**CROFT PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 15th DECEMBER 2020

ON THE ONLINE MEETING PLATFORM ZOOM

**Present:** Councillor Partington (Chair)

Councillors, Allen MBE, Bland MBE, Cummerson, Griffiths.

Borough Councillors Davidson and Grime.

**Apologies:** Cllr Thewsey, Police.

**2021/168 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest.**None declared

**2021/169 Minutes of the Meeting held 17th Nov 2020**

**Resolved**

Approved

**2021/170 Tribute to Former Chair of the Parish Council, Jeff Shelley.**

The Chair paid tribute to a former long-serving member of the Parish Council, Jeff Shelley, who had recently passed away. Jeff had served the Parish Council for over 30 years and was also a member of a number of other organisations that serve the Croft area. Members extended their condolences to the family and agreed to make a donation to honour of the service that Jeff had dedicated to Croft throughout his life.

**2021/171** **Ian Brackenbury WBC Traveller Liaison Team.**

Mr Brackenbury gave a presentation to members on the current Traveller situation in Warrington and the surrounding areas. Members were informed that attempts to locate a suitable designated Travellers Site for almost a decade have been unsuccessful. Mr Brackenbury took a number of actions from the call following questions from members and agreed to pass information to the Clerk for dissemination

**2021/172 Matters Arising from the Minutes.**

2020/147 Flytipping.

The Clerk informed members that WBC have been contacted to request signs be erected that are the same as ones previously installed at Main Lane. WBC raised that they would need to check the dimensions of the sign met their approval criteria.

**Resolved.**

That the Clerk establish the dimensions of the current sign and pass to WBC.

2020/149 Speed Activated Road Sign.

Following a consultation with the company who provided the road signs, it has been agreed that works need to be undertaken to fix the sign that is unresponsive. The company also confirmed that the signs had not been installed with Bluetooth capabilities, as this was not specified when WBC placed the order. WBC and the traffic sign company are working to resolve the issue.

2020/145 Removal of bins.

To be covered under Clerk Report.

2020/164 Wigshaw Lane, Drain.

The Clerk has sought an update from WBC on any progress with this ongoing matter, but has yet to receive a response.

**Clerk Report**

**2021/173 Correspondence.**

Correspondence was noted.

**2021/174 Play Equipment.**

The order has been placed with HAGS SMP for the play equipment repair work to be undertaken. Once that work is completed, the painting work which has been ordered can be done.   
The final part of the work will be the laying of the surface, for which an order has been issued.

**2021/175 Playing Field – Trees and Flooding.**

The first phase of the tree work has been completed and the next phase, which is the removal of the trees that were identified by the arborist as in need of felling is in hand.  
There are other matters that have been set in train too.  
A suitable location for the wild flower garden and the Brownies saplings has been identified.  
At the same site meeting which addressed the above points, the poor drainage at the CYAC end of the Field was discussed. Parts of the Playing Field benefit from a drainage system which has recently been inspected and found to be free from blockages.  
The flooded area has no access to a drainage system and is where the Carnival likes to position the large funfair rides. On occasions in the past, because the ground was so heavy, the rides have had to be located in the car park.  
To remedy the flooding it is felt that a new underground drainage system should be laid in that part of the Field. The main underground pipe would run perpendicular to the road and there would be tributaries feeding into it.  
The Parish Council’s Grounds Maintenance firm has been asked to provide a quote for this specialist work.

**2021/176 Playing Field Benches**

At the previous meeting Members were advised of the cost of repairing some benches in the Playing Field. Members asked that before any work was commissioned the cost of environmentally-friendly seats should be ascertained.

As an example, the ‘Deluxe Park Seat with back’, supplied by NBB Recycled Furniture is made of recycled plastic bottles. It comes with a 25 year guarantee and would cost £500 per seat purchase plus the cost of installation.   
Any new installation would also need the existing seats to be removed. A visual inspection suggests they are embedded in concrete. At a rough guess, the works would take up to 2 days labour at a rate of say £150 per day.  
The cost of the replacements would therefore be   
Seats £2,000  
Fitments say 4x£30 = £120  
Materials for new footings say £100  
Labour say £300  
Total estimate £2,520

The quote for replacing the existing rotting wooden bench slats with galvanised steel slats was reported to the last meeting as £1,150.

The purchase and installation of new bins for the Playing Field would be undertaken at the same time as any bench work approved by the Council.

**Resolved.**

Approved that the Clerk arrange for the benches to be repaired using galvanised steel.

**2021/177 Financial Reports**

As the delivery of the bank statements was delayed, the Clerk was only able to present members with the cheques list, which totalled £4454.26.

**Resolved.**

Members approved the cheques list.

**2021/178 Setting the Precept.**

Members discussed the precept and agreed that the precept should remain the same as the previous year. Members also agreed on the salary of the Parish Council employees.

**Resolved**

That the precept be set at £72,980.00

That the salary of Parish Council employees be approved.

**Planning Applications.**

Borough Cllr Grime left the meeting before any planning applications were discussed.

**2021/179 2020/38178 10 Main Lane. Full Planning – Resubmission of 2020/37332**   
Removal of existing dwelling replaced with 1 ½ storey dwelling with associated landscaping.

**Resolved.**

No Objection

**2021/180 2020/38126 Kenyon Hall Farm, Winwick Lane.**Planning – Proposed creation of 13 additional Spanish Tunnels (Phased development)

**Resolved.**

No Objection.