**CROFT PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 19:30 ON TUESDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2022

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

Councillors Campbell (Vice Chair), Allen MBE and Partington

Helen Buckley (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Councillors Sharpe and Farnsworth

Cheshire Constabulary

**2022/208 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

**2022/209 Minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2022**

**Resolved.**

The minutes were approved.

**2022/210 Matters Arising**

2022/175 (see also 2022/155 and 2022/114) Toilet Block: the clerk informed the council that she had looked for previous quotes from a couple of years ago. She had received two responses but these were not comparable to the recent one obtained by Cllr Sharpe.

Cllr Allen to give the clerk access to WBC’s preferred supplier list so that she can procure two more quotes.

**2022/211 Cheshire Constabulary January Report**

Cllr Bland read out the police report. The report was noted.

**2022/212 Traffic Calming**

Cllr Campbell had requested this item to go on tonight’s agenda as it was raised as an issue by a resident at January’s meeting.

The main issue is speeding through the centre of the village (along Mustard Lane), especially at night. This is making some residents feel unsafe.

If the seventy proposed new homes go ahead that would mean a further 140-150 cars.

Maybe speed bumps or rumble strips should be installed.

We could possibly contact the transport department at WBC (Mark Tune). This issue would only get worse, not better.

A lot of roads aren’t wide enough to take two cars. We also need to focus on the side roads, not just the main roads, especially if there are no pavements or the road is prone to flooding.

There are speed bumps on Myddleton Lane in Winwick. As part of the Parish Plan CPC should make it compulsory to have speed bumps installed if the new homes were to go ahead as part of the development plan.

We need a consultation with the village. We could use private enterprise funding if possible.

As well as Mustard Ln, we need to look at Heath Ln, New Ln and Mill House Ln. There used to be a little chicane on Mill House Ln.

We need to put something out to the village on the website and Twitter.

The CAZ signs could divert traffic away from the village.

Maybe we do a poll to send out to people to get an idea of what people want to see so then we could progress further.

**2022/213 The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee**

Cllr Campbell provided an update on this, following on from the recent initial planning meeting:

* We went through the official planned activities
* We’ve already registered to host a beacon on Cllr Sharpe’s farm
* Cllr Sharpe is going to produce maps so people know where to park
* We need marshalls
* There’ll be a picnic on the park that will take place on the playing field on Sunday 5th
* Maybe we could have some music on the Sunday
* We’ll do a ‘save the date’ on the website and do a newsletter to be delivered around the houses. Also use the noticeboards to notify people
* We could have an update in Culcheth Life
* We used to put leaflets through the doors years ago. However, this stopped due to no-one being able to deliver them
* Can also use social media – there are lots of people in the Croft Chit Chat Facebook group
* The Cadets would like to be involved
* Croft Carnival is four weeks later

**2022/214 CYAC Improvements:**

Cllr Allen gave an update on this.

She recently met with Tony Higgins who is in charge of leisure facilities.

They have agreed to do painting and put in new lights.

They will have lines repainted on the floor so a netball club, for example, could use the hall.

Cllr Allen is now a key holder to the centre so it could be used as an emergency refuge.

A list of numbers is to be put on the website in case of emergency.

The parish council agreed to contribute £1,000 towards the cost of the refurbishment following on from a recent phone call from Barbara Parratt to the clerk.

**2022/215 Clerk’s Report – Correspondence:**

The clerk will contact Jamie Fisher at WBC re: speeding signs.

Clerk will chase David Boyer’s office at WBC re: permission to host beacons for Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

At the Jubilee planning meeting it was suggested that the schoolchildren could create designs an A3 sheets of paper and these would be used to decorate the railings along the playing field. Both schools think this is a good idea. CPC agreed to provide both schools with A3 paper and laminating pouches to enable them to do this.

There’s an option to have a piper/pipe band play prior to the beacon being lit. Clerk has contacted someone from a pipe band used by Croft Carnival. He will get back to her.

There’s an option to have a choir sing at the lighting of the beacon. There may be some interest from Croft WI and Croft Primary School to do this.

There’s an official Jubilee scheme to plant seven trees – one for each decade of the Queen’s reign. There’s a separate scheme organised by the Royal British Legion Industries whereby you can plant a tree and purchase a plaque to commemorate the event. Cllr Campbell confirmed that we’ve already been offered seven saplings but it’s a question of where would we put them?

CPC agreed to pay a £1,000 contribution towards the refurbishment of CYAC. The clerk to chase WBC over the progress of the kick-rails requested next to CYAC.

Peter Black attended a DMC re: J11 MSA but it was done in part 2. The appeal will not be fought. The enquiry will still go ahead in March. Peter has said there’s been an offer of help from Peel. Clerk to contact him to accept this and find out what the proposal is.

There was some concern regarding the proposed development of Trident Business Park in Risley in that it could result in extra traffic coming through Croft. Hopefully not wagons though due to the weight restrictions in situ. However, it has been found in some areas that the weight restriction may only be at one end of a road if it falls under a different authority. The clerk will contact Birchwood Town Council to find out some information on the planning re: Trident.

