**CROFT PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 15th JANUARY 2019

AT THE CROFT VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL, MUSTARD LANE, CROFT

**Present:** Councillor Cummerson (Chair)

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

**Apologies:** None.

**2019/229 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest.**

None.

**2019/230 Minutes of the meeting held on 18th December.
Resolved.**Approved.

**2019/231 PCSO Darren Samuel.**

 PCSO attended the meeting and introduced himself as he now oversees the wards of Croft, Culcheth & Glazebury. He advised that his intention is to attend Parish Council meetings when his shift pattern will allow. If he is unable to attend then a written report will be submitted to the Clerk.

PCSO Samuel reported that in Croft during the month of December, there had been no reported incidents of anti-social behaviour and 1 burglary reported.

Members raised the issue of vehicles parking on Lady Lane blocking the footpath and obstructing visibility for oncoming vehicles. This issue primarily arises at the weekends. Residents also raised the issue of parents parking on the road at school times outside of Croft Primary School. PCSO Samuel agreed to attend the areas when his shift pattern allows.

**2019/232 David McDonald, Warrington Foodbank.**

Mr McDonald was invited to attend the Parish Council meeting in order to give members more details on the services that the Warrington Food Bank provide.

Mr McDonald informed members that the principal aim of the foodbank is to aid those suffering from ‘food poverty’ within Warrington. In order to qualify for assistance from the foodbank, people must first be referred into the scheme. Once approved, a red voucher will be issued that entitles the holder to 3 days worth of non-perishable food for themselves and their immediate family. Mr McDonald informed members that there have been recipients of vouchers in every ward in the Borough of Warrington and the charity anticipates that the need for assistance is only going to increase.

Cllr Allen raised the question of payments to the Trussell Trust as there has historically been controversy surrounding charges levied by the trust. Mr McDonald advised that a payment of £360 per annum is made to the trust, who are the governing body for the Food Bank and ensure they operate legally and within the charitable guidelines.

(See also, minute ref 2019/242)

**2019/233 Matters arising from the minutes.**

 **2019/184Boundary Fence Issue**

The Clerk has been informed that the owner of the land in question does not live in the property affected. WBC are in the process of trying to arrange a meeting with the land owner and reach a resolution.

**2019/223Resurfacing of Smithy Brow.**

As only 1 bus will be affected by the road closures, WBC have advised that users will be informed of the change to service with a notification at bus stops. With regards to the potential sewer works by United Utilities, the Clerk has been advised by WBC that the public bodies meet to discuss and co-ordinate their major works programmes. The Clerk was advised that no planned works should take place on the resurfaced area for 3 years.

**2019/224 Kenyon Lane drain.**

Nick Iddon from WBC has informed the Clerk that drain cleaning throughout Warrington is now scheduled to take place every 3 years and will be undertaken on a reactive basis rather than a proactive basis. The issue on Kenyon Lane has now been added to a list and will be monitored and addressed if it is deemed to be a problem.

 **2019/227 Memorial Hall grass cutting.**

David Platt have provided the Clerk with a quote of £27.45 + VAT to cut the grass at the Memorial Hall and removal all cuttings.

 **2019/212 Parish Plan Action Committee.**

 Cllr Bland suggested that those taking part in the committee set a date for the first meeting at the end of the Parish meeting.

**2019/234 Consultation on bus timetable information systems.**

A consultation was sent by WBC outlining their plans for keeping bus users informed of timetabling. In order to reduce confusion and cost, there are plans to only amend the timetables twice per year.

**Resolved.**

There were no comments from members.

**2019/235 M62 Service Station scoping exercise.**

 A ‘scoping of opinion’ application was received by the Parish Council in relation to plans to build a new service station at J11 of the M62. The Parish Council submitted a brief response.

 **Resolved.**

 The response was approved and a representative from the company proposing the development has been invited to the next meeting.

**2019/236 Clerks Report.**

Correspondence was noted.

