MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 19:30 ON TUESDAY 18th OCTOBER 2022

**Present:** Councillor Campbell (Chair)

Cllrs Allen MBE, Bland MBE, Farnsworth, Partington & Sharpe

Cllr Benson

Helen Buckley (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Cheshire Police

Cllr Campbell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He informed everyone that there would be a Part 2 meeting tonight so members of the public would need to leave for this due its confidential nature.

**2023/101 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Sharpe declared an interest in the planning application of Barrow Farm, Kenyon Lane, Croft, WA3 4AY (ref 2022/41777) so did not participate in this discussion.

**2023/102 Minutes of the Meeting held 29th September 2022**

**Resolved**

Minutes approved.

**2023/103 Matters arising from the minutes**

2023/88 Christmas Tree Lights Switch on Event: Cllr Bland updated Cllr Campbell that the PA system is working. The clerk is to inform Dave at the Horse Shoe of the date of the event.

2023/87 Remembrance Sunday/Poppy Appeal: four wreaths have been ordered and a donation made.

2023/98b Blocked Gullies: Cllr Benson said that, although some work had already been done, it hadn’t been actioned yet. A resident said that he raised the gully issue with borough councillors. Cllr Benson said she was at WBC yesterday with officers and assured the resident that they will be addressing the issue. Cllr Allen said more has happened in the last eighteen months than for ages. Cllr Benson will keep chasing it.

No further matters arising.

**2023/104 Cheshire Police September Report**

As there was nobody present from Cheshire Police, Cllr Campbell read this out. The report was noted.

**2023/105 Clerk's Report: Correspondence**

1. Elan City re speed signs. The clerk to contact Dave Boyer or Jamie Fisher to find out if they would approve the use of this company.

Cllr Campbell mentioned that he had spoken to the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner, John Dwyer, and they discussed speed cameras. These are very expensive at approx. £50,000. There is a pilot scheme elsewhere in Cheshire where the council gets a cut of the fines that are handed out. We will see how this scheme goes.

The use of life-sized cut-out police officers was also discussed. The clerk is to enquire as to the purchase of two of these to use to trial.

1. Overhead barrier at CYAC: Angus Lord at WBC had hoped that this would be installed this week but as of this afternoon there was no sign of this. The clerk to chase him up and also re: the Queen’s bench.
2. Seven Trees for the Jubilee: following on from the site visit with Rawdon Jones from the Mersey Forest, we are able to have three trees by the play area on the Playing Field. The clerk is to seek permission from Dave Cotterill at WBC to have the other four on the land next to CYAC.
3. Croft Parish Council had received an invitation to attend the Croft Carnival Committee’s AGM on Tuesday 22nd November. Cllr Campbell confirmed that he would attend.

**2023/106 Clerk's Report: 2021/22 Annual Governance & Accountability Return**

The clerk said that she had been notified by PKF Littlejohn that the parish council had met its statutory requirements by publishing the Notice of Audit and Right to Inspect by Friday 30th September.

**2023/107 Clerk's Report: Toilet Block**

The clerk confirmed that the final phase of works to the upgrade of the toilet block had begun and should be completed by half term.

**2023/108 Clerk's Report: Financial Reports**

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

Members were presented with the creditors’ cheque payment list for October totalling £3,022.17.

**Resolved**

That the creditors' cheque payment list for October totalling £3,022.17 be approved.

**2023/109 Clerk’s Report: Planning Applications**

Planning Applications for consideration at this meeting.

**2023/110 Application 2022/42073 – 20 Smithy Brow, Croft, WA3 7BZ**

Proposal: Single storey new build dwelling, detached car port for 3 cars.

**Resolved**

Objection on the grounds of being in the green belt and being behind the building line.

**2023/111 Application 2022/42042 – Sirocco, Mustard Lane, Croft, WA3 7BG**

Proposal: Single Storey Rear Extension.

This has been applied for under permitted development so there was no right of comment.

**2023/112 Application 2022/41777 – Barrow Farm, Kenyon Lane, Croft, WA3 4AY**

Proposal: Conversion of agricultural buildings to create two residential dwellings and associated works including demolition.

Cllr Sharpe left the room at this point so did not partake in this planning application.

**Resolved**

No objection.

**2023/113 Application 2022/42293 – 105 Heath Lane, Croft, WA3 7 DT**

Proposal: Single storey rear extension and associated alterations.

**Resolved**

No objection.

**2023/114 Borough Councillor's Update**

1. Cllr Allen said that the issue of the dip in the pavement near Croft Primary School is ongoing. They are trying to get the dip removed but now the hedge is impeding making the path narrower.
2. The signs at the end of Kenyon Lane have not been done yet but Cllr Allen will chase this.
3. CYAC has been done up but the foyer is still to be done.
4. Croft Parish Council to write to Warrington Borough Council to say that they’re not satisfied that things aren’t being done. We could invite David Boyer and David Vasey to the next meeting so that residents can ask them about outstanding issues.
5. Cllr Benson said that the following points were raised at the Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council meeting last week that are also relevant here such as:
6. She had attended the Local Plan inspection at the Halliwell Jones stadium. The whole Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft ward is affected by these plans. All points were covered in depth. Once the Inspectorate completes its work, we’ll find out the outcome.
7. The CPS car park changed hands some weeks ago. People are being fined for using both car parks (including the car park by the Post Office). No return has been reduced to one hour. The signs for the Post Office parking are facing the wrong way. Cllr Benson said she has also spoken to Matthew Cumberbatch and Steven Broomhead and written to them. She hopes to hear back soon regarding these issues.
8. A resident asked the borough Cllrs about the overgrown bushes between the General Elliot and the Horse Shoe. The General Elliot has a bit of rough ground, it’s the patch with trees on it. Cllr Sharpe said that he cut his hedge recently and it will be due again soon. The resident asked if Croft Parish Council could write to the General Elliot to request that they cut the hedge.

Another hedge that is encroaching on the footpath is at the junction of Kenyon Lane and Heath Lane. Cllr Sharpe said he would action this. It has been cut but is due again.

Cllr Sharpe said that Dr Freeman’s hedge needs cutting too by Sandy Lane.

**2023/115 Recess**

A resident asked about the cemetery trees due to be cut back and asked who’s responsible for the payment of this to be done.

**2023/116 Members' Referrals**

1. Cllr Sharpe asked the clerk to ask Platt’s about doing the planters at the Memorial Hall.
2. Cllr Partington commented on the flooding that had affected the bend on Sandy Brow recently (by the bungalow). He’s not sure if there’s a drain there. Cllr Allen confirmed that she had reported it to Dave Vasey but apparently it’s not a priority.
3. Cllr Partington asked if the parish council would be having an advert in Culcheth Life soon. Cllr Campbell confirmed that this is already underway.
4. Cllr Campbell informed everyone that the Remembrance Day parade will not go ahead. This is due to the cost of advertising the road closures. The forms have been done, four marshalls have been trained and the insurance is in place. £2,400 is the cost for WBC to advertise the road closures. It’s a lot to do to get seventy cadets there for two minutes. Cllr Campbell is meeting with Royal British Legion representatives next Monday (24th October). We shouldn’t let it slip altogether. Cllr Benson suggested walking on the pavements from the Village Club to the church using the road crossings but Cllr Campbell said it’s more hassle than the road closures. Cllr Farnsworth enquired as to how this was funded in the past. Cllr Campbell explained that there didn’t used to be a charge for the road closures. Other parishes have the same issue.

**2023/117 Date of next Parish Council meeting – 15th November 2022 at 19:30**