**CROFT PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 19:30 ON TUESDAY 17th MAY 2022

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

Councillors Campbell, Allen MBE, Partington & Sharpe

Helen Buckley (Clerk)

Mark Tune (Traffic Management – Warrington Borough Council)

Police Sergeant Nathan Gulam (Cheshire Police)

**Apologies:** Councillor Farnsworth

Cllr Bland welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2023/19 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest**

None declared

**2023/20 Appointment of Chair for 2022/23**

Cllr Campbell was nominated as Chair for 2022/23

Cllr Campbell accepted the nomination

**Resolved**

That Cllr Campbell be Chair for 2022/23

Cllr Campbell chaired the meeting from this point

Cllr Campbell expressed his thanks to Cllr Bland for his chairmanship during 2021-22

**2023/21 Appointment of Deputy Chair for 2022/23**

Cllr Sharpe was nominated as Deputy Chair for 2022/23

Cllr Sharpe accepted the nomination

**Resolved**

That Cllr Sharpe be Deputy Chair for 2022/23

**2023/22** **Appointment of Representative to the Village Hall Committee**

**Resolved**

That Cllr Sharpe continues to represent the Parish Council on the Village Hall Committee

**2023/23** **Appointment of Representatives to the Culcheth Education Foundation Trust**

**Resolved**

That Cllrs Allen and Bland continue to represent the Parish Council on the Culcheth Education Foundation Trust

**2023/24 Minutes of the Meeting held 19th April 2022**

**Resolved**

Minutes approved albeit with two amendments to be made

**2023/25 Matters arising from the minutes**

2022/231 General Elliot

The previous owner of the General Elliot, Kirk Garbutt, was present at the meeting. He informed the parish council that he’s awaiting the paperwork to be signed.

Cllr Partington suggested that the events tab on the website needs to be updated to reflect the upcoming Jubilee events. Also, to create events on Facebook for these.

The clerk will update the events accordingly.

**2023/26 Cheshire Police April Report**

As PS Nathan Gulam was in attendance, he introduced himself and updated everybody present.

He explained that PCSO Darren Samuel is still off sick and there’s no cover for him.

PC Paul Hancock is the beat officer.

He has come from GMP.

They are trying to make the area a safe place.

They rely on people telling them things.

They plan to trial a police surgery. Maybe a mobile surgery using a police van. They would prefer to do that than in a building as there’s more visibility.

You should call 101 to report any incidents or go online onto the Cheshire Police website as all reported incidents are audited and recorded.

They are hoping to get PCSO Samuel back.

They have committed to going to Robinfest.

Cllr Allen asked how soon can a surgery happen in Croft. PS Gulam hoped that it could be in the next two weeks – they’ll try a mobile surgery rather than in a building.

Cllr Partington reported an abandoned vehicle at the end of Oak Street that has been there since November on double yellows. He spent half an hour on 101 reporting it to Cheshire Police. It’s a Citroën with the registration plate FX11 ZTY.

Mark Tune said that it’s WBC that looks after double yellows, not the police. They can enforce Fixed Penalty Notices.

There’s a new PCSO called Tom who started three weeks ago.

If you have any issues, please do report them.

Cllr Bland commented that, when Maurizio was the local PCSO, there used to be Community Speed Watch.

Cllr Campbell enquired as to what procedures would we need to go through to get funds in place to introduce traffic calming measures.

PS Gulam advised to report all incidents to Cheshire Police and WBC including the vehicle registration plate.

Cllr Campbell suggested that we could send PC Paul Hancock and PS Gulam the details of our two Jubilee events. There are events in Croft, Culcheth and Winwick all on the same day (Sunday 5th June).

Sgt Gulam explained that, tonight, he’s the Beat Sergeant for the whole of Warrington.

Cllr Campbell said that he’s always welcome to CPC’s meetings.

Cllr Sharpe reported an issue of motorbikes on his farmland.

Sgt Gulam said the Police has something called Operation Scrambler. The more reports they get, the more that can be done.

Cllr Sharpe said it’s usually on a Sunday at around 16:00.

**2023/27 Traffic Calming – Mark Tune, WBC**

1. Cllr Allen brought up the subject of the CAZ signs and said that residents were not informed about why they are there.

