MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 19:30 ON TUESDAY 17th JANUARY 2023

**Present:** Councillor Sharpe (Chair)

Cllrs Allen MBE, Bland MBE, Farnsworth & Partington

Helen Buckley (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Cllr Campbell

Cheshire Police

Cllr Sharpe opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He explained to those present that the planning applications would be discussed after the minutes.

**2023/162 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest**

None.

**2023/163 Minutes of the Meeting held 20th December 2022**

 **Resolved**

Minutes approved.

**2023/164 Matters arising from the minutes**

2023/142b November Police Report: Cllr Partington queried whether PCSO Darren Samuel was still off. The clerk said that two PCSOs did a bike marking session in the CYAC car park just before New Year and they said he hasn’t left. The clerk will double-check this.

No further matters arising.

**2023/165 Planning Applications**

Planning Applications for consideration at this meeting.

**2023/166 Application 2022/42626 – 95 Heath Lane, Croft, WA3 7DT**

Proposal: Conversion of Existing Outbuilding to Bungalow (including new road crossover from Heath Lane).

**Resolved**

Objection on the following grounds:

* This was passed as a workshop a few years ago and should remain so.
* It was built on greenbelt.
* It would create an additional residence within the green belt.
* There would be substantial works proposed at the front of the property to create additional vehicular access which would considerably and adversely alter the view from the road.
* A new road access onto a narrow, windy section would not be acceptable.
* The height of the existing building would be almost doubled.
* It would adversely affect the outlook of the neighbouring properties.

**2023/167 Application 2022/****42796 –** **Biffa Waste Services, Risley Landfill Site, Silver Lane, WA3 6BY**

Proposal: Solar farm with associated infrastructure.

**Resolved**

No objection.

**2023/168 Application 2023/****00009/FULH – 110 Kenyon Lane, Croft, WA3 4AY**

Proposal: Proposed two storey rear extension.

**Resolved**

No objection.

**2023/169 Cheshire Police December Report**

1. As there was nobody present from Cheshire Police, Cllr Sharpe read this out. The report was noted.
2. There was a discussion around the cut-out police officer that was removed from New Lane just before Christmas. The clerk is to contact John Ansell at WBC to arrange for its return. The parish council would like to redeploy them.
3. There was a discussion regarding speed cameras. Glazebury has successfully issued speeding offences recently. The clerk is to contact John Dwyer’s office to see if Croft can be considered to take part in its speed camera trial.

**2023/170 Future Plans for Housing**

There were a number of residents from the Deacons Close estate present at the meeting. One resident commented that Deacons Close would not be able to stand the amount of projected traffic and housing that the proposed development would cause.

Cllr Sharpe commented that if it’s going to go ahead then access needs to be better – possibly have access opposite Sandy Lane. The Local Plan has to go a bit further through the process before approval. As a council we need to keep on opposing this. The estate as it is couldn’t sustain the extra traffic.

The whole of the Warrington Borough Council Local Plan is to meet government standards. However, these are now advisory rather than compulsory. Cllr Partington emailed Charlotte Nichols MP.

Cllr Allen confirmed that the borough councillors for Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft keep opposing the scheme. Cllr Benson attended the most recent meeting.

The Local Plan has not been approved yet. It is due for ratification in the summer but it also needs a period of consultation prior to this.

We shall keep repeating what has been said before and keep making the point. We need to make it as difficult as possible for them – it may be helpful to mention some side effects of this such as dust, noise, pollution, health effects, etc.

The clerk will email Mrs Mains from Croft Primary School to see if they object.

Another concern was around the number of houses being proposed to be built: firstly, it was 72, then 75 and now 103 is being suggested.

Cllr Partington mentioned the possibility of Section 106 monies. Stipulations can be made by the local authority and they could pay X amount of money to ameliorate the situation, e.g., traffic calming, road widening, etc. Last year, Bellway Homes made a profit of £3.5bn.

We will continue to oppose this and get the best deal possible for residents.

They don’t have to take the green belt; it should be brownfield sites. You can only build on the green belt in exceptional circumstances.

There are not enough school places in the village potentially, not to mention the added strain on doctors, dentists, public transport, etc.

