**CROFT PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 17 JULY 2018

AT THE CROFT VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL, MUSTARD LANE, CROFT

**Present:** Councillor Cummerson (Chair)

Councillors Allen MBE, Bland MBE, Griffiths, Partington, Thewsey.

**Apologies:** None.

**2019/96 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest.**

None declared.

**2019/97 Minutes of the meeting held on 19th June.  
Resolved**Approved.

**2019/98 Matters arising from the Minutes.**

None declared

Correspondence issues were dealt with in the Clerks report.

**2019/99 Mr. Mark Tune, Warrington Borough Council.**

Mr Tune gave the members an update on both the weight restriction being enforced by Wigan Council on Winwick Lane and the progress of the mini-roundabout on Smithy Brow.

Mr Tune advised that immediately prior to their action, he had received notification from Wigan Council that they would be imposing an experimental traffic order restricting vehicular weight on a section of Winwick Lane.

An experimental order can be imposed for 18 months but comments on it must be made within the first six months of its imposition.

Mr Tune had requested a delay to the application of the order to allow time to conduct surveys on traffic flow. This would establish a benchmark figure for a before and after comparison of vehicular activity.

Wigan MBC delayed placing road signs but advised Mr Tune that they are not intending to conduct their surveys until after the school holidays have finished. That survey will therefore be taken after the six month comments period ends.

Mr Tune suggested that the Parish Council should submit their own objections regarding the experimental order by 6th August. He distributed some vehicular activity figures to Councillors and agreed to forward any further information that might arise before the deadline.

Mr Tune advised members on the progress that had been made on the proposed mini-roundabout at the junction of Smithy Lane, Smithy Brow and Lord Street.

The borough council had commissioned a consultant to conduct a survey to gauge the opinion of local residents.

There was a very low return of surveys, with just 18% of those distributed being returned. 54% of respondents were in favour of the roundabout with 40% against.

Of the residents who responded, it was found that those who did not want the roundabout were predominantly those who would be living in closest proximity to it.

Mr Tune explained that the borough council has yet to decide on how to progress the matter.

**2019/100 Local Plan / Survey.**

Cllr Bland advised that all surveys have now been collected and the results are being collated by members of the Parish Plan Committee. There was a 17% return of the surveys distributed to households with an additional 200 responses gathered from children attending the local primary schools. The next Parish Plan meeting will be taking place on the 7th August.

**2019/101 Minute ref 2019/69.**

The Clerk has recently been sent the information regarding the speed activated road signs but further research needs to be undertaken. Once the research is finished and in consultation with Members, an order will be placed for the goods with the expectation that the equipment shall be operational during the schools’ new term.

**2019/102 Minute ref 2019/75.**  
The Warrington Borough Council pilot scheme to clear undergrowth in Culcheth has received positive feedback so far. Warrington Borough Council will send the Clerk information about costs once the pilot has been completed.

Members were advised that the work in Culcheth had been undertaken at no cost to the Parish Council.

Members asked the Clerk to contact the Parish’s borough councillors requesting that they ask the borough council to undertake the work in Croft Parish at no cost to the Parish Council.

**2019/103 Minute ref 2019/76.**

The broken equipment was repaired in time for Croft Carnival.

**2019/104 Minute ref 2019/77**.

Due to vandalism occurring on the playground, the flooring needed to be repaired urgently so as not to be hazardous to users.

Without a greatly increased cost, no manufacturer was prepared to offer a guarantee for the entire surfaces to be reskimmed.

Members were advised of developments and consulted on their opinions and it was decided that the only work to be undertaken should be to replace the edging of the flooring and repair the damage caused by the vandalism.This work was completed before the opening of the Croft Carnival.

**2019/105 Access road and pavement to Croft Youth Activity Centre –**

**Minute 2019/93.**

Warrington Borough Council have advised that the road and pavement surface which is in disrepair is not a highways matter as it is on the CYAC grounds. The council will be transferring the query to the relevant officer.

**2019/106 Flooding at junction of New Lane and Smithy Lane - Minute 2019/90**.

Warrington Borough Council have advised that if flooding on a road is taking up less than half the road it is not classed as a priority.

Clerk to take a picture next time he sees road is flooded.

**2019/107 Potential development of Playing Field Toilet Block - Minute 2019/96.**

The Clerk to arrange for the keys to the toilets to be handed to a resident from the Parish Plan Committee.

