**CROFT PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 19:30 ON TUESDAY 15th MARCH 2022

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

Councillors Campbell (Vice Chair), Benson, Farnsworth and Partington

Helen Buckley (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Councillors Sharpe and Allen MBE

Cheshire Constabulary

Cllr Bland welcomed everyone to the meeting. He announced that there will no longer be a part 2 to the meeting but that this will be included on the agenda going forward in case of any items arising that need to be discussed confidentially.

**2022/225 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

**2022/226 Minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2022**

**Resolved.**

The minutes were approved.

Cllr Partington commented that Croft PC is coming across as being too indecisive – there are too many ‘maybes’ etc in the minutes.

Also, there are too many items and not enough item numbers.

**2022/227 Matters Arising**

2022/212 Traffic Calming: there was a request that Lord Street should also be mentioned.

2022/175 (see also 2022/155 and 2022/114) Toilet Block: the clerk is due to meet with a contractor and a couple of the councillors next week, on Tuesday 22nd.

**2022/228 Cheshire Constabulary February Report**

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

There was a suggestion that the council should contact John Dwyer regarding the lack of attendance from PCSOs.

**2022/229 The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee**

Cllr Campbell provided an update on this, following on from the second planning meeting recently held:

Cllr Sharpe and his partner are going to host a beacon.

We’re having trouble sourcing music for the night.

There will be communications on social media about what’s going on. An A4 sheet will be put through everyone’s doors so as to get it to everyone

12:30 to 16:00 will be the timing for the picnic in the park on the Sunday.

Hopefully the Scouts can do a burger van.

People to bring their own table, chairs, picnic rugs, etc.

The flowers by the old post office to be red, white and blue.

The Air Cadets would like to be involved but as it’s bank holiday many might be away. They’ll check numbers and let us know.

Clerk to ask schools if they’d like a visit from Cllr Campbell to talk to the children about the jubilee.

We could possibly give mugs to schoolchildren and/or people born in 1952.

Schools to make A3 design to decorate railings on playing field. One resident suggested keeping bunting up until the carnival so it leads from one event to the other.

We could give something to the schools instead of to the children – such as a picture of the Queen to commemorate the jubilee.

We need to buy bunting and banners to start advertising it. Cllr Campbell asked the Council if it could confirm the budget for the jubilee events. An amount of £3,000 to be allotted to this was agreed. **Resolved** – to allocate £3,000 for jubilee events.

We could have a magician going around to everyone.

We need a trailer to have a stage – Cllr Sharpe to sort.

We could possibly have a float to give a ride to the children and the people born in 1952.

We could have medals to give out.

We need to get the bunting sooner rather than later.

The next meeting is Wednesday 6th April at 19:30 at CYAC.

**2022/230 Football Pitch Hire:**

The clerk had received a request to see if the pitch on the playing field was available to hire.

The council agreed that it would rent the pitch; however, the clerk is to contact Winwick Parish Council to ask if they rent their playing fields out.

We would need to have a contract in place outlining details such as insurance, fees, etc.

**2022/231 General Elliot as an ACV:**

Cllr Bland gave an update on this. We can put an Asset of Community Value on the pub. We could apply as a parish council.

It has to be kept as it is for five years.

There’s a concern that the site could end up as houses.

The owners have to leave it six months from announcing the sale of the pub to give people time to bid.

Cllr Bland spoke to Peter Sturman about it and he’s happy to meet to discuss further.

One resident present claimed that there used to be two terraced houses on the General Elliot car park.

Cllr Bland is to arrange to meet Peter Sturman and other cllrs.

The owners are not willing to disclose what will happen. They were hoping to keep it as a pub but there have been some developers there recently.

CAMRA has ideas on its website as to how to go about bidding for a pub.

The council will ask the owners if they could put blocks on the car park entrance to prevent any unwanted visitors.

**2022/232 Clerk’s Report – Correspondence**

1. ChALC Boundary Review Consolation: Cllr Benson thinks it’s not Warrington North that’s affected.
2. HS2 Update: Cllrs Bland and Partington met with CADRAG members, Parish Cllrs from Croft, Culcheth & Glazebury and a residents’ group from Pendle Gardens. It was a good meeting. It was decided to get MPs involved – all those affected from Crewe northbound.

