

Minutes from a meeting of Cropthorne Parish Council held on Monday July 6th 2020 in the Village Hall at 7pm
Conducted via Zoom

1. PRESENT:

Chairman B Annis	Vice Chairman S Smythe	Cllr M Rowell	Cllr J King
Cllr R Segar	District Cllr T Rowley	County Cllr E Eyre	Clerk L Yapp

2. APOLOGIES - Cllr W Clive

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

- Cllr King - Village Hall
- Cllr Rowell – Chairman of Sheppy Corner Residents Association

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes from previous meeting were approved and signed – proposed Cllr Rowell, seconded Cllr Segar – all in favour

5. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME – No one in attendance

6. PLANNING/ENFORCEMENTS:

- Kimberleys Field – Cllr Rowley is to chase this up with Head of Enforcements
- 20/0112 – Watergate Barn, Neigh Lane – garage conversion and rear extension, roof lights and window – *awaiting decision by WDC*
- Planning Reforms – Cllr Rowley reported that there are two elements to the proposed changes, 'Changes to the Planning System' with Wychavon District Council making their own representations. Secondly, the White Paper consultation 'Planning for the Future'. The Chairman and clerk were encouraged to attend the forthcoming 'virtual' review on 7th October before considering any response to the consultation as there could be serious implications

7. VILLAGE HALL – Cllr King advised that the hall is now open with all risks covered. Due to the wearing of face masks within the hall, the parish council have decided to continue with Zoom meetings for the time being.

New Pathway – whilst the new pathway has been completed and paid for, the results were disappointing. This, along with other issues that have been raised with the contractor employed, have forced the VH committee to look for an alternative contractor. Recommendations had been received from Cllrs Smythe and Segar. Thanks were paid to both of them

Drugs – a concerned resident contacted the VH committee regarding drug activity in the car park. The police have been notified

See-saw – this has now been removed as it was deemed not cost effective to repair and a replacement is being sourced

Electrical Works are on going

8. HIGHWAY MATTERS :

- Overgrown Hedge, Blacksmiths Lane – a report had been received regarding an overgrown hedge in Blacksmiths Lane. The clerk had written to the residents of the property and it is thought this had now been cut back. Awaiting clarification that it has been done
- Overgrown Hedge, Sunnyside Cottages – Cllr Annis would take a look and speak to residents

9. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – Attached

10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – Cllr Rowley reported in Planning above, Minerals and Covid items below

11. PROGRESS REPORTS:

- a) Lenghtsman - nothing to report
- b) New Home Bonus – Holland House had advised that they did not have the time or resource to put together any sort of proposal for a possible community project, having to put all there energy into getting through the Covid crisis. A very good proposal had been received from Corran Dean with sensory activities, play area, wildlife and adventures areas. This would be a project that would be accessible and open to the whole community and not just those that attend the Care Farm. After several years of asking for suitable projects and an unsuccessful application for church toilets / servery, the parish council were in full agreement that a worthy cause should benefit from the funds available (just under £28,000). A proposal was put forward by Cllr Rowell, seconded Cllr Segar that we support Corran Dean, and subject to village consultation, an application made for the use of the NHB funds. All Cllrs were in favour
- c) Community Infrastructure Levy Fund – In hand – to be considered for traffic calming options – *awaiting input from Cllr Eyre*
- d) Speeding – Following a ‘call to parishioners’ about 10 volunteers had come forward to participate in the Community Speed Watch Scheme. We are awaiting further details. Further traffic calming options are being investigated with WCC. It was recorded that there was an accident at the junction of Field Barn Lane and the B4084 a few weeks ago
- e) Bollards Lower Croft – The previously suggested ‘grasscrete’ option was considered not suitable as the whole purpose was to prevent car parking on the green. There is now a new contact at Rooftop and the clerk would make contact to discuss the damaged bollards. Parking at the back of the school is a particular problem
- f) War Memorial – Nothing further to report
- g) Minerals Consultation – Cllr Rowley reported that Tarmac had withdrawn their interest in Mineral Extraction at Charlton. We should not allow ourselves to become complacent, as whilst Tarmac are no longer interested in the site, another minerals company may come along. Good news for now. The Examination in Public will still be going ahead later in the year
- h) Passing Bay, Orchard Row – the clerk has been in contact with WCC who would be writing to the owner of the offending vehicle. The clerk has chased this up with WCC. Another issue was raised regarding overgrown hedgerow. Cllr Annis reported that he had been past the property and could not see any problem

