

**Minutes of Croston Parish Council Meeting
held on Wed 12th June 2024, at Croston Old School**

In attendance: Cllrs P Sloan, P Strachan, and C Titherington-Teale. Mr P Cafferkey (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer). Six members of the public were also in attendance.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs C Worthington, K Almond; C Turner, P Fenemore, and S Moulton.
2. **To receive declarations of interest:** None.
3. **Minutes of the Last Parish Meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 15th May 2024 were approved as a true record.

4. **Public Participation:** Mr Harrison as owner of the Royal Umpire Park outlined his proposed plans to change the use of the park from a touring caravan holiday park to either a static caravan park or a residential caravan park for people over 50. Mr Harrison distributed a brochure. Whilst no planning permission has been sought as yet, Mr Harrison was keen to know the views of Croston Parish Council as to the options he presented.

Mr Weatheritt from "The Croston Shed" was in attendance to give some background information as to how it helps retired men socialise through woodworking and a "brew", focusing on building such things as bird boxes and hedgehog boxes. Mr Weatheritt stressed that members are not insured to work off site and that the Men's Shed, were therefore, not in position to, for example, repair Parish Council benches.

A member of the public came to express his objections to planning item 5b (24/00372/FUL) below. A number of concerns were stated including; only just over half of the residents of Bramblewood had received letters regarding the planning application, and that a site notice was supposed to have been posted, but this was either not done, or if it was, it was soon removed, as the resident has seen no evidence of the site notice. Other concerns, but not necessarily all that were raised, included security concerns of storing pharmaceutical items in the storage and an increase in traffic.

5. Planning Matters

- a) 24/00417/TCON, Village Green Town Road Croston, Notification of proposed works to trees within a conservation area involving the felling of 1no. rowan and pollarding of 1no. lime.
- b) 24/00372/FUL, Croston Pharmacy 69 Station Road Croston, PR26 9RL, Storage building to rear with enclosed walkway to main shop building.
- c) 24/00365/FUL, Land Adjacent Moss Lane Croston, The Siting of 3 no. storage containers for agricultural purposes (Retrospective)
- d) 24/00359/CLEUD, Midge Hall Farm, Moss Road, Croston, PR26 9JS, Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the use of a building for caravan storage (Use Class B8)
- e) 24/00358/CLEUD, Midge Hall Farm, Moss Road, Croston, PR26 9JS, Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the use of 2no. buildings for incidental residential purposes



With the exception of item b above there were no objections to the above planning items. As regards item b above, the Parish Council had not received any objections to this item other than that presented by a member of the public at this meeting; item 4 refers. It was noted that the consultation expiry date was the 4th June but it was agreed the Parish Council would write to Chorley Planning to see if more time could be granted for the Parish Council to consider this planning item.

6. Planning Update: Chorley Council's decision re The Crown 23/00113/FUL:

The Parish Council noted that this application had been approved by Chorley Council Planning Committee subject to conditions and a S106 agreement. Chair noted that despite the Parish Council requesting vehicle weight restrictions on Station Road and parking permits for affected residents at the entrance to the development, as conditions of approval of the planning application, no such conditions were applied.

7. Financial Matters:

- a) *Internal Audit Report 2023-24. It was resolved* that the Internal Audit Report be approved.
- b) *Annual Governance & Accounting Return (AGAR) for 2023-24. It was resolved* that the AGAR be approved.
- c) *Statement of Accounts 2023-24. It was resolved* that the Statement of Accounts 2023-24 (i.e. section 2 of AGAR) be approved.
- d) *Dates for the exercise of public rights for the inspection of accounts and supporting records. It was resolved* that the dates be set at Monday 17th June 2024 to Friday 26 July 2024 (inclusive)
- e) *Financial Statement as at 31 May 2024. It was resolved* that the financial statement as presented by the Clerk be approved.
- f) *Approval of the following transactions made through the Parish Council's bank account during the month of May 2024. It was resolved* that the following transactions be approved.

Date	Payee	£	Description
01-May-24	Direct Debit (GOCARDLESS)	36.96	Website monthly fee
03-May-24	CHORLEY BC CR	-39,779.74	Precept, top up grant & CIL
13-May-24	B/P to: MCB Print Ltd	431.00	Newsletter
13-May-24	B/P to: Countrywide Mntnce	459.00	Grounds Mtnce
13-May-24	B/P to: PFA Consulting Ltd	62.40	No 3rd Prison, transport expert
13-May-24	B/P to: Croston Old School	24.00	April Parish Council Hall Hire
20-May-24	B/P to: Employee 2	10.80	Mileage Tax Mth 02
20-May-24	B/P to: Employee 1	315.72	Salary Net Pay Tax Mth 02
20-May-24	B/P to: LALC	521.82	NALC/LALC Annual subscription
20-May-24	B/P to: Employee 2	22.15	Expenses Tax Mth 02
20-May-24	B/P to: Employee 2	464.53	Salary Net Pay Tax Mth 02

