out. The existing procedures and controls were found to be adequate.

Resolved: the adequacy of the existing controls be noted.

23.08 Reports from Outside Bodies

The Neighbourhood watch Scheme was discussed at the Police Authority Community Meeting.

The budget for the forthcoming year was presented to the Borough/Parish Liaison Meeting and a discussion on the current system of Section 106 Commuted Sums Agreements took place.

The Lancashire Local - Chorley was advised that, by 2010, universal coverage of children's centre services across Lancashire would be provided under the Phase Three Childrens Centre Initiative. The Countryside Service is to improve access on the route between Croston and Ecclestone.

Following an invitation from the Owners, a number of Councillors had visited Croston Park Nursing Home to view the improvements made. The Owners agreed to the grounds being added to the Judges Itinerary for the North West in Bloom Competition.

24.08 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 12 March 2008.

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