MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 19:30 ON THURSDAY 29th SEPTEMBER 2022

**Present:** Councillor Campbell (Chair)

Cllrs Bland MBE, Farnsworth, Partington & Sharpe

Helen Buckley (Clerk)

PC Matt Hankin (Cheshire Police)

**Apologies:** Cllr Allen MBE

Before the meeting began, one minute’s silence was observed to commemorate the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Cllr Campbell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2023/82 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest**

None.

**2023/83 Minutes of the Meeting held 19th July 2022**

**Resolved**

Minutes approved.

**2023/84 Matters arising from the minutes**

No matters arising.

**2023/85 Cheshire Police July and August Reports – PC Matt Hankin**

a. PC Hankin read out the reports for July and August.

b. He has taken over Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft from PC Hancock due to health reasons – PC Hancock can’t get out and about.

c. PC Hankin has covered all areas of Warrington East previously.

d. There is no designated PCSO. PCSO Swann has left the force. PCSO Samuel is still on long term sick leave. They don’t know when he’ll come back.

He is kept busy so is not seen as regularly as PCSO Samuel.

e. There is one beat officer at Birchwood, and one at Rixton.

f. His Police Sergeant is Nathan Gulam.

g. He said that not much has happened since August in Croft.

h. He is aware of the issues with speed on Heath Lane. They had the matrix sign out over the summer – this has fed some data back. People who broke the 30mph limit have been prosecuted. The 30mph road markings are not great. There are repeaters though.

i. Traffic calming measures – the only thing PC Hankin could suggest was traffic ribbons, they bring up quite a lot of data such as, how often the road is used, what times of day, what types of vehicle, etc. If someone sees an officer with a speed gun they will slow down but then they will speed up again after they have gone past.

j. One resident mentioned that there are also issues with speeding on Smithy Lane from the Horse Shoe to the Mill House Lane/Dam Lane end/junction. The road gets narrower. PC Hankin said that this is like the majority of roads in the Warrington area. Cllr Campbell said that this is an ongoing problem. It will become more dangerous as the nights get darker.

k. One resident mentioned that a lady at the last meeting said about being hit by wing mirrors on Smithy Brow.

l. Cllr Sharpe said there have been thefts of fuel from Kenyon Hall Farm. Some contractors were working there and it was done at night. They wanted a log to block access to the field.

PC Hankin later checked his system but said that there was no news of any fuel thefts. Cllr Sharpe said it happened last night.

m. Cllr Partington raised a question regarding speeding in that there has been a lot of success in Scotland of life-sized cut-outs of police officers in hi-vis vests being used to deter speeding. They only cost around £100 each and it’s a cheap way to avert it. PC Hankin commented that it’s similar to schools where they use a cardboard cut-out of a lollipop person. They have worked. You would have to stagger them approx. every 20m to make it more impactful. It’s pointless putting out only one. Cllr Partington said that people probably do go 60mph on Heath Lane but maybe we could put out one or two. PC Hankin said he had no objection to the parish council doing that. He does not recommend going out with a speed gun as it's very confrontational. Cllr Campbell commented that there wasn’t a great deal of uptake on a proposed community speed watch group.

n. PC Hankin said that they are down one officer. PCSO Bethan Roberts is back but is on limited hours. People have left roles, these roles have been advertised. Two new police officers are now on board. PC Hancock is managing Poulton South. If particular issues come up then all four police officers can investigate. PCSO Samuel is due to come back but they don’t know when.

o. One resident enquired as to who to ring when they need the police. PC Hankin confirmed that it’s 101. The resident feels like Croft is left alone. PC Hankin did state that it’s quicker to report crime online.

p. Another resident said that, on Heath Lane, two cars were going to work and then a sportscar overtook them.

q. Cllr Sharpe said that some people pinched some copper and left it on his land to go back and collect it later.

PC Hankin was thanked for his time and left the meeting at this point.

**2023/86 Clerk's Report: Correspondence**

1. Speeding signs – the clerk had both quotes and asked cllrs which of the elements of each quote they would like to proceed with.

One resident queried why put the older signs on Kenyon Lane if they are no good for Heath Lane. Another resident asked if we could have speed cameras. Cllr Campbell said the council would have to meet with the police to discuss the option of a camera.

The clerk is to request a better breakdown of the quotes from TWM.

1. The kick rails around the land at CYAC have now been installed. The clerk is still awaiting a date for the overhead barrier.
2. The plaque for the Queen’s Commemorative Bench was approved.

