

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 19 October 2010 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

Present Cllrs A Peet (Chairman), K Almond, R Baker, C Gibbons, S Mosalski, S Parkinson, G Stubbs and B Thompson.

Also present PC Plummer and 4 Members of the Public

116.10 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr J Forrest, County Councillor K Iddon and Borough Councillor D Dickinson.

117.10 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

None declared.

118.10 Minutes of Meeting held 21 September 2010

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

119.10 Councillor Vacancy

Councillors considered the inclusion of an application for co-option from Mr Brendan Beech, which had been received subsequent to the issue of the agenda.

Resolved: the application be included.

Councillors considered applications for co-option from Mr Brendan Beech, Mr Peter Fennimore, Ms Vicky Lomas and Mrs Gill Stubbs. A paper ballot was conducted and Mrs Gill Stubbs achieved an overall majority in the first round of voting.

Resolved: Mrs Gill Stubbs be co-opted.

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

120.10 Public Participation

i) Residents Points of Interest

A resident mentioned issues with the Play Area and equipment. Councillors advised that works have been put off as a result of an existing project to decide upon improvements to the entire Recreation Ground area. Improvements, and problems with the availability of funding, are to be discussed at a meeting with Chorley Council's Green Spaces Officer, who has offered to assist with preparation of a further bid to the Play and Recreation Fund. The resident's offer, for herself and a friend, to join the Working Group, was accepted.

ii) Borough and County Councillors

The Parish Council's views on the proposed location of a bus stop in the vicinity of 73 Town Road were requested. Councillors suggested that, as the proposed location appears to be close to the narrowest point of the road, moving it towards the War Memorial.

iii) Police Report

The months crime figures, and information on the impending cutbacks, were provided. It is believed the Response and Neighbourhood Teams will be last to be affected. PCSO's will also be dependent on Borough Council contributions and it is hoped rural PCSO's will be unaffected. New procedures have been announced, including changes to the Restorative Justice scheme which will allow victims of crime to impact on the penalties imposed. Reported incidents will now be graded and prioritised. Councillors mentioned youth nuisance issues and dog fouling appeared to be on the increase. Dog fouling is a Borough Council, not a Police, issue and the local Officers have been concentrating on youths gathering around the Londis store.

Resolved: Standing Orders be restored.

121.10 Financial Matters

Councillors considered the financial update and bank reconciliation.

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

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

£ 330.45	Employee 1	Salary
£ 320.76	Employee 2	Salary
£ 80.20	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE
£ 15.00	Croston Old School	Room hire
£ 277.30	S J Wignall	Japanese Knotweed treatment
£ 29.00	CPRE	Annual subscription
£ 464.71	Ark Welding	Play area entrance gate
£ 25.67	A Powell	Flower box renovations

122.10 Planning Matters

10/00762/FUL Single storey side extension to form garage and utility, and first floor side extension to form additional bedrooms at 56 Lonsdale Drive.

10/00774/FUL Erection of a single storey extension to create an extended kitchen/dining area at 39 Drinkhouse Road.

Councillors had no comments in respect of these applications.

123.10 Internal Audit

Councillors carried out the annual review of the effectiveness of the internal audit in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

Resolved: the current system of internal audit was found to be adequate.

Councillors considered the appointment of the Internal Auditor for the current financial year.

Resolved: Mr J Lawson be appointed and the fee be set at £55.

124.10 Public Participation at Meetings

Councillors considered the amount of time devoted to public participation at Council meetings. The Chairman advised Councillors should respect the time as being for the public and not partake or interfere during this time. Members of the public wishing to speak should be encouraged to submit items, on paper, prior to the start of the meeting.

Resolved: a time limit of 20 minutes, in total, be allocated for members of the public, with each speaker allowed no more than 3 minutes.

125.10 Grants and Donations

The procedure for the awarding of grants was reviewed. Currently all applications received are presented to the Council at the earliest opportunity following receipt.

Resolved: the Council will continue to consider and judge each application on its individual merits.

126.10 Remembrance Sunday

Arrangements for the Parade and Service were confirmed. Councillors considered the amount to cover the donation to the Poppy Appeal.

Resolved: a donation of £100 is to be made.

127.10 Directory

Councillors discussed production and publication of the Directory and eligibility for entries. Entries should be located within, or have strong, direct links with the village. Councillors agreed to assist with an update of the information currently held from the previous directory.

128.10 Quality Status

A update regarding Quality Status was provided. The Clerk has attended a training course in the Power of Wellbeing, which is a new addition to the Certificate in Local Council Administration qualification process, and will attempt to submit the portfolio before the end of the current council term.

129.10 Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity

A response to a consultation by the Department for Communities and Local Government concerning the production of newsletters was considered. Councillors had no comments.

130.10 Reports from Outside Bodies (for information only)

The Community Flood Plan Meeting was very well attended. Chorley Council, the Environment Agency, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Services and United Utilities were also present. United Utilities advised a blockage in the sewer system on Grape Lane has been cleared. Problems remain with water seeping through the river walls onto Turflands and a resident is to meet with the Environment Agency to discuss this.

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

A resident advised Grape Lane is now on a regular inspection programme and offered to monitor the situation on Grape lane.

Resolved: Standing Orders be restored.

131.10 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 16 November 2010.

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

..... (Chairman)