Mr Tune explained that they were mandated by the Government via Greater Manchester Authority. However, the rollout had been delayed by Covid.

Information surrounding dirty vehicles has been updated.

Central Government removed the mandate.

Nothing can be done about the size of the signs. This is determined by the Department for Transport. It’s a case of “These are the signs, these are what you’ll have”.

If HGVs, coaches, or other dirty vehicles encounter the signs, they’ll just go around the villages.

The signs go as far as Crab Lane and Rixton, although they were not originally meant to be.

There are environmental weight limit signs in similar places.

WBC is concerned about the confusion caused. They have approached Greater Manchester saying they’re not happy.

The project lead at Transport for Greater Manchester disagrees with Mr Tune.

The fact that the signs say ‘Under Review’ Mr Tune says it makes it sound like it’s an experimental scheme. He doesn’t believe the signs are appropriate.

On 1st July it will go to the Secretary of State.

It would cost £2m to take the signs down.

WBC will wait until 1st July and see what happens.

The signs must go somewhere so there was no consultation as to where to site them. TfGM and ACOM have not been as sensitive as to where the signs should go.

The signs are too big. They were authorised by the DfT. They’re not classed as a highway sign. They have to be below 0.6m2 to not need planning permission. In Manchester itself the signs are smaller.

Cllr Allen is to give Mr Tune a list regarding the location of the signs.

One resident reported a sign near their house to the CAZ website.

People are passing the buck.

Mr Tune will keep CPC informed after 1st July. There’s only one officer at the moment.

Cllr Campbell mentioned that there’s a bad bend in the village.

He wondered if the council could be guided by Mr Tune as to what can be done. If there’s any finance available to have a traffic calming survey then Croft Parish Council would like to be considered for this.

WBC has a healthy capital allocation programme. The budget is usually committed to a year or two in advance.

Cllr Campbell said that if we get developers in to build houses it would be useful to have this information to hand.

This would involve putting tubes for a minimum of one week.

Mr Tune confirmed that he’d be happy to do some survey work.

1. Cllr Allen commented that, regarding Winwick Link Road, she’s been pointed to St Helen’s Council. People are going around in circles.
2. Cllr Sharpe said that the workmen who built the new footpath on Wigshaw Lane didn’t connect the drains. They blocked the culvert which causes blockages of the drains. The path is also overgrown in the gutter/road itself.
3. Cllr Partington mentioned the speed signs. Mr Tune said that Jamie Fisher has been on long term sick but, now that he’s back, is chasing up with TWM if sale or return or a discount is possible.

**2023/28 Jubilee Update**

Cllr Campbell thanked those who delivered the leaflets.

There’s not much more to update. We need more marshalls.

The banners are now up.

The events will be advertised on the website in the calendar.

On Friday 20th, Cllrs Campbell and Sharpe will go to the schools to deliver the medals and pick up the designs to go on the railings.

The weather needs to be good for the Sunday. The beacon will be lit whatever the weather but the picnic will be cancelled if the weather is bad.

Those who’ve already agreed to marshall are to arrive an hour before the events.

The Carnival Committee is letting Croft Parish Council use their traffic cones, particularly as the farm is in a 40 zone.

Parking will be available at the farm on the night.

There are only three beacons in the area other than ours.

It is estimated that 200-300 people will go to the beacon event.

On the Sunday there will be parking available at CYAC, the playing field car park, the General Elliot and the Horse Shoe.

Marshalls will be allocated jobs when they arrive.

The events have been advertised in Culcheth Life.

**2023/29 Clerk’s Report: General Data Protection Awareness Checklist for Councillors & Councillor Privacy Notice**

The documents were read and signed by Councillors.

**2023/30 Code of Conduct for Members & Openness and Transparency on Personal Interests**

**Resolved**

Approved.

**2023/31 Register of Members’ Interests**

The documents were completed and signed by Councillors.

**2023/32 Standing Orders**

**Resolved**

Approved.

**2023/33 Financial Regulations**

**Resolved**

Approved.

**2023/34 Safeguarding Public Money & Investment Strategy**

**Resolved**

Approved.

**2023/35 Financial & Management Risk Assessment**

**Resolved**

Approved.

**2023/36 Litter Picking Risk Assessment**

**Resolved**

Approved.

