

2022/04

Minutes from a meeting of Cropthorne Parish Council held on Monday 7th February 2022 7pm At the Village Hall

1. PRESENT:

Chairman B Annis Cllr R Segar (Vice Chairman) Cllr J King Cllr S Smythe Cllr M Rowell
Cllr C Hall County Cllr E Eyre District Cllr T Rowley Five Parishioners

2. APOLOGIES – were received from Cllr W Clive

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllrs King and Segar – Village Hall

4. MINUTES from Meeting 10th January 2022 were approved, proposed Cllr Rowell, seconded Cllr Hall – all in favour.

OPEN FORUM / PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

- Dog Fouling – concerns were raised over the increasing problem with dog fouling. Despite dog waste bins at various locations in the village and at the Sheppey, with plenty of signage, some dog owners still fail to clear up after their dog. It was suggested that additional signage could be placed at the entrances to the public rights of way (as a reminder) and possibly additional bins. It was agreed that the clerk cost the signs and bins and report back.

5. PLANNING:

- Kimberley's Field and Sites – B4084 – still awaiting site visit to establish layout of sites. A point was raised with regard the 'streetlights' at the sites. This would be investigated to ensure that planning approval has been given for this.
- 21/01978 – Land North of Blacksmiths Lane – *awaiting decision by WDC*
- 21/02681 – Quoice Cottage, Kennel bank – *awaiting decision by WDC. It was reported that there may a concern raised by the Heritage Officer with regard the chimney breast*
- Watergate Barn – addition of rooflight – *approved by WDC*
- 21/02547 – meadow View, Smokey Lane – *approved by WDC*

6. VILLAGE HALL – Cllr Segar reported that the VH had benefitted from an additional Covid Support grant from Wychavon District Council. Bookings are increasing

7. HIGHWAY MATTERS: Nothing to report

8. COUNTY CLLRS REPORT: Cllr Eyre's full report is annexed to these minutes, but in brief

- Community Speed Watch – the scheme is now moving on to the next stage (following delays due to Covid). Volunteers have been contacted to register their interest with the scheme co-ordinator and training dates to be organised.
- Field Barn Lane Passing Bays – have been approved. Timescale as yet unknown
- Hampton to Pershore Cycleway – the issue over the 'pinch point' at Porters Path in Fladbury has hopefully been resolved with the landowner selling a small stretch of land to enable the new cycleway to meet standard requirements.
- B4084 – siding out has been approved on part of the footway at a cost of £5,000 for 500m.
- Traffic Calming Measures, Line Marking – these have been ordered

2022/06

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS / FUTURE DISCUSSION:

- Queens Platinum Jubilee – The parish council were in agreement that the Jubilee should be supported either by a 'souvenir' gift and/or a contribution towards an event. It is hoped that a Picnic in the Park will be held on the Sheppey, and possibly other events arranged over the Jubilee bank holiday weekend. The Chairman of The Randolph Meakins Pattys Farm and Widow Lyes Charity advised that the charity would happily make a donation towards the cost of a village event or the purchase of a suitable souvenir, with Cllr Eyre also offering £300 towards a village event. It was agreed that we look at the 'National Programme' of events to see if there was anything else that could be arranged as well as suitable souvenir's and how they should be distributed. To feedback at the next meeting.
- Notice Board, Village Hall – an agreement had been made for the parish council to share the cost of a new notice board. It was mutually agreed that a wooden option was considerably more expensive and was dependent on maintenance, an aluminium version would be at risk of theft, so an agreement amongst Cllrs that a 'recycled' material board (in a wood-effect finish) was the most practical. This was agreed by all Cllrs.

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

Fladbury - Cllr ELIZABETH EYRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT Monday, 17th 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, in terms of the additional grant but the tax increase proposed is 3.94%. It is higher than usual but I am advised overall we are still rated as one of the lowest in the Country – Band D.