12. FINANCE

- (a) Payments made since the last meeting/for authorisation

SO	Clerks Salary	326.56
SO	Clerks Expenses	16.22
1030	Lenghtsman June	156.00
SO	Clerks Salary	326.56
SO	Clerks Expenses	16.22
1031	Pathway (s106)	4683.58
	(Inv. 12196 £132 & Inv. 12197 £4551.58)	
1032	Lenghtsman July	84.00
1033	ICO	40.00
1034	Website	288.00
SO	Clerks Salary	326.56
SO	Clerks Expenses	16.22

Up to date accounts have been circulated to Cllrs – Acceptance of payments made, approved Cllr Annis, seconded Cllr King – all in favour.

(b) Clerks Salary – the clerk had circulated information regarding national pay award (from NALC). This information had been circulated to Cllrs for approval and consideration for the bench mark to be raised by 2 SCP's from 14 to 16. There were no objections

Current account balance:

(incl. unrepresented cheques) £35,241.62 (Incl. s106 Monies)

Deposit account: £5,022.40

13. CORONAVIRUS UPDATE – Cllr Rowley reported that from a WDC point of view, they are entering a new focus and expecting a second wave with a possible local lock-down. Outbreaks at EVG/Kanes Foods had been brought under control and reported cases were currently in single figures. Energy is now being put into the vitality in towns. Number 8 has now opened its café and coffee bar with some cinema screenings planned. He was very impressed with the number of village networks and volunteers and WDC and CC will continue to work together

14. WEBSITE / ACCESSIBILITY – the new parish council website was up and running

15. COMMUNITY FIBRE PARTNERSHIP – this new incentive will be investigated – the clerk to communicate with Cllr Eyre

16. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS / FUTURE DISCUSSION: Nothing was raised

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 5th October 2020 at 7pm

For Cropthorne Parish Council Cllr ELIZABETH EYRE COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT September 2020

COUNTY and DISTRICT ISSUES Children and Families

1. Worcestershire Children First has been working very closely with school leaders and other colleagues, including public health, to ensure that each school has an individual tailored plan for their wider reopening, based on their individual circumstances as well as looking forward to the future. They have worked with our schools to complete a risk assessment ahead of them reopening their doors to all pupils in September to ensure that their plans and all aspects of school life meet both Government guidance and the individual needs of the staff and students who work there.
2. Schools and colleges will have the discretion to require face coverings for Year 7s and above in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed.
3. A new campaign has been launched by Worcestershire Children First and Worcestershire County Council to help students and parents prepare for a safe return to school when the new term begins next month.
4. The Return to School campaign is designed to help inform students and their carers/parents about the new measures, which are being put in place to ensure the safety of staff and students as schools reopen their doors.

Health and Wellbeing

1. Births - More than 1,600 births have been registered across Worcestershire since the national lockdown restrictions eased – meaning 95% of the backlog has now been dealt with. Staff in Registration Services have worked round the clock to work through the backlog of birth registrations. Register offices have been opening on some Saturdays to help to work through the large amount of registrations which developed when offices were closed for three months due to the coronavirus pandemic. The busy teams from Worcester, Bromsgrove, Kidderminster, Malvern, Evesham and Redditch have now registered a total of 1,642 births since restrictions were lifted and are now left with only 80 or so births that are being processed.
2. of Worcestershire's libraries have reopened and nearly 40,000 customers have visited those libraries since lockdown restrictions were eased. Another five libraries opened across Worcestershire on 3rd August with Droitwich, Stourport, St John's, Tenbury and Wythall opening their doors to customers for the first time since March. The remainder of the county's libraries will open during September. Since re-opening, libraries have also provided much needed digital access to local residents, recording over 1,500 unique computer sessions during the period.

The success of the Digital Library Hub is continuing to compliment the re-opening of libraries, with another fantastic set of figures for the last month. The total number of e-issues including e-books, e-audiobooks, and e-magazines for July (17,092) was the highest ever such calendar-month total for Worcestershire Libraries. Compared with July last year, last month's new Digital Memberships total was up by over 300%. The total of new digital memberships for the Digital Library Hub since 23rd March (1,447) is 315.8% higher than the total for the same period last year (348).