**2023/37 Complaints Policy & Financial Support Policy**

**Resolved**

Approved.

**2023/38 Insurance**

Members noted the Parish Council’s insurance cover for 2022/23.

**2023/39 Asset Register**

**Resolved**

Approved.

**2023/40 Financial Matters: 2022/23 Annual Budget**

Noted.

**2023/41 Financial Statements**

Members were advised that the bank statements to the end of April had not been received.

Members were presented with the creditors’ cheque payment list for May totalling £6,626.46.

**Resolved**

That the creditors’ cheque payment list for May totalling £6,626.46

be approved.

**2023/42 Clerk’s Report: Correspondence**

1. From Warrington Borough Council re: Local Plan – Submission for Examination in Public. This was an update to say that the Local Plan had been submitted to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 22nd April 2022.
2. From Jacqui Johnson & Peter Black re: MSA J11. This was an update that the plan has been allowed to go ahead.
3. From: HAGS re: Inspection of Play Equipment. The inspection report was noted.
4. From: Local tradesman re: repainting the play equipment.

Cllrs agreed to this being done after September once the children are back to school following the summer holidays.

Clerk will liaise with him to arrange this.

1. From: Fitness instructor re: classes on the playing field.

**Resolved**

Cllrs agreed to this at no charge. Clerk to send him the user agreement for the playing field.

1. From: Football coach re: using the pitch. There was some concern that the pitch could deteriorate with overuse. Clerk to look at scheduling a timetable for the football users and to find out how much The Oaks and Shaw Street charge to give us an idea.
2. To/from: WBC re: installation of kick rails around the land next to CYAC. Awaiting quote for this.

**2023/43 Planning Application 2022/41337 – The Stables, Turret Hall Farm, Stone Pit Lane, WA3 7DY**

Description of development: Use of barn as a family dwelling and use of associated barn for keeping and exercising of horses in connection with family dwelling.

**Resolved**

No objection.

**2023/44 Planning Application 2022/41400 – Benefice Farm, Mill House Lane, WA3 7HA**

Description of development: Demolition of existing detached dwelling and construction of detached dwelling with hardstanding and associated works.

**Resolved**

No objection.

**2023/45 Planning Application 2022/41279 – 110 Heath Lane, WA3 7DS**

Description of development: Proposed single storey rear extension.

**Resolved**

No objection.

**2023/46 Planning Application 2022/41468 – Cherry Tree Farm, Cross Lane, WA3 7AR**

Description of development: Proposed first floor and garage extensions

**Resolved**

No objection.

**2023/47 Pre-planning Application Consultation for a Mobile Phone Base Station Installation at CTIL\_ 30617600, Spring Lane Nurseries, Spring Lane, WA3 7AS (NGR: E363795 N392631)**

There was some debate around this. However, it was decided that, because it hasn’t officially gone through planning yet, the parish council needs to reserve judgement.

**2023/48 Borough Councillor’s Update – Cllr Allen MBE**

1. Cllr Allen said that there had been no Warrington BC meeting.
2. Nigel Balding is the shadow leader.
3. Cllr Allen’s role within WBC is with Parks & Leisure, Scrutiny & Appeals.
4. The next full council meeting is in June.
5. There’s a mayoral selection on Monday (23rd May).
6. Kenyon Lane is to be shut for two weeks due to a collapsed culvert by the pumping station. HGVs are to be sent a different way.

**2023/49 Recess**

A resident informed the council of a rotting tree stump. Their concern was that if it falls onto the road, it’ll cause an accident.

**2023/50 Members’ Referrals**

1. Cllr Sharpe updated that the toilet block refurbishment is ongoing. It’s being done from the inside out. There’s a slight delay with the roof due to nesting starlings.
2. Cllr Sharpe enquired as to how WBC would be spending the money that it would accrue from the MSA at J11.
3. Cllr Partington informed everyone that Jackie Middlehurst has been invited to Buckingham Palace.
4. Cllr Partington commented that it seems a long time since Croft PC has had a half page article in Culcheth Life. Cllr Campbell said that he would see to this.

It was agreed in 2020 to have three advertisements per year.

**2023/51 Date of next Parish Council meeting – 21st June 2022 at 19:30**