MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 19:30 ON TUESDAY 20th DECEMBER 2022

**Present:** Councillor Campbell (Chair)

Cllrs Allen MBE, Bland MBE, Partington & Sharpe

Cllr Benson

Helen Buckley (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Cllr Farnsworth

Cheshire Police

Cllr Campbell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He explained the process of the meeting to any new members of the public who were present.

**2023/139 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest**

None.

**2023/140 Minutes of the Meeting held 15th November 2022**

**Resolved**

Minutes approved.

**2023/141 Matters arising from the minutes**

2023/119b Kenyon Lane Road Markings: Cllr Allen updated that the road painting has now been done. There is no Give Way sign as yet, just the repainting. A road sign would need to be illuminated so there’s little scope in doing this at present. We’ll see how it goes now that the painting has been done – it does look good.

No further matters arising.

**2023/142 Cheshire Police November Report**

1. As there was nobody present from Cheshire Police, Cllr Campbell read this out. The report was noted.
2. PCSO Darren Samuel is still off. PCSO Georgina Morris has started to cover Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft.
3. Cllr Campbell said he will write to Cheshire Constabulary as there had been a surgery and bike marking session that had taken place but with little to no notice that they were going ahead. Cllr Campbell will say that the public is disappointed with the service.

**2023/143 Communication from Bellway Homes re: Deacons Close**

1. Cllr Campbell informed that he had received an email from a company called Lichfields acting on behalf of Bellway Homes regarding a proposed housing development on Deacons Close.
2. Cllr Partington said there’s some concern about it on Facebook. He queried whether we could explore the possibility of using the Section 106 agreement and request funding from Bellway to install any traffic calming measures. Bellway Homes made a profit of £3.5bn last year. These proposed additional homes (approximately 103) would mean further stress on local infrastructure such as schools, shops, doctors, dentists, sewers, etc.
3. Cllr Campbell said that the Local Plan has not been rubberstamped yet. Cllr Partington confirmed that it’s not due for ratification until summer 2023. Cllr Campbell said that Bellway would have to put in a planning application.
4. Cllr Benson said that building on Green Belt is a big no-no. She feels like this area of Warrington is overlooked.
5. Cllr Bland said that the Local Plan is still not accepted. We should still fight it. It’s meant to be affordable housing but houses are only affordable once.
6. Cllr Sharpe suggested an island and an access from Sandy Lane.
7. Croft Parish Council should reply to Bellway/Lichfields.
8. Cllr Allen confirmed that we would oppose it at planning. Cllr Bland said that we need residents to oppose it too. Croft Parish Council will leaflet local residents. Cllr Partington suggested writing to our MP also and offered to do this on behalf of the parish council.
9. The Government states that, if you’re going to build on Green Belt, it has to be exceptional circumstances. Warrington Borough Council is trying to find such exceptional circumstances. In Warrington town centre they’re building high rise blocks of flats. Cllr Allen confirmed that we will keep fighting it. We fought Parkside for thirty years.

**2023/144 Clerk's Report: Correspondence**

The clerk had received an email from WBC regarding moving a footpath where the proposed new motorway service area would be.

**2023/145 Clerk's Report: Christmas Tree Lights Ceremony**

The Christmas tree ceremony that took place on Friday 25th November was a success. Croft Parish Council is grateful to David J Platt Landscaping for the tree and to the Horse Shoe for the confections that were distributed.

**2023/146 Clerk's Report: Basic Life Support Training**

On Tuesday 29th November, Cllr Allen and the clerk attended this invaluable course. The clerk would like to apply to have another defibrillator at The Plough (with permission) if Cllrs agree.

**Resolved**

The Cllrs agreed to an additional defibrillator at The Plough, should permission be granted. Clerk to seek permission from The Plough.

**2023/147 Clerk’s Report: Toilet Block Grand Opening**

On Friday 2nd December the toilet block was officially opened. Croft Parish Council would like to say a huge thanks to everyone involved with this project.

**2023/148 Clerk's Report: Speed Signs**

The order has been placed with TWM for a pair of new speed signs for Heath Lane. The clerk negotiated a 10% discount. She has had a site meeting with her contact from WBC regarding where the pole on the bend should be moved to. He will action this.

Following on from an issue raised by a resident at the last meeting, the clerk contacted Google Maps via Twitter to say that Heath Lane is apparently being shown as a 60mph road when it’s only 30mph. Google Maps messaged back to say it’s been updated and to let them know if any further issues arise.

**2023/149 Clerk's Report: Financial Reports**

The financial reports were up to the end of September.

The bank reconciliations were in balance.

The September creditor list amounts to £4,661.91. There are no issues regarding the budget.