**2019/237 Playing Field Toilet Block.**

The Clerk contacted the company Health Matic to obtain information on the feasibility of making the site useable again. The company advised that if the site has been closed for over 1 year with little public outcry then they would not recommend seeking to put that building back in to use.

Members agreed that there would be more opportunities for the site if the toilet block were to be demolished.

**Resolved.**

Clerk to find a contractor to undertake demolition works.

**2019/238 Croft Newsletter.**

The Clerk asked Members to review the viability of the annual Croft Village Newsletter and establish if it provided value to residents’ equivalent to the production and delivery costs.

Members agreed that a bi-annual update in the Culcheth Life magazine along with providing space on the website for local group updates would be a suitable replacement for the newsletter.

 **Resolved.**

 Clerk to contact local groups to advise of the change.

**2019/239 Playing Field car park security.**

The Clerk proposed to Members that dropped bollards be installed on the playing field car park. These bollards would allow the Parish Council to properly close the car park when works were taking place, or if closure was necessary for an event, e.g. Croft Carnival or the Christmas Light switch on. Members agreed that this would be a worthwhile investment to make.

 **Resolved.**

 Clerk to arrange purchase and installation of 2 new bollards.

**2019/240 Round Thorn Parking.**

The Clerk reported that the housing company Torus has approached 18 properties / residents on Round Thorn, seeking £2,000 contribution towards the cost of any works to improve the amenity benefit to residents - that is to create parking spaces at Round Thorn on land owned by Torus.

WBC have advised that they have not been approached by Torus about works being undertaken and that the responsibility of WBC is to provide access, especially to emergency vehicles.

The issue has been raised to WBC by Helen Jones MP, WBC are researching the matter before issuing a reply.

**Resolved.**

Clerk to provide Cllr Allen with a copy of his notes from the conversation with WBC.

**2019/241 Financial Reports.**

The Clerk advised members that the Financial Reports show a slight overspend compared to the budget, but that the accounts are all balanced within the bank statements for the month of November. The creditors report listed spending of £3,722.82.

**Resolved.**

Financial reports approved.

 **2019/242 Foodbank.**

Members discussed the presentation made by Mr McDonald earlier in the meeting and agreed on a donation of £300 per year, with the stipulation added that the money must be spent on food and must not be spent on any overheads incurred by the charity.

**Resolved.**

Approved, Clerk to arrange donation.

**Planning Applications.**

**2019/243 2018/34162 Heath House, Kenyon Lane, WA3 7DU**

Householder – Proposed demolition of existing extensions and the erection of a single storey side extension, a two storey rear extension and alterations.

**Resolved.**

No objections.

**Recess.**

**2019/244 Demolition of property.**

A resident raised concerns about the demolition of the property at 12 New Lane and queried whether a new planning application for an alternative design had been submitted. The Clerk was unaware of any new application.

**Resolved.**

Clerk to contact WBC to ask for clarification on enforcement of variations to planning applications.

**2019/245 Footpath Map.**

A resident asked if it would be possible to include a written description of public rights of way to accompany the map now available on the Parish Council website. Members acknowledged that this was an action point made in the results of the Parish Plan. Ward Councillor Jan Davidson advised that there has previously been a written description of all rights of way in Warrington that she would try to obtain a copy of this.

**Resolved.**

Parish Plan action committee to discuss at first meeting. Cllr Davidson to try to obtain a copy of document created by WBC.

**2019/246 Drainage.**

Following the update provided by the Clerk on the drainage clearing schedule now being implemented by WBC, a resident suggested that the grid at the junction of New Lane and Smithy Lane be reported so that it can be added to the list.

**Resolved.**

Clerk to contact WBC to report.

**2019/247 Bench on Warrington Road.**

A resident noted that the bench on Warrington Road has still yet to be relocated.

**Resolved**

Clerk to chase relevant department.

Members Referrals

**2019/248 Litter on Smithy Brow Lane.**

Cllr Allen noted that there is a large amount of litter on this route and requested a solution be sought. The Clerk advised that WBC have previously said that the road would need to be officially closed in order for litter picking to safely be undertaken.