MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 19:30 ON TUESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2024

**Present:** Councillor Sharpe (Chair)

Councillors Bland MBE, Campbell, Farnsworth & Partington

Helen Buckley (Clerk)

Sixteen members of the public

Cllr Sharpe opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

**2024/231 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest**

None recorded.

**2024/232 Apologies**

Cllr Allen MBE (Vice Chair)

Cheshire Police

**2024/233 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th January** **2024**

**Resolved**

Minute 2024/228 to be amended.

Cllr Partington said that the investments bring in so much per year without which we’d be stuck.

**2024/234 Matters arising from the minutes**

2024/198 Levelling Up: Cllr Partington said that this is still up for discussion between the DLUHC and WBC, regarding active travel links – between Birchwood and Culcheth and Warrington and Winwick – to make it easier for people to cycle/walk.

Alan Dickin at WBC informed in his message that they are still validating the money with the DLUHC. With regards to Croft, there is perhaps nothing in our favour.

Cllr Bland asked if this item could remain on the agenda. Cllr Sharpe agreed.

Croft PC will write to Alan Dickin to see what relevant information he could give us.

**2024/235 Cheshire Constabulary – January** **Report**

As there was nobody present from Cheshire Police, Cllr Sharpe read this out.

**2024/236 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings (Thursday 6th June)**

Cllr Sharpe asked the other Members if they had any suggestions.

We have a 71-page document with various ideas within it.

Cllr Sharpe said that he recently attended a Village Hall Committee meeting – they had discussed the possibility of doing something on the Saturday (8th). Maybe a beacon on the Playing Field? Or a proclamation?

Most activities are happening on the day itself (Thursday 6th).

Henry from the General Elliot was interested in doing something also.

Cllr Campbell asked if the schools are involved. Maybe there could be a drawing/colouring competition along the theme of D-Day?

The clerk will ask on social media and the website what the public would like to do to commemorate this occasion.

It would be good to have a committee to help organise something. Maybe we have fireworks, flags or bunting.

**2024/237 Clerk's Report: Correspondence**

1. From: St Helen’s Highway Improvement re: updates to the Parkside Link Road website.
2. To/from: Peter Black re: Croft Parish Council’s response to the Local Plan Draft SPDs. This was submitted on 7th February.
3. From: The Licensing Section of WBC re: the Statement of Draft Licensing Policy 2024-2029.

**2024/238 Clerk's Report: Insurance**

The insurance policy is due for renewal on 29th March. The clerk requested that the councillors discuss and decide whether the insurance policy schedule should reflect the asset register. They agreed that it should. The clerk will obtain a couple of quotes for the renewal. The clerk was also asked to check the value of the speed gun as it was thought that it has been valued too highly on the policy schedule.

**Resolved**

The clerk to ask Zurich to update the policy schedule and then obtain two quotes for the insurance renewal.

**2024/239 Clerk's Report: Moving to a gov.uk Domain**

The Cllrs gave the clerk the green light to go ahead and obtain three quotes to move the current website domain name to a gov.uk one.

We will need to put a redirect on the current website.

**Resolved**

The clerk to obtain two further quotes to progress this.

**2024/240 Clerk's Report: Veolia Bin**

The clerk informed that over the weekend of Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th, some building waste and rubble was put into our bin on the car park. This resulted in a non-collection on the Monday (5th). The caretaker eventually took the items out on the Friday (9th) so that it wouldn’t result in another non-collection the following Monday (12th). Fortunately, the driver did take the waste this time and he confirmed that it was because it was too heavy the week before. This is the first time the clerk has known this to happen and wanted to ask councillors what they would like to do about the bin going forward. The Cllrs agreed that the bin should be locked in the meantime.

**2024/241 Clerk's Report: Toilet Block**

The clerk updated that the repair works to the toilet block are now complete and the toilets are available to use once again.

**2024/242 Financial Reports**

The financial reports were up to the end of January 2024.

The bank reconciliation was in balance and up to date to the end of January.

The January creditor list amounts to £5,415.63. There are no issues regarding the budget.

A list of February’s payments was distributed to the councillors by email. This list amounted to £5,143.74.

