MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 19:30 ON TUESDAY 16TH JANUARY 2024

**Present:** Councillor Sharpe (Chair)

Councillors Allen MBE (Vice Chair), Bland MBE & Campbell

Cllr Benson (for part of the meeting)

PCSO Georgina Morris (Cheshire Police) } for part of

PCSO Tom Palfrey (Cheshire Police) } the meeting

Helen Buckley (Clerk)

Twelve members of the public

Cllr Sharpe opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. It was decided that the police should go first so they can leave afterwards. The rest of the agenda followed.

**2024/215 Cheshire Constabulary – December** **Report**

1. PCSO Morris said that December was quite quiet for Croft.
2. They have been out with the Trucam. Cllr Sharpe asked if they had caught any. PCSO Morris confirmed that they had had a few activations. The volume of traffic was constant.
3. Cllr Sharpe mentioned that Kenyon Lane was bad with snow and asked if they could push WBC to grit this and other busy lanes in Croft.
4. A resident brought up the drain by Dam Lane as it always floods. Cllrs Benson and Allen said they’re always trying to push WBC to sort this.
5. Another resident said his wife had had her wing mirror taken clean off by a van coming the opposite direction.
6. A further resident brought up an accident by his house in October and wondered if there was any update from this. No update.
7. PCSO Morris asked the members of the public what sort of time they’d like surgeries. She will liaise with the clerk with regards to hosting one at Croft Community Centre.

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

**2024/216 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest**

None.

**2024/217 Apologies**

Cllrs Farnsworth & Partington

**2024/218 Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th December** **2023**

**Resolved**

Minutes approved as a true record.

**2024/219 Matters arising from the minutes**

2024/198 Levelling Up: Cllr Allen wondered if there was any update to this. The clerk read out the emails between Cllr Partington and Charlotte Nichols’ office and updated that this is still being pursued.

2024/171f Cheshire Fire Authority re: 2024-2028 Draft Community Risk Management Plan: Cllr Sharpe brought this up and mentioned the change to the shift patterns and how this would affect us. Fire officers would be working four days on, four days off between Stockton Heath and Birchwood.

You should still ring 999 in an emergency.

One resident brought up Leigh Fire Station as it’s quite close but that would be Greater Manchester not Cheshire.

2024/197 Local Plan: Cllr Campbell brought this up with regards to S106 monies. Cllr Sharpe informed those present that the parish council had written to Professor Broomhead. Cllr Sharpe read out Prof Broomhead’s reply.

Cllr Benson asked about timeframe – Cllr Sharpe said it’s six months.

Cllr Campbell suspects that the money was already allocated before the DMC took place.

Cllr Bland said that until permission was granted on the planning application, the S106 money shouldn’t come into it. It’s undemocratic.

£1.2m has been allocated but without consultation as to what should happen to it or where it should go.

A resident asked if anything can be done to object to the process.

The ‘Battlefield’ couldn’t be affected because it means chopping trees down which people don’t like.

Cllr Allen queried the ‘sports pitch’ and wondered if it could be used for improvements instead.

A resident also asked about Croft Community Centre – could it be knocked down and rebuilt?

Cllr Allen asked about the trim trail – could it be moved to next to the school.

A resident asked about putting a sports pitch on the new housing estate.

Cllr Bland enquired about the Croft Village Memorial Hall committee AGM on Tuesday 6th February. Cllr Sharpe said they need more members. He said it used to be two from each group. Residents Sue Ward and Philip Isgar said they may be able to help.

One resident mentioned the water/flooding recently (he also referenced flooding that had occurred by the Old Rectory on Warrington Road in Culcheth). Cllr Allen said that they are on with it, it’s a complicated job. Cllr Sharpe said it’s the first time in its 103-year-history the Memorial Hall has flooded.

Cllr Allen suggested film nights if the rooms could be blacked out. Cllr Bland said they have a projector at the library. Cllr Campbell said that Newchurch Church also runs film nights at Newchurch Parish Hall.

The Beer Festival will return in June.