21-May-24	B/P to: Croston in Bloom	253.13	Compost
21-May-24	B/P to: Highfield Nursery	325.00	Plants
24-May-24	B/P to: N Norcross	20.00	Signs for Container on Park
28-May-24	B/P to: A Wade	108.00	Mow Out Lane
28-May-24	B/P to: A Wade	90.00	Emergency Call Out Footbridge
30-May-24	B/P to: A Wade	216.00	Repair Bench
30-May-24	B/P to: A Wade	120.00	Replace bench corner of Turflands

8. **Payments approved by email or pre-approved and retrospectively noted:**
- It was resolved** that the payment of £31.57 (excl VAT) for purchase of plant container and top soil to accompany new bench be approved retrospectively.
 - It was resolved** to ratify retrospectively the decision by Clerk / Chair for the repair of, and to make safe, the cycle on outdoor gym at the recreation park at a cost £490.00 (excl VAT).
 - It was resolved** to ratify retrospectively the purchases for Croston in Bloom, compost £253.13 (excl VAT), plants £325.00 (excl VAT).
9. **Clerk's Claim for May 2024: It was resolved** that the Clerk's claim for May of 43.92 hours, £10.80 mileage and expenses of £7.60 be approved.
10. **Councillor Vacancy: It was resolved** that Cllrs P. Sloan, C. Titherington-Teal, and P. Strachan would form an interview panel to interview applicants for the vacant Councillor position. Councillors absent from this meeting would also be invited to join the panel provided they could attend both interview dates (Wed 3rd and Wed 10th July).
11. **Asset Register: It was resolved** that the Parish Council's Asset Register as at 31 March 2024 be approved.
12. **Newsletter: It was resolved that** the formatting of the Parish Council Newsletter (to be issued twice per annum) would be undertaken by a specialist, either the current print provider or another 3rd party, so as to improve the appearance of the Newsletter and to save the time / cost of the Clerk/Chair, neither of whom are "experts" in the use of publishing software. The estimated cost is £100 to £120 per issue.
13. **Grant and donation applications:** The Clerk reported that 7 applications have been received. These will be presented to the July Parish Council meeting for a decision.
14. **LALC Course re Neighbourhood Plan: It was resolved** that the Clerk and the Chair would attend an online course on Neighbourhood Plans on the 20th June 2024 at a cost of £40 per attendee. The Clerk would email all Councillors to see if anyone else would like to attend.
15. **Parish Council Notice Boards: It was resolved** that the Parish Council would purchase three noticeboards from the Parish Council Noticeboard Company at a cost of £4,545 (excl VAT).
16. **Replacement Defibrillator Pads: It was resolved** that the Clerk be authorised to purchase replacement defibrillator pads at a cost of £66.95 (excl VAT). It was noted that the old phone box, that houses the defibrillator, has a door that is

extremely difficult to open, so other possibly places to site the equipment are being considered.

17. **Anti Climb Paint Re Container on Recreation Park:** Following further issues with youths going on the roof of the container and following the advice of the Police **it was resolved** that Anti Climb Paint would be applied to the container and warning signs placed on the container. Schools would be notified.
18. **Bench on Highfield Road: It was resolved** that this bench be removed and disposed of by A Wade (Landscaping) as the bench is not repairable.
19. **LCC PRoW Grant: It was resolved** that the Parish Council would apply for this grant.
20. **Recreation Park: It was resolved** that Yates Playgrounds of Holmeswood be engaged to undertake the necessary repairs to the surface of the children's play area (i.e. wet pour flooring) at a cost of £250 (excl VAT). Clerk once again reminded Council of the significant financial commitment required to maintain this parish amenity.
21. **HR Policies:** The Clerk reported that HR policies recently approved at the April 2024 Parish Council meeting had been distributed to both of the Council's employees.
22. **Project Renovation, Update:** The Chair reported that the new bench on Carr Lane (including concrete base) has been installed together with new litter bin provided by Chorley Council. Similarly, the new bench on the corner of Turflands has been installed. The Winnie Gosney memorial bench has been repaired and re-installed. The metal work renovation on The Green and the War Memorial is now in progress. The work to the trees on The Green, the electrical works on The Green and the resetting of the flags at the War Memorial are scheduled to commence from August 2024 onwards.
23. **Reports from Outside Bodies:** None.
24. **Car Parking at Croston Railway Station – Update:** The Clerk reported that the Parish Council has received official communication from Northern Rail that car parking charges have been postponed indefinitely until remedial works to drainage on part of the car park have taken place.
25. **Correspondence:** The Clerk reported that he had been in email correspondence with South Ribble Pensioners Association, Bamber Bridge, regarding the introduction of car parking charges at Bamber Bridge Railway Station.
26. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wed 10th July 2024, 7.30pm, Croston Old School.

Approved as a true record; Pauline Strachan, Chair. 10 July 2024

