

# CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Remote Meeting held on 14 April 2021 at 7.30 pm.

Present Councillors A Peet (Chairman), K Almond, R Baker, P Fenemore, S Myers, B Paillusson, G Stubbs and N Woodcock.

Also present Borough Councillor P Sloan and 4 Members of the public.

A minutes silence was observed in memory of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

## 35.21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors P Fenemore and K Iddon.

## 36.21 Declarations of Interest

None declared.

## 37.21 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 March 2021

Resolved: the Minutes (as circulated) were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Resolved: Standing Orders were suspended.

## 38.21 Public Participation

Information was provided on a grant application which had been submitted by a local group to improve Public Footpaths FP6 and 8.

A resident had reported problems with dog fouling in a ginnel to the rear of properties on Westhead Road. This had been reported to Chorley Council who were unable to assist. As the ginnel is privately owned local authorities have no jurisdiction.

Resolved: Standing Orders were restored.

## 39.21 Planning Matters

21/00305/TCON Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area including the lateral reduction of 1no. cherry tree and 1no. larch tree at 44 Grape Lane

There were no objections to this application.

## 40.21 Financial Matters

i) Councillors considered the monitoring statement for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Resolved: the monitoring statement was received and accepted.

ii) Councillors considered the monthly financial monitoring statement.

Resolved: the monitoring statement was received and accepted.

iii) Resolved: the following payments were approved:

£ 390.00	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance	Grounds maintenance
£ 507.25	Lancashire Association of Local Councils	Annual Subscription
£ 25.00	SELRAP	Annual Subscription
£ 1077.98	Staff costs	Salaries and deductions

#### 41.21 Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2021 was considered.

- i) Resolved: the Asset Register was approved and signed by the Chairman.
- ii) Resolved: the Annual Governance Statement was approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

The Accounting Statements had been signed by the Responsible Financial Officer prior to the meeting.

- iii) Resolved: the Accounting Statements were approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### 42.21 Use of Village Green

A request from Croston in Bloom to erect a gazebo on the Village Green on Saturday 1st May 2021 for a plant sale was considered.

Resolved: the request was granted, subject to the Bloom Group providing insurance cover for the event.

#### 43.21 Public Right of Way FP6

Damage to the surface of FP6 caused by contractors pumping water from the Moor Road site had not been repaired to residents' satisfaction. United Utilities is to be requested to arrange adequate repairs.

#### 44.21 Litter picking Group

The Group had queried whether volunteer insurance cover was possible under the Council's policy. The insurer had been contacted and had advised that volunteers must operate under the Parish Council's control or supervision and Councillors felt the criteria for control or supervision could not be met. It was mentioned that, if the group was formalised, the Council could consider an application for a grant.

The volunteers had offered support for work needed for entry into The Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition. Councillors agreed to take part and are to provide details of premises for individual entries into Outstanding Features Awards category.

The condition of seats and the main notice board on the Village Green was mentioned. These, together with the notice board on The Orchard which is also in need of attention are dealt with as part of the parish council's maintenance/replacement programme. Costs for renovation or replacement are to be obtained.

The poor condition of some of the litter bins around the village was mentioned. Most of the bins belong to Chorley Council and Councillors are to provide a list of those needing attention.

#### 45.21 Reports from Outside Bodies

No reports.

#### 46.21 Date of Next Meeting

Councillors considered the rescheduling of the Annual Council Meeting to comply with the expiry of legislation allowing virtual meetings, which takes effect from 7 May 2021.

Resolved: the Annual Meeting was brought forward to Wednesday 5 May 2021.

#### 47.21 Future Meetings

The schedule of future meetings in line with the Covid-19 Roadmap was considered. A number of issues were discussed including guidelines in place at the time and the availability of Covid secure premises.

Resolved: the June meeting was cancelled and, provided regulations at the time allow, meetings will resume from 14 July 2021

#### 48.21 Temporary Delegated Decision Making Powers

Councillors considered the granting of temporary decision making powers to the Clerk in line with a suggestion from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Resolved: The Clerk was granted temporary decision making powers. Decisions would be taken following consultation with Councillors.

#### 49.21 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the exclusion of members of the press and public for the following item was considered on the grounds that the item comprises information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and, in accordance with Part 1 (3) of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, is exempt from public disclosure.

Resolved: due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, Members of the press and public were excluded for the consideration of the following item.

#### 50.21 Personnel Matters

Chorley Council had provided details of its methods of measuring street cleansing staff performance. Details of areas covered are to be reviewed.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.