

Minutes from a meeting of Crophorne Parish Council held on Monday 10th January 2022 7pm At the Village Hall

1. PRESENT:

Chairman B Annis Cllr R Segar (Vice Chariman) Cllr J King Cllr S Smythe Cllr M Rowell
Cllr C Hall County Cllr E Eyre Three Parishioners

- 2. APOLOGIES** – were received from Cllr W Clive and District Cllr T Rowley
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Cllrs King and Segar – Village Hall
- 4. MINUTES** from Meeting 4th October 2021 were approved, proposed Cllr Rowell, seconded Cllr Smythe – all in favour.

OPEN FORUM / PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – Parishioners were invited to speak but opted to interact at specific items on the agenda

5. PLANNING:

- Kimberley's Field and Sites – B4084 – still awaiting site visit to establish layout of sites
- 21/00750 – 7a Evergreen Bank, Main Road – refused by WDC
- 21/00999 – Evergreen Bank, Main Road – refused by WDC

It is expected that an appeal will follow with regard the two Evergreen refusals

- 21/01978 – Land North of Blacksmiths Lane – outline application for the development of 4 self-build bungalows and improvement of access – *awaiting decision by WDC*
- 21/02075 – Corner Cottage, Middle Lane – 2-storey extension – *approved by WDC*
- 21/02214 – Riverside Lodge, Neigh Lane – *approved by WDC*
- 21/02357 – Permission in Principle for a single self-build dwelling – *refused by WDC*
- 21/02557 – Pentalow, Blacksmiths Lane – *approved by WDC*
- 21/02681 – Quoice Cottage, Kennel bank – *awaiting decision by WDC*
- Watergate Barn – addition of rooflight – *awaiting decision by WDC*
- 21/02547 – meadow View, Smokey Lane – *awaiting decision by WDC*

6. VILLAGE HALL – Cllr Segar reported some improvements had been made to emergency lighting in the main hall, but work is still needed on the outside lights. There have been some issues with the ground source heating

7. HIGHWAY MATTERS: Nothing to report

8. COUNTY CLLRS REPORT: Cllr Eyre sent in a report – attached to these minutes

9. DISTRICT CLLRS REPORT: Nothing to report

9. PROGRESS REPORTS / UPDATES

- (a) Lengthsman – work requests:
- Top of Brook Lane – small stretch of footway to be sided out
- (b) Community Infrastructure Levy Fund – Possible options for use include siding out of the B4084
- (c) Community Speed Watch – Awaiting communication from the CSW team with a start date / training for Crophorne scheme.
- (d) Traffic Calming – Suggestions to slow down the traffic in Main Street have been received by WCC and include the following:

2022/02

- Main Street 'pinch point' with Blacksmiths Lane – removal of the centre line marking and replace with 'edge of carriageway' markings (which will accentuate the reduced width). Addition of 'narrow' and SLOW road markings in both directions. This was agreed by the parish council as a positive move forward and approved by all Cllrs.
- Speed Checks – the clerk to ask for speed checks to be carried out in Main Street and Neigh Lane

A parishioner in attendance commented on the parking of vehicles on Main Street in the vicinity of Holland House. This has been taken up with Holland House on a number of occasions asking them to ensure that staff members use the car park to the rear rather than parking in Main Street. It was agreed that photographs be taken of the car park (at various times of the day) to establish how well used the car park is, and for these to be sent to HH (if needed) with a formal letter. It was further agreed that the clerk write to the head of the village school, asking them to make contact with parents NOT to park on the 'Zig Zag' areas outside the school.

A question was also asked with regard to the 'flap down' signs with advance warning of road closures (on the B4084 and A44) and in what circumstances these are used. Reference was also made to devices that be purchased to collect traffic volumes / speed data and fitted to lamp posts. Cllr Eyre referred to the Community Speed Watch (which the parish council has registered for and awaiting an initial start of the process – the clerk would chase this up).

The parish council does have access to funding to Community Infrastructure Levy fund of £8,223, which could be used for traffic calming measures. Further discussion to take place at a future meeting once the proposed works suggested by WCC (above) and the Community Speed Scheme is up and running, to identify the best use of this fund.

10. FINANCE: Payments for approval / made since the last meeting:

1071	Lengthsman September	144.00
1072	Corran Dean Play Equipm€	8116.60
1073	Fridge Magnets - Defib	151.08
SO	Clerks Salary	337.80
SO	Clerks Expenses	16.22
1074	Cheque Cancelled	
1075	Donation	50.00
1076	Lengthsman October LY	144.00
SO	Clerks Salary	337.80
SO	Clerks Expenses	16.22
1077	Clerks PAYE	62.80
1078	Lengthsman November	144.00

Accounts had been circulated to Cllrs for approval – *Approval of accounts and payments, proposed Cllr Hall, seconded Cllr Rowell – all in favour*

Account Balances:

Current Account (*after unpresented cheques*): £ **26,652.45**
Deposit Account: £ **5022.69**

Budget / Precept Request 2022 / 23 – a draft budget for 2022 / 23 had been produced by the Clerk and circulated to Cllrs in advance of the meeting for consideration and comments. The proposed budget would mean an increase of 6.1% (an increase for a Band D property of about £1.56 for the year). The proposed increase covers the increase in clerk's salary, insurance and subscription costs. In addition, the parish council is building up reserves to cover tree maintenance, general maintenance (i.e. notice boards, benches, defibs), and a new reserve for new projects.

2022/03

This new 'reserve' may take a few years to build up anything substantial, but it is a starting point.