Members were presented with the creditors’ cheque payment list for December totalling £8,146.31.

The clerk requested to be made a signatory to the NatWest bank account so as to hopefully eradicate waiting on statements to arrive, should the council agree to this.

**Resolved**

That the creditors' cheque payment list for December totalling £8,146.31 be approved.

That the clerk becomes a signatory on the NatWest bank accounts.

**2023/150 Clerk’s Report – Setting the precept**

Members of the council discussed the precept and agreed that the precept should remain the same as the previous year. Members also agreed on the salary of the Parish Council employees.

**Resolved.**

That the precept be set at £72,980.00.

That the salary of Parish Council employees be approved.

That the reserve for the Playing Field remains at £35,000.00.

**2023/151 Clerk’s Report: Planning Applications**

Planning Applications for consideration at this meeting.

**2023/152 Application 2022/42674 – 57 Kenyon Lane, Croft, WA3 4AX**

Proposal: Retention of use as a short-term holiday let accommodation.

**Resolved**

No objection.

**2023/153 Application 2022/42700 – Oven Back Farm, Winwick Lane, Croft, WA3 7EW**

Proposal: Construction of multi-use outbuilding to rear garden comprising double garage, workshop, garden room and storage to ground floor along with gym and office space to fist floor. Proposal is to replace previously demolished outbuilding.

**Resolved**

No objection.

This application needed a response before this meeting:

**2023/154 Application 2022/42562 – 19 Wadeson Way, Croft, WA3 7JW**

Proposal: Demolition of existing garage. Single storey front / porch extension. Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension, together with partial rendering of elevations.

Members were asked to confirm that no objections were raised to the application as submitted.

**Resolved**

No objection.

The following applications were for information only:

**2023/155 Application 2022/****42644 – Land to the West of Winwick Lane, Croft, WA3 7EP**

Proposal: Adjacent authority application from St Helens reference P/2022/0778/ADC for 1 non illuminated free standing sign (Land to the West of Winwick Lane).

**2023/156 Application 2022/42588 – 143 Mustard Lane, Croft, WA3 7BA**

Proposal: Proposed detached garden building to accommodate home office, gym/yoga studio; art room and garden room.

**2023/157 Application 2022/42660 – Kenyon Lane Barn, Kenyon Lane, Croft, WA3 4AZ**

Proposal: Non-Material Amendment to planning approval 2020/36881 to allow for changes to external cladding specification and colour, insertion of 2no. windows and changes to internal floor plan/layout.

**2023/158 Borough Councillor's Update**

1. Cllr Allen informed everyone that there were a few motions at the most recent council meeting. One motion that was passed by all parties was for free school meals for all primary school children. They’re going to write to the Government to put this in motion.
2. Cllr Carr and Cllr Allen are on the ‘Better Communities’ committee and discussed gritting on Kenyon Lane, asking for it to be included in the gritting route. Cllr Sharpe requested gritters to be out on New Lane also. Cllr Allen informed that they don’t necessarily grit every school bus route. She will keep the pressure on to get Kenyon Lane gritted.

Grit bins are only for use on roads and pavements. People have been helping themselves to it and using it on their driveways.

A resident enquired if Heath Lane is gritted. Cllr Allen informed him that it’s not considered a primary route although she acknowledged its importance for the village. The clerk is to ask Mark Tune for a map of the gritting routes.

**2023/159 Recess**

1. A resident mentioned that Lady Lane has holes all down it.

This should be referred to Dave Vasey.

1. Cllr Allen said that the cut-out police officers are working really well. She has had residents comment on it.

**2023/160 Members' Referrals**

1. Cllr Partington mentioned that a resident in Lowton informed him that Wigan Council wants to put another lane turning left from the A580 onto Winwick Lane. The neighbours on that stretch are all complaining, and people are putting their houses up for sale.

The Lane Head Residents Group proposed an extension to Atherleigh Way. This would go straight across J22 of the M6 across to Kenyon. MP James Grundy is involved. This needs to be opposed at Warrington Borough Council level, not at Croft Parish Council level. Cllr Allen will take this on.

1. Cllr Sharpe said that a resident asked about a hedge on the corner of Smithy Lane and Birchall Street. There’s another hedge on Wigshaw Lane but this is for the borough council to do.

The hedge on Dr Freeman’s land needs doing. The clerk will write a letter to him.

1. The borough council is also looking at the drains on Lord Street/Smithy Brow.
2. The phone mast on Spring Lane is under investigation but they finished it anyway. Cllr Allen said she spoke to Nicky Gallagher about this. She’ll chase her up.

**2023/161 Date of next Parish Council meeting – 17th January 2023 at 19:30**