Environment and Economy:

1. It has now been six months since the opening of Worcestershire's first new railway station for over 100 years (Worcestershire Parkway). The station first opened its door in February this year. Take a look at the journey from empty field to the brand new station that has direct links to London and Cardiff - www.youtube.com/watch?v=eoaz1z_VFIQ

2. 5G

The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy and Infrastructure is recommended

- (a) note the work undertaken by Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP), the Council and other partners in the successful delivery of the first Worcestershire 5G project and the ongoing work on the West Mercia 5G project as part of the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's (DCMS) 5G Testbed and Trials programme;
- (b) note the successful application for funding into 'Open for Business' to support the transition of Worcestershire 5G into a sustainable model;
- (c) endorse the application for two new proposed projects into DCMS's 5G Create fund;
- (d) note, should either or both of the '5G Create' applications to DCMS be successful, the award of the initial grant from DCMS would be up to £1.5m for Wave 1 and up to £4m for Wave 2 and the role of the Council as the lead partner, will be managing the projects, assuring and financing partners' claims and drawing down the funding;
- (e) note and accept both the potential opportunities and risks that are identified within this report and earlier 5G Cabinet reports; and
- (f) authorise the Strategic Director of Economy and Infrastructure to finalise and agree the necessary agreements to progress and support the Open for Business project and the two DCMS 5G Create projects if funding applications are successful, noting that delegations in earlier 5G Cabinet reports also remain in place.

3. Since Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) began to reopen in Worcestershire in May, figures show that the sites have been as busier than this time last year, despite the lockdown and social distancing restrictions.
4. The County Council has announced more than a 12% increase in the tonnage deposited at the recycling centres during May and June, compared with the same period last year. Over 14,000 tonnes of waste was delivered to the HRCs throughout the two month period since many of the sites opened in May. This is equivalent to over 800,000 black bins of waste. The figures come at a time when a number of restrictions and social distancing measures remained in place since reopening to protect the visiting public and staff working on the sites. A video has been shared on the Council's Facebook pages reminding people of how to prepare and what to expect when visiting their local Household Recycling Centre.
5. On Friday 14th August the **'Make It Worcestershire' campaign** to support local produce and producers launched at Bell's Farm Shop, Stourport. The campaign is aimed at celebrating local produce and will provide local producers with much-needed support following the recent restrictions due to the Coronavirus.
The campaign is being run by One Worcestershire in partnership with Worcestershire Food & Drink. For more information go to <http://www.oneworcestershire.com/makeitworcs>

This month saw the Visit Worcestershire website refreshed and taking on a new look. You can see the new look and work being done to promote the county as a fantastic place to visit, here: <https://www.visitworcestershire.org/>

Several 'bollard sleeves' will be appearing across the county over the next few weeks, serving to promote Worcestershire as open for business and having a lot to offer, whilst also reminding shoppers about the need to socially distance.

You will see these temporary signs, which fit around bollards and other street furniture popping up in main shopping areas soon. Please get in touch with your liaison engineer for details.

Local Issues

Dragon's teeth at narrow point Main street near pinch point - at church wall section

KH Talking to KH

Neigh lane to Church Leys Closure 2022

ST/BB 26th -27th May Boundary Box install tap main

KH Cant extend 30mph but will look at the footway request

Neigh Lane area footway for safety

Threat re mineral extraction	WCC	Not going forward for the moment
Bridge information Middle Lane	BB	Supplied all except station road which is network rail Completed
Passing bays Field Barn Lane	BB	Lack of and condition of after winter
Hard standing near smokey lane bus drop off relocation of speed limits	BB	Agreed parish gamd to do when back
Blacksmith Lane U44212 27/4-1/5 Drainage work	KH	Not supported - lessen impact
Minerals Local Plan Examination in Public Update	Severn	new dates - 3 days from 6th July Brrok Lane to Blacksmiths
Speeding report LL/Bob/Lynne	T	Delayed
5 Days road closure Church Leys - C2022 ro Blacksmith	EE	
	WCC	to U44212 - for tree work