**2019/108 Heath Lane Road Closures.**

Due to planned works by United Utilities, as of 31st July Heath Lane will be closed for 5 weeks.

**2019/109 Consultation on the future of transportation in Warrington.**Proposals from Cheshire and Warrington LEP were distributed to members. These proposals are on the plans for how the transport network will be developed in the North West, Cheshire and Warrington LEP are encouraging residents in Cheshire to send in their feedback.

**2019/110 Cheshire Constabulary.**

There have been lots of incidents of antisocial behaviour noted in Culcheth, with the same 2 youths being named frequently. These youths have now been issued with Acceptable Behavioural Contracts.

**2019/111 Informal Parish of Croft and Culcheth & Glazebury Parish**

**Councillors.**

Members were asked to advise the Clerk of their availability for a meeting in early October.

The Chair of Network Warrington will be invited to the meeting to discuss the lack of an evening bus service in the Croft area.

Members were asked to notify the Clerk of other items for the meeting’s agenda.

**2019/112 Summer Recess.**

The Clerk requested that, following consultation with members and in conjunction with the Chair, any major decisions needed during the recess should be delegated to the Clerk.

**Resolved**

Approved.

**2019/113 Financial Report**

The Clerk reported that to date, The Council has underspent on budget, with accounts showing as being balanced and reconciled. The invoices for the repair on the children’s playground equipment, the repair of the playground flooring and also the installation of the security bollard behind the gate are expected to arrive during the summer recess and will impact on the financial position.

**Resolved**

that the budget monitoring reports, the bank statements, the bank reconciliations and the creditor payment schedule totalling £6040.57 be approved.

**2019/114 Planning Application 2018/33165 1 Eaves Brow Rd WA3 7LE.**

Full planning – Proposed two storey/single storey pitched roof extensions, renewing flat roof to garage with pitched roof.

**Resolved**

No objection

**2019/115 Planning Application 2018/33112 Kenyon Hall Farm, WA3 7ED.**

Prior notification of agricultural or forestry development – proposed 1x Spanish tunnel 8m wide x 100m long x 4m high at ridge (2m high at eaves). Also, associated ancillary buildings: 1x water tank 3.66 diameter x 2.26 high. Sat on concrete pad 4.27 diameter. 1x pump house, small brick but approx. 1m x 1m x 1m.

**Resolved**

No Objection.

To comply with Warrington Borough Council’s 21 day response rule, the following applications were distributed to Members with a response date within 21 days. No objections were raised.

**2019/116 Planning Application 2018/32961 4 Latona Close, WA3 7EA.**

Lawful development certificate – Proposed single storey rear extension to form sun lounge and gym.

This ‘application’ does not offer a 21 day comment period as it is not classed as a planning application.

**2019/117 Planning Application 2018/33055 251 Southworth Lane, WA3 7BX.**

TPO- Application for tree works to Oak Tree to crown reduction all over by up to 3 metres or to best natural growing point, tree is heavy on one side and needs balancing out. Crown raise by up to 5m removing only branches upto approx. 5cm diameter. Crown thin by up to 20% also removing dead/decaying branches. Suggested work would enhance natural beauty of the tree and prevent it becoming severely unbalanced and potentially hazardous.

**Resolved**

No objection.The members suggested that it was requested that the works be carried out by a qualified arboculturalist.

**2019/118 Planning Application 2018/33065 Eaves Farmhouse, Cross Lane,**

**WA3 7AR**

Householder – Proposed part single storey part 2 storey rear extension including attached garage, renovations to existing dwelling including new access walling and gates to front of site.

**Resolved**

No objection.

**Recess**

**2019/119 Cross Lane Bench.**

It was suggested by a resident that the bench on Cross Lane should be moved to the end of the barrier, making it easier to access and use.

**2019/120 Round Thorn parking problems.**

Cllr Allen informed members that she has been in contact with Warrington Borough Council regarding the parking issues in Round Thorn. The Council have advised that Torus are going to assign 2 members of staff to investigate the possibility of tarmacking the grass areas to help to alleviate the problem.

**2019/121 Heath Lane overgrowth.**

Cllr Bland had been contacted by a resident who was concerned by the overgrown hedges on Heath Lane. Cllr Cummerson advised that she has previously made contact with the property owner and requested that they address the overgrowth as a matter of health and safety, but to no avail. Cllr Bland has now requested that an inspector from Warrington Borough Council go out to view the hedge and will proceed further once he has heard back from the investigating officer.