**CROFT PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 19:30 ON TUESDAY 21st DECEMBER 2021

**Present:** Councillor Bland MBE (Chair)

Councillors Campbell (Vice Chair), Allen MBE, Farnsworth, Partington, Sharpe.

Helen Buckley (Clerk)

**Apologies:** PCSO Darren Samuel (Cheshire Constabulary)

**2022/171 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

**2022/172 Minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2021**

**Resolved.**

The minutes were approved.

**2022/173 Matters Arising**

2022/110 Planters at Memorial Hall. The planters are now in situ and look good.

**Resolved.**

**2022/174 Matters Arising**

2022/107 Christmas Tree Lighting Up Ceremony. The ceremony was very good and there was a great turnout. Cllr Bland has written to Dave at the Horse Shoe to thank him for the confections.

**2022/175 Matters Arising**

2022/155 (see also 2022/114) Toilet Block. Cllr Sharpe said there was no update on this at present but that the plumber was now suggesting £10,000 as a price for the refurbishment. Cllr Bland said it would be good to have it up and running for the carnival. The council will try to move this forward in the new year.

**2022/176 Cheshire Constabulary November Report**

As PCSO Samuel was absent, Cllr Bland read out his report. The report was noted.

**2022/177 The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee**

It was suggested that we could have a ‘picnic in the park’ like many other areas are planning to have.

Cllr Bland to convene a meeting in January and involve other interested parties.

**2022/178 Speeding Signs for Heath Lane**

The clerk to recontact WBC to ask about the possibility of new signs instead of relocating existing ones.

**2022/179 Croft Memorial Hall – use as an Emergency Refuge?**

The clerk will contact Peter from the Memorial Hall committee to put him in touch with the relevant person at WBC to progress this.

**2022/180 Flooding**

A resident in attendance at the meeting had experienced problems with flooding following the recent storms and rainfall.

He had contacted WBC, as the passing traffic was creating waves that added to the problem, but he was getting nowhere. WBC kept opening and closing cases. He ended up getting the fire service to attend and they created a hole in his garden wall to aid the egress of water.

Cllr Sharpe gave a brief history of issues with flooding in the village over the last forty years. He commented that there’s a big pipe underneath the road in front of the property in question but it can’t take the volume of water.

The resident is concerned that his wall may collapse if there was to be the same volume of rainfall and this would pose a risk to the playing field and/or car park.

The council confirmed that it would be able to close the car park – with some notice if possible – to enable the resident to remove the wall should he wish.

Cllr Allen offered to put the resident in touch with the relevant people at WBC.

**2022/181 Clerk’s Report – Correspondence:**

Turning Memorial Hall into emergency refuge: covered above.

Public Transport Update:Cllr Bland gave an update on the number 19 service. It has been put back to how it was before which seems to be working for the time being. Cllr Allen will keep us updated on this.

Parking at Round Thorn: Cllr Allen said that she has a meeting with Steven Broomhead on a monthly basis and brings this subject up every time. He is coming back with costings. WBC and Torus are now in talks together regarding this. Cllr Allen will keep an eye on this.

Fly Tipping signs on Sandy Brow Lane: there is a sign there but it needs replacing – Cllr Allen will chase this. Clerk will post a link on the website so that residents can report any instances of environmental crime.

Queen’s Platinum Jubilee: covered above.

Warrington Voluntary Action Group re funding for kick rails at CYAC: clerk has forwarded this to WBC to action.

HS2 Briefing event on 10th February: one or two councillors to attend this virtual event. Cllrs Partington and Bland agreed to attend the 5:30 session.

**2022/182 Clerk’s Report – Christmas Tree Lights Ceremony:**

Clerk will procure additional hi vis vests to allow for more stewards. The council will begin discussing this event in the summer.

**2022/183 Clerk’s Report – Financial Reports**

The financial reports were up to the end of October and November.

The bank reconciliations are balanced.

The October creditor list amounts to £8,554.14. The November credit list amounts to £4,939.20. There are no issues regarding the budget.

A list of December’s cheque payments was distributed to the councillors. This list amounted to £6,998.86.

**Resolved**.

Approved.

**2022/184 Clerk’s Report – Setting the precept**

Members of the council 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.

That the reserve for the Playing Field be increased to £35,000.00.

**2022/185 Clerk’s Report – Planning** **Applications for consideration at this meeting:**

**2022/186 Planning Application 2021/40603 – 26 New Lane, WA3 7LP**

Description of development: Proposed porch and new flat rooves over first floor bay windows. Elevational improvements, re-roofing flat roof at first floor level and replacement of existing concrete tiles with clay or similar plain tile.

**Resolved**

No objection.

**2022/187 Planning Application 2021/40688 – 8 Emerald Drive, WA3 7AD**

Description of development: Proposed single storey side extension and garage conversion.

**Resolved.**

No objection.

**2022/188 Planning Application 2019/35726 – Land to the North of Junction 11, of the M62, Warrington – notice of appeal**

Description of development: Environmental Assessment Application, Outline Planning Permission (Major) including details of access - Proposed Erection of a Motorway Service Area including Facilities Building, up to 100-bedroom Hotel, service yard, Fuel Filling Station, Electric Charging Station, parking facilities landscaping and amenity areas and associated infrastructure, all other details (Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and scale) reserved for subsequent applications.

This is an appeal to the Secretary of State regarding a motorway services at J11 of the M62 that WBC objected to. It is now going to public enquiry.

**Resolved**.

Clerk to contact Peter Black for his opinion on this and to find out if the council needs to apply rule 6.

**2022/189 Borough Councillor’s Update**

Cllr Allen said that WBC has received a report for audit and governance which has been approved.

Transit site: the group has met three times which is positive but no site found yet. There are various criteria that need to be met. There might have to be a compromise. Cheshire East and Cheshire West have transit sites which will drive the travellers towards Warrington. Cllr Allen will keep pushing this.

Parking at Round Thorn: Cllr Allen will keep pushing Steven Broomhead on this issue.

2022/121Grit bins: Cllr Allen said that if Croft PC buys some grit bins then WBC will fill them. She will still push for Kenyon Lane and Heath Lane to be gritted by WBC.

Flooding: we need a multi-agency approach with WBC and UU.

Number 19 bus service: has been affected by driver shortages.

Leisure facilities: CYAC is to get funding to improve the building which will hopefully include Wi-Fi.

**2022/190 Recess**

A resident who was in attendance mentioned that the council had objected to her property planning application and wondered why. Cllr Bland advised her to speak to the planning department. The resident confirmed that the application has already been submitted to planning and the only objection was from CPC. The council will revisit the plans. The resident claimed it wouldn’t be too big a footprint.

**2022/191 Members’ Referrals**

Cllr Farnsworth queried how best to use social media. He informed the council that Rixton Parish Council puts a bullet pointed summary on its Facebook page to update the public as to actions taken following its latest meeting. There was some debate around the pros and cons of the use of social media.

The website needs updating more often.

At the next meeting the council could decide how social media will be used and for what purpose.

The website could possibly undergo a rebrand.

**2022/192 Date of next meeting**

18th January 2022