**CROFT PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 19:30 ON TUESDAY 18th JANUARY 2022

Prior to the start of the meeting, Cllr Bland announced the recent passing of Jeff Shelley’s wife, Shirley. Jeff Shelley used to be a councillor many years ago and his wife, Shirley, did a lot for the village.

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

Councillors Campbell (Vice Chair), Farnsworth, Sharpe.

Helen Buckley (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Councillors Allen MBE and Partington

PCSO Darren Samuel (Cheshire Constabulary)

**2022/193 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

**2022/194 Minutes of the meeting held on 21st December 2021**

**Resolved.**

The minutes were approved.

**2022/195 Matters Arising**

2022/175 (see also 2022/155 and 2022/114) Toilet Block: Cllr Sharpe read out the quote that he had received.

There was some discussion around whether or not there should be a charge to use the toilets. The advantage of having paid toilets is that it would minimise the risk of vandalism; however, the toilets have always been free to use so having to pay may not sit well with residents. After a show of hands among the residents present, the majority voted to keep the toilets free to use.

There was also some discussion around what materials would be best to use. The quote is for porcelain bathroom furniture. Previously, stainless steel has been chosen to, again, minimise the risk of vandalism. However, they don’t look very appealing. It was agreed though that cleanliness would be the most critical factor. Again, there was a show of hands from those present and the majority opted for porcelain furniture.

The clerk queried if it would need an asbestos survey. Cllr Sharpe said this is embodied within the quote but for the roof it’s just a repair rather than stripping it back and replacing it. The guttering would also been included within the roof repair.

The clerk will procure with two more quotes for the toilet block refurbishment.

**2022/196 Cheshire Constabulary December Report**

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

**2022/197 The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee**

Cllrs Bland and Sharpe provided an update on this. Cllr Sharpe confirmed that he has registered the council to host a beacon with the Queen’s Pageantmaster. The beacons will take place on Thursday 2nd June and will be lit at 21:45. It is possible to also have a piper or a choir present at the event. Cllr Sharpe will coordinate the beacon event.

Cllr Sharpe also updated that there’s a virtual beacon tour that goes through the village and scans seven points, each with a piece of information relating to one of the Queen’s reigning decades. However, it’s £500 to register so it was decided not to pursue this as an activity for Croft to participate in.

There’s also a street party taking place on Sunday 5th June. The potential issue with street parties is how to go about closing the roads. This would be a WBC issue and would need risk assessing. The clerk will ask on social media about this to gauge interest.

We could have a picnic on the playing field, as per previously suggested.

The council will try to host a meeting with other interested parties next week.

Once events are planned they could be advertised locally by putting posters up at the Memorial Hall and at CYAC.

**2022/198 Clerk’s Report – Correspondence:**

Police surgery trial at CYAC: Clerk confirmed that PCSO Darren Samuel will be given a key from WBC to access CYAC in order to trial this.

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

Croft Memorial Hall: the lines of communication have been opened between the Hall’s committee and WBC regarding the possibility of turning it into an emergency refuge.

HS2 re: virtual briefing session on 10th February – the time could be changing from 17:30 to 18:30. Cllrs Bland and Partington are both OK with the new time.

Parking at Round Thorn: Jane Nuttall provided an update following on from a nurse slipping over on the mud on her way to attend to a patient in her care. Now awaiting cost for moving water pipes and telecoms. A contractor was at the site the previous day. Two years ago the cost from Torus was £30k.

Another resident shared a newspaper article from 1969 and parking was an issue even back then.

Warrington BC: re Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – still nothing from David Boyer’s office. Clerk will chase.

Warrington Voluntary Action Group: re funding for kick rails at CYAC. A quote has been received but it’s expensive (£5,196.56) and it’s for one solid fence, whereas the council had in mind a fence in smaller sections with gaps in between. The clerk to liaise with WBC over this.

David J Platt Landscaping re: drainage on playing field – after assessment of the playing field, the proposed drainage already quoted for will not be enough to alleviate the amount of water on the playing field so David J Platt Landscaping Ltd needs to requote for this work. The clerk will arrange a meeting with them in the next couple of weeks. Cllr Sharpe also to attend. Clerk to try to locate copy of plan of playing field.