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 7 am-7 pm 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

1. **Minerals Local Plan:** currently reviewing the timing pending the Inspectors report which is not expected until late February 2022, then will go to Cabinet.
2. **Evesham Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan - Evesham to Pershore cycleway.**

My formal response was shared as a draft, end Nov, with all three parishes: Charlton, Crophorne and Fladbury parishes, and is attached. You will be aware the porter's path pinch point remains a problem. I have asked for clarity on a couple of points:

- clarity on the deliverability of the scheme, given the pinch point issue, as soon as possible.
- should the long-standing identified route not be deliverable, officers consider a business case to see if a leisure route, could be established in other ways, not on the Hampton-Pershore route previously discussed.

Roger Davies, chairman of Charlton, asked

- could parishes push for cyclists having to dismount through a short narrower section? Sadly, having discussed with officers, this does not seem to be an option. It appears the project fails on any bid if it does not fit the policy (5 m width). *I will of course still try to change policy but a very long shot.*
 - If the s106 funding, ring-fenced for this project, was the £30k mentioned in my report? *Yes, but I think I will need to keep an eye on this funding.*
 - if WCC were likely to be able to bid for government cycle funding again. I advised officers had advised they were planning on a bid to DOT linked to LTP4. *You will remember we fed into LTP4 (Local Transport Plan 4 (for Worcestershire). The plan has to contain a reference to a future project, such as more cycleways, if bidding to Government.*
3. if we could approach the Developer who is paying for the Hampton Bridge to pay the funds for the Evesham to Pershore cycle route which was estimated at £138k in 2014. *I reminded him that the £138k figure, now 7 years out of date, was connected to a recommendation that the route could only serve off-road bikes. In addition, negotiations with Taylor Wimpy, for all the money, appear to have been long and complicated and now completed.*
 4. **Fladbury C.E. First School:** the proposal is to convert from a First to Primary school, part of a wider change. The consultation has I have no further update yet.

5. **Enquiry 618 - 1st November Fladbury, Station Road, 30mph signs** – needs repair. BB 31/12/2021 “I've inspected the area shown on the map and couldn't find anything matching the accompanying photo that was a defect. I noted that there is a short signpost just on the north side of the rail bridge that probably should have 30mph repeater signs so I've raised a work order to replace 2x If incorrect then willing to meet someone on-site”
Delivery date requested.

6. **Enquiry 136 - Footway work on a section of Mill Bank** Requested March 2019, advisory raised 2019, was costed but did not get on the list to be done - advised (as on plan) work would not include replacement of kerbing as conservation area cost would be prohibitive.

New costing 2021.

- To resurface the footway using existing concrete kerbs and replace damaged kerbs with matching concrete would cost £23,500.00 – including reusing the dropped kerb cobbles.
- If the kerbs were to be replaced with conservation kerbs, then this would add £7,500.00 to the cost at £31,000.00

9th September 2021 asked if I wish to commit my £22k fund to this footway but I believe this should be normal maintenance for safety reasons. (note my 22k has to address issues in 9 villages.) **Chased 12/12 BB. Delivery date requested**

7. **Enquiry 137 - Water leak - Station Road/Weston Orchard**

- BB 21/6, no resolution
- BB 5/7 reported this again to STW and found the operative was confused by the notes, which appeared to state no leak at the site.
- I raised Enquiry 137 in early September as no progress.
- 6/ 9 - new investigation raised No. 2005352292 with an inspection due within 72 hours
- 21/9 site inspected for leaks by Severn Trent twice to check. They have tested the taps and the main in the road and confirmed no leaks. On speaking with a resident, I'm told there is a strong possibility that there is a spring at the location which is finding its way to the surface through the water taps in the road. Apparently, one of the owners of the Old Barn cut a mass of Ivy from the wall of the house and since then suffered damp in the house. BB asking Drainage Team to see if it can be taken forward with further investigation. No further update from 6th September – **chased BB 12/12. Still investigating**

Please let me know if you have any other issues. I will, as usual, update the clerk on any enquiry where there is a change and add to the next January report.