MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 19:30 ON TUESDAY 18TH APRIL 2023

**Present:** Councillor Sharpe (Chair)

Cllrs Allen MBE, Bland MBE & Partington

Helen Buckley (Clerk)

PCSO Matt Hankin (Cheshire Police) } for part of

PCSO Georgina Morris (Cheshire Police) } the meeting

Seventeen members of the public

**Apologies:** Cllrs Campbell & Farnsworth

Cllr Sharpe opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

**2024/1 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest**

None.

**2024/2 Minutes of the Meeting held 21st March 2023**

**Resolved**

Minutes approved.

At this point, PCSOs Hankin and Morris arrived.

**2024/3 Matters arising from the minutes**

Cllr Bland commented that the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Community Action Fund is now open again. The clerk confirmed that she will apply for funding for CCTV and security lights. She will also approach this with other users of the Community Centre.

**2024/4 Cheshire Police March Report**

1. PCSO Morris said that antisocial behaviour and criminal damage appear to be interlinked at present.

Saturday night can be a common night for things to happen; however, a lot of things aren’t being reported.

PCSO Hankin commented that a build-up of cars would be classed as strange behaviour. It needs reporting, the local PCSOs need to know about it. Even just a group of cars on the Community Centre car park is worth reporting. It could stop criminal damage from happening.

Cllr Sharpe pointed out that the online reporting system can be frustrating. This could be why people are hesitant in reporting any incidents.

1. Cllr Partington enquired as to whether there were any routine patrols. PCSO Hankin confirmed that he and PCSO Morris do this. However, he informed that he is on high demand, so if demand is high elsewhere, he’d have to go there. Likewise, other police officers get pulled here in the same way.

He said that the only way to have him dedicated to Croft 24/7 would be if the parish council paid his wages.

1. A resident commented that a few youths broke into the Old Vicarage but he didn’t report it – he’s trying to find out who owns it.
2. Cllr Sharpe said that we need somewhere for the local youths to go. Warrington Youth Zone is good but there are no buses to get home.

PCSO Hankin agreed with this and said that children rely on their parents to take them. There was mention of a shuttle bus service to and from more rural areas but this is up to WYZ to sort.

Cllr Allen commented that she has seen the WYZ membership data for the wards and there are fewer members from the more rural areas. Apparently the shuttle bus was promised when the Youth Zone was just an idea.

The parish council will contact Warrington Youth Zone to see about the feasibility of a dedicated shuttle bus service.

PCSOs Hankin and Morris were thanked for their time and left the meeting at this point.

**2024/5 King Charles III’s Coronation – who’s confirmed**

In line with the Coronation Big Lunch events being held nationally, the parish council is hosting another Picnic on the Park, similar to the one held last year for the jubilee. This will be on Sunday 7th May from 13:30 to 16:30 on the Playing Field.

Already confirmed to attend are Chapelford Bouncers and Matt’s Ices. Matt of Matt’s Ices has said he’ll donate a percentage of his sales to the parish council.

There will be some members of the Rockets ukulele band to play some music. The Rockets don’t usually charge to play but would appreciate a donation to the Guide Dogs instead.

**Resolved**

The council agreed to donate £100 to the Guide Dogs.

John Edgar and his PA system will keep the music going in between the Rockets doing their music.

There will be a tuck shop being run by the PTA of Croft Primary School.

Also confirmed is the local scout group. The scouts will be toasting marshmallows, tying knots and drumming up interest in joining the scout movement.

There is bunting to decorate the railings for the event. We will also have a banner to advertise the event.

The clerk has ordered a skip to accommodate any additional rubbish. This is due to be delivered on Wednesday 3rd May.

The council will procure a plaque for each of the two primary schools to commemorate the occasion.

Dave at the Horse Shoe will put on a barbecue between 14:00 and 16:00 and will be serving plastic jugs of Pimm’s from the pub.