**Resolved**

That the payments list for February totalling £5,143.74 be approved.

**2024/243 Planning Applications**

Since the last meeting, members have been circulated with the following. This application needed a response before this meeting:

**2024/244 Application** **2024/00053/FUL – Turret Hall Farm, The Stables, Stone Pit Lane, WA3 7DY**

Proposal: Erection of 1 no Agricultural Storage Building.

Members objected to this by email and this was lodged by the clerk on 25th January.

Planning applications for consideration at this meeting:

**2024/245 Application 2023/01558/FULH – Chestnut Cottage, Warrington Road, WA3 6BG**

Proposal: Proposed Car Port / Garden Store and Proposed Garden Walls with New Landscaping.

**Resolved**

No objection.

The following were for information only:

**2024/246** **Application 2024/00127/PA16A – Grass Verge at Mill House Lane, WA3 7EZ**

Proposal: Installation of 17.5-metre-high monopole telecoms mast and ancillary equipment.

There were various discussions around this application and the history of telecommunications masts in the village.

**2024/247 Application** **2024/00137/EEN – St Lewis RC Church, Mustard Lane, WA3 3BG**

Proposal: The Alteration of the Main Entrance Doors to Improve Access and Egress.

**2024/248 Application** **2024/00107/AGR – Sirocco, Mustard Lane, WA3 7BG**

Proposal: Proposed steel portal framed agricultural building.

**2024/249 Borough Councillor's Update**

There was no update as there was no borough councillor present.

**2024/250 Recess**

1. One resident said that a horse came down a path at the side of Round Thorn. A neighbour challenged the rider and told them it’s not a bridleway, it’s a footpath. There’s the potential for an accident if, for example, a child on a scooter were to go down the path at the same time as a horse and its rider. The police should enforce this. Maybe we could have Warrington Borough Council install a proper sign to try to deter this. The horse rider has been back since even though she knew she shouldn’t have been there.
2. Another resident raised the issue of heavy goods vehicles accessing Opus via Croft. He asked if the parish council could write to Opus to say that carriers shouldn’t be coming through the village. The problem is that the weight restriction covers an area rather than specific roads. It’s not just the vehicles working on the roadworks. Cllr Partington said that the parish council has written to Opus in the past.
3. Another resident brought up the state of Cross Lane at the sides. It was agreed that Croft needs better footpaths and roads. It’s possible that the issue on Cross Lane can’t be addressed while the diversions are in place. The parish council will ask WBC to maintain the road. It’s currently inadequate for the volume of traffic using it.

**2024/251 Members' Referrals**

1. Cllr Bland brought up the number 19 bus. He has been getting complaints from people to say it’s not been going the correct route. He has written to the transport department.
2. Cllr Sharpe said that he has had comments from Cllr Benson in that some residents near Silver Lane have informed her that a section of the gate has been cut away and the lock isn’t very strong as a result. There was talk of maybe opening up the road up to the roundabout and it would potentially stop travellers. Cllr Partington said it could be dependent on the J11 MSA being built. Also, when Trident is built it could affect it. Another suggestion was an island between Cross Lane and Silver Lane. It was decided that the parish council would like a stronger lock to be put at the end of Silver Lane. The clerk will liaise with Cllr Allen to progress this. One resident claimed that there are travellers along Winwick Road who have been there since before Christmas. He claimed that they even have Portaloos etc. Another resident said that more (travellers) appeared on Birchwood Park today. Cllr Partington suggested bollards that come out of the ground and wondered if we could we get Biffa to fund them. It was agreed that a permanent transit site is required. The resident who brought up Winwick Road believes that where they are will become permanent.
3. Cllr Partington queried an email from a resident requesting urgent traffic calming measures on Kenyon Lane. Cllr Sharpe informed him that a response had already been sent from the clerk. A resident asked if the police could attend Heath Lane with the Trucam. The police would need to do a risk assessment. Croft Parish Council will write to the police to ask again that this is carried out. WBC could put in traffic calming measures but then residents nearby complain due to noise pollution.

**2024/252 Date of next Parish Council meeting – 19th March 2024 at 19:30.**

**Meeting closed.**