CPC is in receipt of its insurance renewal. However, the value of the insurance of the play equipment is too low. Cllrs agreed that it should be at least £300,000. Clerk to contact Zurich to this effect.

Clerk has been contacted by Croft Carnival re: payment of the insurance for this year’s event. The council agreed to this.

The clerk searched for previous quotes relating to the toilet block. However, the quotes were not comparable to the one recently received. Cllr Allen to try to procure preferred supplier list to give clerk in order to procure further quotes.

Cllr Bland to attend a meeting on 3rd March at 18:00 re: turning Croft Memorial Hall into an emergency refuge.

Clerk had received a request from a parishioner that the number 19 bus service be put back to two buses per hour. Clerk to contact bus company directly to request this.

Parking at Round Thorn: Jane Nuttall provided an update on this. Dave Boyer at WBC has agreed the finances for parking spaces. This will be split equally between WBC and Torus. £60,000 is the revised cost. A contractor has been appointed.

Clerk has been emailed by Keep Britain Tidy re: the ‘Great British Spring Clean’. Cllrs agreed to participate in this. Clerk to reply to the email.

Clerk requested to attend a couple of training sessions. Cllrs agreed to this.

Clerk requested to pursue paperless banking due to not having received the bank statement in time to prepare a financial report for tonight’s meeting. Other PCs are doing online banking. Clerk to make enquiries.

Culcheth PC has a copy of the HS2 info at the library following on from a virtual briefing session on 10th February.

WBC recently emailed a consultation to the parish council regarding the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme. Cllr Campbell read out the letter. CPC should complete the survey before 25th March. This is in its draft form and is not for public consumption at this stage.

**2022/216 Clerk’s Report – Financial Reports**

As above – as the statement hadn’t arrived in time for the meeting, the clerk was unable to prepare the financial reports.

A list of February’s cheque payments was distributed to the councillors following the meeting. This list amounted to £8,291.02.

**2022/217 Clerk’s Report – Planning** **Applications for consideration at this meeting:**

**2022/218 Planning Application 2022/40763 – 636 Warrington Road, WA3 6BD**

Description of development: Proposed demolition of existing conservatory and construction of single storey rear extension.

**Resolved.**

No objection.

**2022/219 Planning Application 2022/40962 – HS2 Crewe to Manchester**

Description of development: HS2 Phase 2b Western Leg (Crewe – Manchester).

**2022/220 Planning Application 2022/40933 – Brookside Farm, Lady Lane, WA3 7AY**

Description of development: Proposed two storey extension to rear.

**Resolved.**

No objection.

**2022/221 Borough Councillor’s Update**

Cllr Allen informed the council that WBC had had an extra meeting regarding the energy company investment. There’ll be a budget meeting on 28th. There’s no money in the pot, for example, for CYAC or new play equipment.

Regarding the proposed motorway services at J11 of the M62, the DMC voted against the appeal.

Regarding flooding, a multiagency approach has been adopted between WBC, Utilities and Environmental. Cllr Allen had printed off maps and circled all affected areas. She requested that David Boyer see 3 Smithy Brow. She took them around the affected areas Sandy Brow Lane included.

The hedges stick out too far for road sweepers to go down Heath Lane.

Tarmac is to be repaired where the undergrowth was removed.

Parkside was approved.

The CAZ signs need to be better sited or removed. Residents were not consulted, even if the sign is right outside their house. Greater Manchester paid for them, WBC put them up.

**2022/222 Recess**

None

**2022/223 Members’ Referrals**

Cllr Partington gave an update on HS2. He and Cllr Bland had recently attended a virtual meeting. The presentation wasn’t great as the slides kept failing.

We have to decide what we’re going to do re:

1. Consultation re: the line coming through.
2. Consultation re: the environmental statement. Respond by deadline.
3. Petition to submit online – those directly affected by the proposal.

We need to decide how we’re going to respond.

We need to get local group CADRAG to coordinate a response for us. Cllr Bland will update as he’s a member of CADRAG.

There’ll be a meeting next week either Monday or Wednesday. We need parish councils, WBC and MPs on board.

This affects Croft, Culcheth & Glazebury, Rixton, Woolston, Lymm, Irlam, Hollins Green, Lowton and Leigh.

They don’t want individuals involved, just organisations.

We have until 31st March for the environmental part (statement).

Frank Allen is an expert on HS2.

We need local consideration of the planning application.

Local MPs who are against HS2 include Andy Carter, Charlotte Nichols and James Grundy.

We want to stop the Golborne Spur. It will cut Warrington off.

It would be better if the West Coast mainline was upgraded instead.

It’s not worth the shorter journey for the upheaval it’d cause.

Cllr Bland will invite Cllr Partington to the next CADRAG meeting.

Cllr Partington also brought up the issue of transparency. A publication scheme is needed. We need bigger noticeboards. The clerk is to look into this.

We could use the model publication scheme as a template.

**2022/224 Date of next meeting**

15th March 2022 at 19:30.