

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held on 13 November 2019 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

Present Councillors A Peet, (Chairman), K Almond, R Baker, and S Myers.

120.19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors P Fenemore, K Iddon and B Paillusson.

121.19 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

None declared.

122.19 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 October 2019

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

Resolved: Standing Orders were suspended.

123.19 Public Participation

Residents had reported problems with access to the Pharmacy due to the steps. It was noted there was a level access to the side.

Resolved: Standing Orders were restored.

124.19 Planning Matters

19/00930/FUL Partial demolition of existing garden wall to front of property and creation of driveway at 15 The Hillocks

19/00978/TCON Notification of work to trees within a conservation area: Limes (T1, Ash (T2) - Crown reduce by 20%. Ash (T2) - crown raise to 3.5m. Crown reduce by 20%. Lime (T3) - Crown raise to 3.5m. Crown reduce by 30% at Village Green, Town Road

19/00979/FULHH Resubmission of planning application ref: 19/00428/FULHH for a single storey side extension at 23 Rectory Close

19/01017/LBC Insertion of new window in east gable at 3 Out Lane

There were no objections to these applications.

125.19 Financial Matters

i) Councillors considered the monthly financial monitoring statement.

Resolved: the monitoring statement was received and accepted and signed by the Chairman.

ii) A grant request from Chorley and South Ribble Shopmobility the costs of maintenance of mobility equipment was considered. There was no proposer for the request.

iii) A grant request from Croston Village Festivities Group towards the costs of staging the Christmas lights switch on was considered.

Resolved: a grant of £500, to be applied to the Christmas budget, was awarded.

Resolved: the following payments were approved:

£	125.00	Croston Old School	Room hire
£	533.00	DWG (NW)	Winter planting/strimming
£	331.20	Lancashire County Council	Signage
£	384.00	The Potting Sheds	Installation of bins/maintenance
£	169.72	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance	Grass cutting
£	478.83	Employee 1	Salary

£	497.04	Employee 2	Salary
£	42.20	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE
£	150.00	Cash	Remembrance Day expenditure
£	500.00	Croston Village Festivities Group	Grant

126.19 Internal Audit Review

The annual review of the effectiveness of the internal audit was carried out.

Resolved: the current system of internal audit was found to be adequate.

Councillors considered the appointment of the Internal Auditor for the current financial year and the internal audit fee.

Resolved: Mrs A Partington was appointed and the fee set at £80.

127.19 Gateway to Croston Rectory

As the owner of the vehicle responsible for the latest damage had been contacted, it was decided to defer this item pending a response.

128.19 Climate Emergency

Suggestions to issue a formal declaration of a climate emergency and the forming of a sub-committee to promote environmental issues were considered. Councillors were in favour of encouraging recycling and the setting up of a working group to look at the issues however, the majority saw no benefit from a formal declaration. In view of the number of Members present, it was decided to defer this item to the next meeting.

129.19 Engagement with Residents

Suggestions to improve engagement with residents were considered. It was suggested an electronic version of the newsletter might be produced for emailing to a subscriber list.

The website is extremely difficult to manage due to the nature of connectivity. Councillors are to provide suggestions for inclusion on a new site.

The use of social media was also put forward. Possible issues around the monitoring of content were raised and a robust protocol for use would be required.

130.19 Four Year Plan

The formulation of a plan, identifying priorities and aims and objectives for 2019-2023 was discussed. It was suggested a plan could be drawn up to form the basis of a discussion document.

131.19 Precept

The precept will be set at the January meeting and Councillors were reminded of the need to provide suggestions for inclusion in time to allow costings to be obtained.

132.19 Central Lancashire Authorities Consultation

A consultation on the approach for the Memorandum of Understanding and Statement of Co-Operation relating to proposals regarding the provision and distribution of housing land was considered. There were no comments.

133.19 Christmas Lights

The Christmas tree lights are to be installed on 30 November.

134.19 Reports from Outside Bodies

Croston in Bloom - a report from the Britain in Bloom North West Awards Ceremony was provided. Croston in Bloom received a Gold Award in the Large Village Category and the Best Large Village Award. Croston Station received an 'Outstanding' Award.

135.19 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 11 December 2019.

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