Croft Community Centre will be available to use from 13:30 should it rain.

The clerk had applied for some funding from Warrington Borough Council and it has been confirmed that they can provide some funding for this.

**2024/6 Speed signs**

There was some discussion around the old speed signs from Heath Lane, one of which is at the parish council office.

The council suggested inviting Mark Tune to the June meeting. The council would prefer to wait until after meeting with Mr Tune before they decide what to do with the old speed signs.

**2024/7 Consultation on Infrastructure Levy**

1. Cllr Allen sat on a Development Management Committee meeting regarding the Local Plan in Lymm. 108 houses were proposed to be built on greenbelt. Cllr Allen opposed it. £86,000 had been promised to go towards the creation of a health centre. There was concern that if the plan was voted against then this money would no longer be available.

In south Warrington, in the Fiddler’s Ferry area, there has been a modification to the Local Plan in terms of a reduction in warehouses. However, in north Warrington there has been no such reduction.

Residents can ask to go along to site visits on big developments.

One resident commented that WBC is ahead of its target for building new housing so why build more.

There is a consultation on the modification of the Local Plan until 26th April, but Cllr Benson said we are unable to comment.

When there’s a site visit we need to go along.

Cllr Bland commented that the greenbelt in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft ward is being attacked.

A resident enquired as to when the Local Plan will be formalised.

It will be this year.

If they are to have a health centre in Lymm, what would we be given in Croft?

1. Cllr Allen provided an update on the S106 money for the MSA at J11. This comes to £481k.

* £38k will go towards the council’s Smarter Choices Manager
* £50k will go towards a Travel Plan
* £50k will go towards a public art contribution

There is no money for Croft.

Cllr Sharpe thought that Croft Parish Council would be entitled to 15% of the money.

The two borough councillors said they will fight our corner.

A petition would be good – residents can make a lot of noise together.

A resident suggested going to the planning meeting and gathering outside. When the DMC takes place, CPC needs to let everyone know. Cllr Allen is to tell the clerk when this happens.

The clerk is to formulate a response to NALC in support. CPC endorses NALC’s policy. There is a risk of losing S106 money if this becomes centralised.

**2024/8 Gosling Park, Lady Lane**

The developers were responsible for maintain the gardens and parks etc at the time of construction. Is the developer still responsible?

The clerk will invite someone from Gosling Park to attend the next meeting in May.

**2024/9 Clerk's Report: Correspondence**

From: WBC re: Warrington MSA Public Path Diversion Order. The deadline for comments is 20th April.

From: Chris McDermott, Treasurer at Christ Church re: requesting support in the purchase of a new noticeboard.

**Resolved**

Cllrs agreed to buy this for them.

To/From: Ben Greenaway & Rawdon Jones at the Mersey Forest re: funding for the three trees by the play area. They will let us know of a date for them to be planted.

Verbal catchup with Tony Hewitt of Prime Dekore re: repainting of benches. He has done the undercoating and is planning to carry out the rest of the repainting week commencing 17th April, weather depending.

From: Liverpool John Lennon Airport re: Airspace Change Proposal.

From Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council Clerk re: Warrington Local Plan – Main Modifications Consultation. The deadline for comments is 26th April. However, Cllr Benson said there’s no opportunity for comment.

From: Manchester Airport re: Future Airspace project.

**2024/10 Clerk's Report: Environment and Climate Meeting**

The clerk and caretaker attended this on Wednesday 5th April, hosted by Lymm Parish Council. It was very useful and the clerk had some ideas to take away from it. Croft Parish Councillors should look at putting together an Environment Policy.

The clerk will approach the Lymm clerk to see if Croft can use Lymm’s policy as a template.

**2024/11 Clerk's Report: Play Area Inspection and Repairs**

The repairs that were initially scheduled to take place on Tuesday 21st March are now due to take place on Tuesday 18th April. RoSPA had initially booked to carry out its annual inspection this month so the clerk has deferred it until after the repairs have taken place. We’ve had another HAGS inspection on 28th March.