The clerk submitted the precept for 2022/23 to Mark Dennett at WBC and he has confirmed receipt of this.

Peter Black re: J11 motorway services – clerk to contact Peter to confirm that the council does not wish to apply for Rule 6.

Information Commissioner’s Office re: renewal – it’s £5 cheaper to pay by DD. Clerk to try to arrange this for 2023’s renewal.

**2022/199 Clerk’s Report – Financial Reports**

The financial reports were up to the end of December. The bank reconciliations are balanced.

The December creditor list amounts to £7,252.79. There are no issues regarding the budget.

A list of January’s cheque payments was distributed to the councillors. This list amounted to £2,580.06.

**Resolved**.

Approved.

**2022/200 Clerk’s Report – Planning** **Applications for consideration at this meeting:**

**2022/201 Planning Application 2021/40750 – 26 Smithy Lane, WA3 7JE**

Description of development: Proposed side extension.

**Resolved.**

No objection.

**2022/202 Planning Application 2021/40665 – 45 Wadeson Way, WA3 7JS**

Description of development: Retrospective Summerhouse.

**Resolved.**

No objection.

**2022/203 Planning Application 2022/40762 – 11 Eaves Brow Road, WA3 7LG**

Description of development: Proposed demolition of existing conservatory, replaced with two storey rear and side extension.

**Resolved.**

No objection.

A resident at the meeting brought up the objection that CPC put towards her planning application. Cllr Bland asked the clerk to write to WBC to explain that further evidence has come to CPC’s attention.

**2022/204 Borough Councillor’s Update**

As Cllr Allen was absent there was no update.

**2022/205 Recess**

One resident brought up the issue of flooding on Lady Lane. There was a grid that was full of rubbish. However, the flooding did disappear quickly.

Cllr Carr was meeting with the Environmental Agency to discuss this. The sign to warn people of the flooding had disappeared.

Cllr Allen will investigate this.

A resident advised of a planned power cut the following Monday between 09:00 and 16:00. Smithy Lane might have to be shut as it’s overhead work.

There was a query over whether the price of the green bins could be stretched from nine months to twelve, especially as the prices are going up.

Roadworks on Birchall St and Gerard Rd – they keep patching up the holes in the road but it needs resurfacing.

The road leading into CYAC needs resurfacing.

Clerk to inform Kenny of ASB on CYAC land.

A resident informed the council of speeding along Mustard Ln and enquired as to the possibility of the installation of speed bumps. The police are not very proactive. The residents tell them when it occurs but they monitor it at the wrong time.

Cllr Campbell commented that if seventy new homes crop up in the village then that means an additional 140 more cars which will add to the problem. We need to look at traffic calming measures. Traffic calming should go on the next agenda.

A resident wondered if the General Elliott could be registered as a building of local interest. It’s not known what the owners wish to do with it. Peter Sturman in the village is a good person to go to for advice. The clerk is to find his contact details. The Noggin falls under Birchwood.

Cllr Sharpe updated that work is going to start on the Parkside link road this month. It’ll be by junction 22.

There was a referral from a member of the public regarding a request under the Freedom of Information act.

Cllr Bland had a copy of the new contract with the council’s landscaping company, David J Platt Landscaping Limited, which he gave to the resident. The council can put something on the website. The council needs to be more open. There’s no mention of the landscaping contract on the website currently.

At the December meeting when the budget was discussed, the landscaping contract was included within the budget.

The council needs to be more open and transparent. However, no-one has requested anything like this before.

How would residents know if something is value for money?

The contract is below £5,000 so it doesn’t go to tender.

**2022/206 Members’ Referrals**

Cllr Farnsworth had a referral from a volunteer who’s been looking after the cemetery and would like CPC to fund a green bin for garden waste. Members agreed that they’d be happy to contribute to this.

**Resolved.**

Approved.

**2022/207 Date of next meeting**

15th February 2022 at 19:30.