They formed a new group – “Golborne Link Action Group” – as Cadrag’s setup was too technical.

Cllr Partington said that they have until 31st March to put something together regarding the environmental statement. It’s the Hybrid Bill that’s going to Parliament. We need to comment by 31st March. Frank (Allen) will do this. There’s a form to fill in that is eight or nine pages. CPC has already responded.

The government is asking for organisations to put something together, not individuals.

Cllr Partington has emailed all the affected MPs – Charlotte Nichols, James Grundy, Andy Carter, Sir Graham Brady and Esther McVey.

We are not expecting to overturn their decision but hoping to modify it.

Andy Carter is having meetings with Grant Shapps.

We have to put together a case for a petition which goes to Parliament. We’re asking for the support of MPs to do this. We’re not sure who will appear for us.

The only reply so far is from Esther McVey’s office only to acknowledge the email.

Cllr Bland read out the comment he sent to WBC re HS2. There’s another meeting next week.

**2022/233 Clerk’s Report – Financial Reports**

The financial reports were up to the end of January and February. The bank reconciliations were in balance.

The January creditor list amounts to £2,803.69 and the February creditor list amounts to £8,662.45. There are no issues regarding the budget.

A list of March’s cheque payments was distributed to the councillors. This list amounted to £4,806.44.

**Resolved**.

Approved.

**2022/234 Clerk’s Report – Planning** **Applications for consideration at this meeting:**

**2022/235 Planning Application 2019/35726 – Land to the North of Junction 11, of the M62, Warrington**

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.

**2022/236 Planning Application 2022/41038 – 31 Browmere Drive, WA3 7HS**

Description of development: Proposed extended front dormer and alterations to rear elevation. Render to front elevation.

**Resolved.**

No objection.

**2022/237 Borough Councillor’s Update – Cllr Benson**

1. People have been commenting on the CAZ signs – Cllr Benson spoke to Mark Tune. They’re not changing – they’ll stay at 7.5 limit. The borough councillors have requested to have them covered up or removed.
2. Cllrs Allen, Benson and Maisey met with Dave Boyer, Dave Vasey and Jim Turton to discuss flooding.

They’re also trying to bring in UU and the Environment Agency.

Lady Lane and Smithy Brow are particularly bad.

They’ve cleaned the drains approximately ten days ago.

One on Lady Lane has not been done. Cllr Benson has been there when they’re doing the drains and knows that they attend to the tree roots too.

There’s a drain on a farm that’s leaking out and it’s really smelly. Dave Boyer is going to attend to this. Cllr Benson videoed it.

The road sweeper should pick up anything that gets thrown up onto the road.

A resident said that on one road there’s not enough room for the road sweeper to get past. The council could get rid of it and charge the resident.

1. Cllrs Allen and Benson attended an event at the Town Hall regarding Ukraine.
2. HS2 – Steve Hunter and Phil Forster – different to how we normally do petitions. Having Teams meeting Tuesday next week – will get info from that.
3. Cllr Benson to ask Cllr Allen regarding the playground.

**2022/238 Recess**

1. Traffic calming – this is a serious issue.

The council to ask Mark Tune how to go about putting speed bumps in the road. Invite him to the next meeting.

Cllr Campbell said that the council puts cables on the road to detect speed and traffic levels.

The council may not have the money to put in speed bumps but the developers who’ll build the houses might do.

1. General Elliot – owned by brewery. Why won’t the brewery do anything?

The owners still reside there.

Cllr Partington says it’s not the brewery.

**2022/239 Members’ Referrals**

1. Cllr Farnsworth enquired about the green bin. The clerk confirmed that it’s due to be delivered today.
2. Cllr Partington enquired about a publication scheme for the website. The council will look into this.
3. Cllr Campbell mentioned the complaints received by a couple of residents regarding the trees being chopped down by the M62.

One resident said they were cut down due to ash dieback.

It’s expensive to install sound barriers – Cllr Benson said it’s hundreds of thousands of pounds for just a few metres.

1. Cllr Campbell said to have red, white and blue lanyards on the medals being ordered for the schoolchildren for the jubilee.

**2022/240 Date of next meeting**

19th April 2022 at 19:30.