**2024/12 Clerk's Report: Financial Reports**

The financial reports were up to the end of March 2023.

The bank reconciliations were in balance, with the exception of 8 pence (in the parish council’s favour – this is a NatWest error).

The March creditor list amounts to £13,087.25.

There are no issues regarding the budget.

Members were presented with the creditors’ cheque payment list for April totalling £4,064.29.

**Resolved**

That the creditors' cheque payment list for April totalling £4,064.29 be approved.

**2024/13 Planning Applications**

Planning Applications for consideration at this meeting.

**2024/14 Application 2023/00260/FULH – 632 Warrington Road, Warrington Road, WA3 6BD**

Proposal: Two storey rear extension, including proposed balcony to rear.

**Resolved**

No objection.

The following application was for information only:

**2024/15** **Application 2021/40696 – Land at Trident Business Park, Warrington**

Proposal: Demolition of existing dwellings at 689 and 689a Warrington Rd and existing industrial premises and redevelopment of site to provide buildings for employment use (use classes E(g)(iii) / B8), access and car parking, landscaping, and associated works.

**2024/16 Borough Councillor's Update**

1. Cllr Allen already provided an update on the MS station above (see 2024/7b).
2. Cllr Allen provided an update regarding Council Tax classification when modifying your home. There is no direct relationship between planning and Council Tax.
3. At the full council meeting there was a motion to scrap LT4. Cllr Benson updated that the motion was defeated. They had called for it to be removed. It’s forced the issue and the council is now listening.
4. One issue raised in Culcheth by Cllr Benson was the difficulty people have getting hold of Torus. One lady in Croft had water flowing down her walls. She got Steve Broomhead involved in the end.
5. Trident: at the moment there is a 7.5-ton restriction except for access.

Trident will run 24/7/365 – there will be fourteen loading bays.

The thinking is that they (St Modwen) are trying to create an access point on Warrington Road. The lorries would come straight from the East Lancs.

There’s concern also that the traffic could come through Croft.

1. The Government has allocated Warrington Borough Council £700k which has been ringfenced for potholes. Cllr Sharpe asked if some of that could be sent to Croft.
2. Cllr Allen said that a potential traveller site has been identified but she can’t say where.

**2024/17 Recess**

1. A resident asked about resurfacing of the car park at Croft Community Centre. Cllr Allen said that she raised it but the lady concerned is off sick. If any S106 money comes our way then we could use it for that. Also, the car park at the Memorial Hall.
2. Another resident commented that the weight restriction issue is hard to police as we don’t know where the lorries are going. It’s the wording around access and how to prove it. Cllr Benson said to take down the registration plate and company and ring them. Cllr Allen said she flags down lorries if she sees one pass her house. She will check if there’s a sign at both ends.
3. There was a comment that the hand dryer in the ladies’ toilet isn’t working. The clerk will raise this with the plumber.
4. A resident asked for the CAZ signs to be taken down – Cllr Allen is still waiting for an answer.

**2024/18 Members' Referrals**

Cllr Partington mentioned the possible extension of Atherleigh Way to Kenyon Junction. People in Lowton are signing a letter to Richard Holden.

Where would the Lowton by-pass go from there?

There’s a meeting with Andy Burnham on 19th June with Wigan, Warrington and St Helens councils, TfGM, and James Grundy MP. The meeting will be chaired by Andy Burnham. Charlotte Nichols hasn’t been invited.

Lowton is trying to push traffic to Croft.

The preferred route would be direct to J22.

Andy Burnham has control of the monies.

The clerk will write to Andy Burnham as Croft Parish Council to say we need WBC officers present at the meeting and also Croft Parish Cllrs. We need representatives there.

Croft Parish Council’s preferred option would be to keep it in Wigan.

**2024/19 Date of next Parish Council meeting – 16th May 2023 at 19:15**