**2024/220 Clerk's Report: Correspondence**

1. From: St. Helen’s Borough Council re: Draft Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) Consultation. The consultation runs until Tuesday 30th January 2024. No comment.
2. From: Peter Black re: Warrington Local Plan – consultation on three draft SPDs. This is being actioned by the parish council’s planning consultant, Peter Black. It has been circulated to all members for comment.
3. From: Caroline Berry re: Croft Carnival 2024 requesting use of the playing field. This will include animal attractions. They are also requesting a donation towards their insurance which they estimate will be approximately £750. Since receiving this letter, the clerk has also had a verbal request for a 12yard skip for the carnival. Please could councillors formally agree to all of this.

**Resolved**

Cllrs agreed to the use of the playing field, a contribution towards the insurance and the supply of a 12yard skip for Croft Carnival 2024.

1. From: The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner re: police budget survey. This has been circulated on the parish council website and on social media. The survey closes on Tuesday 23rd.
2. From: Barbara Parratt at WBC re: Garages at Croft Community Centre. Update as follows: “The Building Maintenance Team have advised that they consider the damage to be caused by the roots of a nearby tree.  A contractor has been commissioned to investigate further and to advise of remedial work. I will let you know as soon as I receive an update.”

**2024/221 Financial Reports**

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

The bank reconciliation was in balance and up to date to the end of December. There was a £10 discrepancy due to the part-payment of an invoice at the end of December and the remainder was paid in and will be reported for January.

The December creditor list amounts to £12,676.59. There are no issues regarding the budget.

A list of January’s payments was distributed to the councillors by email. This list amounted to £4,987.81.

**Resolved**

That the payments list for January totalling £4,987.81 be approved.

**2024/222 Planning Applications**

Planning Applications for consideration at this meeting:

**2024/223 Application 2023/01513/FUL – 632 Warrington Road, WA3 6BD**

Proposal: Demolition of existing building and erection of a single dwelling, with related infrastructure works, including an improved access.

**Resolved**

No objection.

**2024/224** **Application 2024/00039/FULH – 632 Warrington Road, WA3 6BD**

Proposal: Demolition of existing conservatory, alterations to existing roof structures and two storey rear extension, including proposed balcony to rear.

**Resolved**

No objection.

The following were for information only.

**2024/225 Application** **2023/01504/CLDE – Kenyon Farm, Heath Lane, WA3 7DR**

Proposal: Equestrian building for use as stables with ancillary storage and outdoor menage.

**2024/226 Application** **2023/01543/CLDP – Turret Hall Farm, The Stables, Stone Pit Lane, WA3 7DY**

Proposal: To replace roof covering and windows in conjunction with repairs and partial re-cladding of elevations to existing barn.

**2024/227 Borough Councillor's Update**

1. No meeting since December.

Organisational Improvement Meeting regarding the elections in May. There will be Parish Council, Borough Council and Police & Crime Commissioner elections.

Need voter ID – elderly residents, will accept bus pass.

You can apply for a Voter Identification Certificate if you have no photo ID.

1. Lane Head extension – James Grundy asked at PMQs for support from the PM.
2. Travellers Transit Site update – not had meeting for a couple of months now so Cllr Allen will chase.
3. Mental Health Training – Cllr Allen explained that she had undergone this training and recommended that all councillors do the same. The clerk will organise this.

**2024/228 Recess**

1. One resident brought up Warrington Borough Council on television this morning – apparently, it’s the ‘third worst’ council in the country in terms of debt.
2. Another resident brought up the lack of gritters on Heath Lane.

The gritters only follow the bus route.

Kenyon Lane is only half done (at the Wigan Borough Council end).

Warrington Borough Council should also do Mill House Lane and Cross Lane.

There are grit bins around the village but it takes people to put the grit out.

Cllr Allen suggested that everyone should raise it on the WBC website.

1. A resident present said that the letters regarding his property (4 Beech Farm) have gone out so he’ll keep us updated as to the outcome.

**2024/229 Members' Referrals**

Cllr Campbell requested that the agendas for the rest of the meetings (up until June) should have mention of the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings.

We can communicate nearer the time as to what is going on to commemorate this.

Cllr Sharpe agreed that this was a good idea.

**2024/230 Date of next Parish Council meeting – 20th February 2024 at 19:30.**

**Meeting closed.**