**CROFT PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 19:30 ON TUESDAY 19th APRIL 2022

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

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

Helen Buckley (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Cheshire Constabulary

Cllr Bland welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2023/1 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

**2023/2 Minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2022**

**Resolved.**

The minutes were approved.

**2023/3 Matters Arising**

2022/239a (see also 2022/206) Green bin: Cllr Farnsworth enquired as to whether this had been delivered. It was confirmed that it has.

**Resolved.**

Green bin has been delivered.

2022/231 General Elliot: Cllr Partington enquired as to what was happening with this. Cllr Bland said that WBC informed him that we have to wait until we hear if it’s going up for sale or not. If it does go up for sale then we can get Peter Sturman involved.

**2023/4 Cheshire Constabulary March Report**

Cllr Bland contacted John Dwyer who stated that there’s no reason why we shouldn’t have at least one police officer around locally in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft.

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

There was a comment that it could be a resources issue as the PCSO is on long term sick.

Cllr Bland to contact John Dwyer again. John Dwyer agreed with Cllr Bland that no-one comes to the meetings (from Cheshire Constabulary). Cllr Bland will invite John Dwyer to the next meeting.

There are only three beat cars for the whole of Warrington.

**2023/5 The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee**

Cllr Campbell provided an update on this.

The date is coming up fast. Plans are well underway.

It will be from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. On Thursday 2nd there will be an event at Sharpe’s Farm for the lighting of the beacon, which will happen across the country at the same time.

We will have banners advertising the events and a PA system.

Cllr Sharpe has already started collecting wood and has picked a spot with a good vantage point. You can see as far as Wales (Mold) on a clear day. We need more stewards for the evening.

We have had contact from BBC Radio Merseyside about the beacon event.

There’ll be limited parking, you’ll need walking shoes and it’s uphill on a gradual slope.

We will congregate from about 21:00. The lighting will be at 21:45.

There’ll be no live music at the Thursday event, just pre-recorded music.

Pam has put together maps of the site.

We have five volunteers to marshall so far from Croft Carnival.

There’ll be a generator with the PA system.

Cllr Sharpe will use tractors to light up the field. He anticipates that the event will be over by 22:30.

Cllr Campbell said we have to tell the Fire Service. He will call in at Birchwood Fire Station to let them know.

We need first aiders at both events. Cllr Campbell will contact St John’s Ambulance.

Cllr Campbell sent a press release to Culcheth Life. There was some debate as to whether to send to the Warrington Guardian too. It was decided not to contact WG as it would be too big a reach. We need to keep attendees below 500.

The next nearest beacon is Penketh or Lymm.

At the picnic a bouncy castle has been arranged but needs supervision. Parents will be asked to supervise their own children as they go on.

The clerk to email Merron Mitchell when she’s back from holiday to get contact details for a burger van.

The clerk will also contact the ice cream van to confirm the booking.

The bouncy castle should come with its own generator although Cllr Campbell will check this.

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

Cllr Campbell would like to visit the schools in Croft on Friday 20th May to deliver the medals and collect the artwork. The clerk will contact the headteachers to arrange this.

We have trees to plant – we need to decide where.

We decided not to go ahead with flowers by the old post office as the price was too high.

We’ll be asking everyone to decorate with bunting at their homes.

The next meeting is Wednesday 4th May at 19:30 at the small hall in the Memorial Hall to finalise details, although we may plan one more a couple of weeks later.

12:30 to 16:00 is the timing for the picnic.

**2023/6 Wildflowers:**

The clerk has been contacted by Kevin McCready at Warrington Borough Council to see if the council would be interested in funding wildflower meadows. The councillors agreed that this is a lovely idea.

**Resolved.**

The clerk to reply to Kevin McCready to say the council would like to do this.

**2023/7 Clerk’s Report – Correspondence:**

1. Round Thorn update: Mrs Nuttall gave a pleasing update on this issue. Work is due to commence on Monday and is to be done in three phases.

There’ll be limited parking during the works.

She gave a brief overview to other residents who weren’t familiar with the situation: double parking has been an issue for over fifty years on this street. The grassed area is to be turned into nine parking spaces. WBC and Torus are to pay for it.

Letters will be delivered to neighbours this week to confirm how many weeks it’s likely to take.

Emergency services vehicles have not been able to get down the street.

The parking complaints began in 1969. The residents may get the press involved to run a story.

Residents will do their own planting as they’re losing green spaces to concrete.

The councillors thanked Mrs Nuttall for all her hard work in bringing this to fruition.

1. Toilet block update: the clerk had received another quote relating to the renovation of the toilet block. A decision to go with the lower quote needs ratifying.

**Resolved.**

Approved. The council to proceed with the lower quote.

**2023/8 Clerk’s Report – Financial Reports**

The financial reports were up to the end of March. The bank reconciliations were in balance.

The March creditor list amounts to £5,242.78. There are no issues regarding the budget.

A list of April’s cheque payments was distributed to the councillors. This list amounted to £6,039.53.

**Resolved**.

Approved.