**Resolved**

The clerk to notify Angus Lord at WBC to go ahead with this.

1. Seven trees for the jubilee. The clerk is to contact Rawdon Jones at Mersey Forest to see if he can meet her with Cllr Sharpe at the Playing Field to look further into the option of having the remaining four trees at the bottom end of the field.
2. The clerk had received a quote from David J Platt Landscapes Ltd for the following work:
3. Repairing the flagstones at the playing field.

**Resolved**

The council agreed to the more expensive quote as it was a more comprehensive job in which any trip hazards will be removed.

1. Cutting back the yew tree and overgrown ivy at the Unitarian Chapel cemetery.

**Resolved**

The council agreed to both of these works to be done.

**2023/87 Clerk's Report: Remembrance Sunday**

The council agreed to obtain four poppy wreaths from the Royal British Legion, as an additional one will now be required for the Unitarian Chapel cemetery.

**Resolved**

A donation of £140 to be made to the Poppy Appeal.

**2023/88 Clerk's Report: Christmas Tree Lights Switch on Event**

Cllr Bland said that we could borrow Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council’s microphone to see if it works with our PA system. It will be tested in advance and if it doesn’t work then we can book John Edgar for the event.

**2023/89 Clerk's Report: Toilet Block**

The clerk and Cllr Sharpe met with Phil Moat from Sapphire Utility Solutions on site to discuss the final phase of the refurbishment. The works will commence on Monday 10th and will hopefully be finished in time for half-term, Friday 21st. The toilet block will be temporarily closed throughout this period for health and safety reasons.

**2023/90 Clerk's Report: Financial Reports**

The financial reports were up to the end of August.

The bank reconciliations were in balance.

The July creditor list amounts to £5,989.86 and the August creditor list amounts to £5,938.66. There are no issues regarding the budget.

A list of September’s cheque payments was distributed to the councillors. This list amounted to £4,270.51.

**Resolved**

That the creditors' cheque payment list for September totalling £4,270.51 be approved.

**2023/91 Clerk’s Report: Planning Applications**

**2023/92 Planning Application 2022/41593 – Manor House, Cross Lane, Croft, WA3 7AW**

Proposal: Retention of car storage site

**Resolved**

Objection lodged on 18th August on the grounds of traffic increase

**2023/93 Planning Application 2022/41805 – 50 Deacons Close, Croft, WA3 7E**

Proposal: Single storey extension to rear of property. Replace and relocate existing fence line at side of property

**Resolved**

No objection

The following were for information only.

**2023/94 Planning Application 2022/41976 – Spring Lane Nurseries, Croft, WA3 7AS**

Proposal: The proposed installation of a telecommunications base station comprising a 25m lattice mast supporting 6 no antenna together with 2 no ground-based cabinets and ancillary development

**2023/95 Planning Application 2022/41869 – Land Off Spring Lane, Croft, WA3 7AS**

Proposal: Proposed 25M telecommunications installation and associated ancillary works

Planning Applications for consideration at this meeting.

**2023/96 Application 2022/42262 – Land Within Car Park of Partridge Lakes Fishery, Glaziers Lane, Culcheth, WA3 4AQ**

Proposal: Removal of existing mast and proposed 20m lattice tower

**Resolved**

No objection

**2023/97 Borough Councillor's Update**

There was no update as there was no borough councillor present.

**2023/98 Recess**

a. One resident commented that the road sign for Arkenshaw Road has collapsed and is now a pile of concrete rubble. This needs reporting to the Highways Department at WBC. The clerk to request a photo of the road sign to send to WBC.

b. Another resident mentioned that there was a blocked gully near his house. A further resident said that, on Kenyon Lane with its junction with Wilton Lane, there are drains blocked with silt. Jetting makes the drains work again. Some workmen spent two hours cleaning these gullies. It would have taken twenty minutes to jet it. when blocked, the water rushes down Kenyon Lane. Cllr Bland suggested speaking to Cllr Carol Benson. Cllr Sharpe said he has photos he can send to Cllr Benson.

c. Another resident said that there are lorries using Opus on Wigshaw Lane. These PLG lorries should be using another route.

**2023/99 Members' Referrals**

Cllr Partington mentioned online banking. A policy would need to be agreed by the PC.

The clerk is to contact ChALC to see if there is any guidance on setting up a policy on this.

**2023/100 Date of next Parish Council meeting – 18th October 2022 at 19:30**