**2023/171 King Charles III’s Coronation**

Cllr Sharpe had received an email from Buckingham Palace to say that there would be no lighting of the beacons for this as it would be so close to the jubilee. However, it was felt by the Cllrs that it would perhaps be nice to have bunting and flags put out to mark the occasion. It was also suggested to have an event locally, such as a party in the park. The clerk will contact everyone who was involved in the jubilee events to gauge interest.

**2023/172 Toilet Block Vandalism**

Cllr Sharpe updated that, unfortunately, the toilet block had been subject to vandalism, which is suspected to have taken place on the night of Friday 6th. All of the door handles had been snapped off the doors. This was reported by the caretaker to the clerk, who in turn reported it to the police. The council will seek to install some PIR lights/sensors.

**2023/173 Clerk's Report: Correspondence**

 **HAGS Playground Inspection**

There was an inspection carried out last month by HAGS. The clerk had a copy of the report. The clerk suggested approaching HAGS and others for quotes to any repairs that are recommended.

**Resolved**

The Cllrs agreed to the clerk obtaining quotes for the repairs to be carried out.

**2023/174 Clerk’s Report: Correspondence**

**Additional Defibrillator**

Andrew Swift at The Plough has replied by email to confirm he’s happy to go ahead with having an additional defibrillator situated at the pub on an external wall. The clerk will contact Community Heartbeat (the provider of the existing defib) to confirm that the council would like to proceed with having another defib installed.

**2023/175 Clerk's Report: Correspondence**

**Speed Signs**

The new speed signs for Heath Lane have now been installed. The clerk had received word that they can be inconsistent in terms of the display when vehicles approach. However, following a site meeting with TWM on Friday 13th the clerk had with Cllr Sharpe, the engineer explained that the signs only activate at 28mph or above. If a driver goes above 45mph then the sign stops displaying the speed but continues to flash ‘slow down’. Once the driver returns to 45mph or below then their speed is displayed again. The engineer explained that this is to preserve the life of the battery and is a standard procedure.

**2023/176 Clerk's Report: Financial Reports**

The financial reports were up to the end of October and November 2022.

The bank reconciliations were in balance, with the exception of 8pence (in the parish council’s favour).

The October creditor list amounts to £3,251.97 and the November creditor list amounts to £4,785.73.

There are no issues regarding the budget.

Members were presented with the creditors’ cheque payment list for January totalling £10,510.90.

**Resolved**

That the creditors' cheque payment list for January totalling £10,510.90 be approved.

**2023/177 Borough Councillor's Update**

1. Cllr Allen said that there hasn’t been a full council meeting. The next one is the budget meeting in February.
2. Cllr Allen reported that she had attended a meeting with the Environmental Officers of Warrington Borough Council, along with several residents, for an update on the fly infestation over summer and the odour affecting homes across Culcheth.  The environmental team are liaising with the Environment Agency to find the source of the odour and map the fly infestation in terms of how large an area was affected.  Cllr Allen has asked to accompany the team on one of their scheduled visits to the composting facility on Wilton Lane.  The team had stressed the importance of residents logging and reporting odours and fly number over the coming year and to report their findings to the Council.
3. Gerrard Road will be actioned this month.
4. There have recently been travellers on Silver Lane and at Bents. The borough council is still trying to seek a suitable site. The site in Orford was private, they are still trying to find a council-run one. It is not a cost issue, it’s about finding a suitable place that is close to doctors, schools, etc.

**2023/178 Recess**

No matters raised.

**2023/179 Members' Referrals**

1. Cllr Farnsworth mentioned the Police and Crime Commissioner survey.
2. Cllr Partington mentioned a lady who runs an anti-puppy farm who wrote in to the council about eighteen months ago when Kelly’s Kennels put in a planning application. This is still outstanding.

Puppies can only be sold with the presence of their mother.

Linda Smallthwaite from Warrington Borough Council’s Trading Standards team has been involved. Cllr Allen commented that Cllr Carol Benson has been looking at this issue also. Cllr Allen will approach Cllr Benson for an update.

**2023/180 Date of next Parish Council meeting – 21st February 2023 at 19:30**