**2023/9 Clerk’s Report – Planning** **Applications for consideration at this meeting:**

**2023/10 Planning Application 2022/41240 – Land bounded by Taylor Business Park, Warrington Road and New Hall Lane, WA3 6BH** Description of development: Removal of "for a temporary period of 5 years" previously approved 2016/28853 (Rescue, Conservation & Education Centre for Birds of Prey with associated education facilities Wild Wings Site).

**Resolved.**

No objection.

**2023/11 Planning Application 2021/40417 – 17 Lord Street, WA3 7DB**

Description of development: Proposed side rear and front, part single, part two storey extensions and remodelling of existing house.

There was some debate around this application as it had previously been submitted but with the incorrect house number and CPC had objected to it on the grounds of overdevelopment.

Cllr Bland said it was up to the planning department at WBC to decide its outcome.

The owners said that it’s the same as what was approved in 2015 and that the immediate neighbours either side are both OK with it.

The owners are wanting to build a ‘granny flat’.

Cllr Bland reiterated that it’s up to WBC to decide.

Cllr Allen said it’s to go to the committee.

The 2015 plan will have elapsed after three years which is why they will have had to reapply.

The owners would like to have the blessing of CPC.

There was some debate about the front fence.

**Resolved.**

No objection.

**2023/12 Planning Application 2022/40998 – Land bounded by Taylor Business Park, Warrington Road and New Hall Lane, WA3 6BH**

Description of development: Varying condition 2 which limits them to 5 April 2022 to December 2025 following grant of approval 2016/28853 & 2022/41240 (Proposed Rescue, Conservation & Education Centre for Birds of Prey with associated education facilities).

**Resolved.**

No objection.

**2023/13 Planning Application 2022/41270 – 98 New Lane, WA3 7JL**

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

**Resolved.**

No objection.

**2023/14 Planning Application 2022/41282 – 13 Smithy Brow, WA3 7DA**

Description of development: Proposed single storey rear extension.

**Resolved.**

No objection.

**2023/15 Borough Councillor’s Update – Cllr Allen**

1. At the last full council meeting the Local Plan was passed by a majority. Cllr Allen voted against it.

We can still object to the plans as they come through.

It still has to be approved by the Secretary of State.

Cllr Partington made a comment about Peel that, although they were not given the go-ahead in the Local Plan, they have the resources and clout if they want to appeal.

1. Cllr Allen has been approached by some villagers regarding Peel Holdings. Apparently, if people buy a house in Croft, it comes up in the search that Peel Holdings want to develop 1000 houses on the grounds of the General Elliot.
2. Regarding the undergrowth that was removed on Kenyon Lane, tarmac has been put down but now weeds are growing through. Cllr Allen will follow this up as there’ll be a guarantee on it.

A resident said it’s like that on Lady Lane but it doesn’t get talked about as there’s no path.

Cllr Allen said it was a good start. Kenyon Lane was a priority as people were being clipped by wing mirrors as the width of the path was reduced by the undergrowth.

Cllr Allen asked residents to give her a list of the footpaths they are concerned about and she’ll deal with it.

There’s a path by Cockshot Farm that’s very narrow.

1. The flooding on Lady Lane is sorted.
2. Traveller sites: there has been nowhere that fits the criteria: near schools, doctors, amenities etc. As soon as any prospective site finds out it’s the council, the price goes up.

**2023/16 Recess**

1. A resident said that she’s been asking about the PC website for about a year. She finds the website confusing and not readable.

She said that minutes and information about meetings are not kept up-to-date.

The council agreed that the website needs to be kept more up-to-date.

1. Cllr Partington commented that the FOI act will be reviewed at May’s meeting.
2. One resident queried the height of the fence at 17 Lord Street and suggested that this needs checking.

Apparently hedges can be any height but fences need to meet certain criteria.

Sue and Colin will query this with WBC.

1. Traffic calming: we had been waiting until the outcome of the Local Plan. WBC may not have the funds for this but the developers would. The developers need to fund so much towards the area.

Cllr Allen will ask Mark Tune to attend the next meeting as she also needs to speak to him about the CAZ signs as they are too big.

Conversely, CPC’s fly-tipping signs are too small as we had been told by WBC not to make them too big, yet the CAZ signs are huge.

1. Mr Isgar said that he caught up with David Boyer recently over a coffee. They had a meeting to look at HS2.
2. Cllr Partington gave an update on HS2. He’s a member of the Golborne Link Action Group along with Cllr Bland and CADRAG’s Frank Allen. They had responded to the Hybrid Bill that was going through Parliament by 31st March. This was submitted by Frank Allen on CPC’s behalf.

He said that he had sight of the letter from Sir Graham Brady saying that the Golborne Spur would be cancelled.

This is only a verbal assurance at the moment.

Wigan BC wants the Golborne Link to stay.

There was some debate about HS2 and where it could go.

1. A resident queried the new houses behind the school – this will be the main objection when it comes: the strain on the existing infrastructure.

**2023/17 Members’ Referrals**

Cllr Partington wondered if there was any report from Peter Black following on from his attendance at the DMC on 23rd March. The clerk will email Peter Black to find out.

**2023/18 Date of next meeting**

17th May 2022 at 19:30.

Tonight was Cllr Bland’s last meeting as Chair. He thanked everyone for their support and he was applauded.