Whilst the overall account balances are healthy, there are a number of previously allocated reserves which include: elections (2,000), legal (5,000), trees (2,000), general maintenance (1,000), CIL (8223) and remaining NHB from the amount drawn down for Corran Dean (7110). It is *estimated* that at the financial year end (31st March), there could be parish council **free funds** of just over £4,000

Approval of the budget presented to the parish council was made by Cllr Segar, seconded Cllr Rowell – all Cllrs were in favour. The Clerk would submit this to WDC

11. DEFIBRILLATOR - 'Fridge Magnets' with the access code have been purchased and Cllrs were happy to distribute within Crophorne over the next few weeks. The defibs have been re-registered in the name of the parish council (for convenience) rather than with an individual.

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS / FUTURE DISCUSSION:

- Wind Turbine – to establish if there is any support for one in Crophorne
- Jubilee – any events proposed in Crophorne

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 7th February 2022 at the Village Hall at 7.00pm

Croptorne - Cllr ELIZABETH EYRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT January 2022

Dear councillor and resident, may I wish you a better New Year than last.

County Issues

Budget: News on the County front is promising tax increase proposed is 3.94% higher than usual but still rates as one of the lowest in the Country.

We have received more grant than expected in the form of a one-off Services Grant as well as a higher than expected children's & adults social care grant. This means we can fund all the demand-led adults & children's pressures alongside the new economy, highways and infrastructure spend (as planned)

Additionally, we can also fund another year of our capital programme, including the following capital programme allocations per annum for two years 2022-24:-

- £6 million extra for resurfacing roads
- £4 million more for improving the condition of pavements
- £3 million to accelerate the roll-out of LED street lights
- £1 million for highway drainage & flood mitigation
- £1.25 million for the Local Members Highways Fund
- £500k for small scale cutting congestion projects and new pedestrian crossings

Rail station upgrades \ parking including a new Redditch Station
Funding for new school places to meet demand

In addition, the revenue budget will be increased to deliver on an ongoing basis:

More highway liaison officers to help progress member concerns
Extra highway response teams to tackle local issues

An uplift in the budget for the Parish Lengthsman
Enhanced public transport budget
Highway & Transport contact centre open 7am-7pm weekdays
Increased resources for economic development & sustainability

The above is what we will propose in our budget this year.

This should be a budget to enable us to crack on and deliver those investments on the ground over the next two years, giving you an even stronger service.

Local Issues

21/00999/CU – Evergreen Bank, Main Road – refused, will be supporting TR when /if appeal comes through.

Community Speed watch- Assessment needed before promoting.

Field Barn Lane Passing Bays A request had been made for them to be put on the WCC 'list' for action: tidying up and making larger if possible, adding a passing bay if possible. Informed in July that advisories had been raised, they had been **surveyed for work but not scheduled**.

Hampton to Pershore Cycleway – see recent communication response to consultation – establishing if deliverable currently.

Footway, B4084 to Hampton - siding out Hampton to Cropthorne Request 49 = - ongoing since July 26th. Plan sent to parish Chairman – I have released £5,000.00 of my highway fund towards siding out. area wcc intend to side out approx 500 metres. We are hoping this work will be carried out March to April 2022

Neigh Lane – Not enough room for a footway but risk of walking. **Enquiry 475** Meeting 7 October with K Hemstock - need to reduce walking risk - suggestions from KH

1. Slow on road near existing sign going towards Fladbury
2. Second slow on road going towards Fladbury around the bend
3. Up hill to Cropthorne second parent and child sign

- 1, 2, and 3 The extra SLOW markings and the parent child sign are on order. There will also be an extra Pedestrians in the road sign Neigh Lane near Jubilee bridge
4. Up and down hill - no footway notices o/s

Pinch point Mainstreet near Blacksmith Enquiry 476

Lane narrowness and safety issues noted by KH at meeting 7 October. Visible issues when cars trying to pass. Request from Chairman for signage to give right of way to one vehicle, then other vehicle - signage to be at the exact spot where pinch point is. KH has investigated . There are 2 main risks with introducing a priority system at this location:

1. Increased vehicle speeds on the approach with the priority.
2. Confusion/conflict over right of way between vehicles emerging from blacksmiths Lane and vehicles at/or approaching a newly established give way on Main Street.

My recommendation would continue to be a measured approach by removing the centre line road markings localised to the narrowing and replace with edge of carriageway markings to accentuate the reduced width. This has been used in similar situations and has the benefit of installing a degree of caution ('give and take') in driver behaviour from both directions resulting in reduced traffic speeds.

We could also add road narrows signs and 'SLOW' markings on both approaches.

Brook Lane-Enquiry

477 Overgrown highway footway from B4084 main road down Brook Lane completed

- The occupier of the house on the corner of Brook Lane and B4084 was contacted and has arranged for the hedge to be cut back and the footway cleared. Work has been completed and no further safety issues.
- Only a very short section of footway at the location. Parish Lengthman should cut back any remaining and clear rest of footway.

Broadband –Cllr Seager. WCC can support if needed,

Local Transport – The Department for Transport (DfT) recently published the National Bus Strategy (NBS) outlining its ambition to improve bus services in England. A requirement of the NBS, is that Local Transport Authorities commit to an Enhanced Partnership with Local Bus Operators. Worcestershire County Council is committed to entering into an Enhanced Partnership by the end of March 2022. I have requested consideration be given to Crophorne/Charlton/Fladbury as the County develops its Enhanced (Transport) Partnership

Minerals Local Plan - Inspectors' Report procedure: the last stage in the examination procedure Consultation on the Main Modifications. The Inspectors could consider any representations made in response to that consultation. They could choose to hold further hearing sessions if significant issues are raised, before issuing their report. Once their final report is received, it will be put to Cabinet and Full Council for a decision as to whether to adopt the plan.