# CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Meeting held on 13 September 2023 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

Present Councillors P Strachan (Chairman), K Almond, S Moult, P Sloan, C Titherington-Teale and C Turner.

Also present, 2 Members of the public and Mr P Cafferkey (new Clerk).

## 102.23 **Apologies for Absence** Apologies were received from Cllrs M Cahill, C Worthington and P Fenemore.

## 103.23 **Declarations of Interest** None declared.

## 104.23 **Appointment of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer** Resolved: that Mr P Cafferkey be appointed as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer following the retirement of Mr A Platt.

## 105.23 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 July 2023** Resolved: the Minutes (as circulated) were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

 Resolved: Standing Orders were suspended.

## 106.23 **Public Participation**A representative of the Croston in Bloom Group queried whether the existing system for ordering the plants for the village would continue. Councillors confirmed it would.

A representative of The Old School advised Chorley Council had awarded further funding for the Warm Spaces project which provides refreshments for up to 40 residents on a regular basis.

Standing Orders were restored.

## 107.23 **Planning Matters**

23/00505/FULHH Two storey rear extension and single storey side extension at 15 Riverside Crescent

 23/00512/FULHH Erection of a detached outbuilding at 15 Riverside Crescent

There were no objections to these applications.

23/00721/FUL Provision of a modular building to serve as a nursery at Trinity and St Michael’s C of E and Methodist Primary School - a request for support for this application had been received from the School. A query was raised as to whether the building could be sited further from the main road to avoid air pollution. Enquiries are to be made with the School. The Parish Council’s support is to be offered subject to clarification on the pollution issue.

## 108.23 **Financial Matters**

i) The monthly financial monitoring statement was presented.

Resolved: the monitoring statement was received and accepted.

ii) The amount of the contribution to the Ulnes Walton Action Group for a contribution towards the provision of a Transport Expert for the Wymott and Garth Prisons Planning Inquiry was considered.

Resolved: a contribution of £150 was agreed.

iii) A request from Chorley and South Ribble Shopmobility, for a contribution towards the replacement of wheelchairs and electric scooters, was considered but rejected.

v) Resolved: the following payments were approved:

£ 408.00 Glebworth Construction Play bark

£ 56.00 Lee Distribution Newsletter delivery

£ 27.20 Easy Websites Website management fee

£ 24.00 Croston Old School Room hire

£ 459.00 Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Grass cutting (July)

£ 459.00 Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Grass cutting (August)

£ 431.00 MCB Print Autumn newsletter

£ 174.00 J McDougall Electrical Services Light repair - defibrillator kiosk

£ 105.00 Lancashire Assoc of Local Councils Councillor training

£ 45.00 DWG (NW) Weedkiller - Village Green path

£ 500.00 Croston Village Festivities Group Grant

£ 250.00 Croston Coffee Day Committee Grant

£ 1235.35 Staff costs Salaries, reimbursements and deductions

£ 600.00 Easy Websites Website management fee

## 109.23 **Banking Arrangements** The existing free banking offer is due to expire. Alternative facilities with Unity Trust Bank were considered.

Resolved: an account is to be opened with Unity Trust Bank.

## 110.23 **Recreation Park** Following heavy rain in July the toddler’s play area was flooded. Advice had been sought from the Insurer, which recommended taking the equipment out of commission. The area had been taped off using barrier tape which members of Croston Together had done until the water had dissipated and a quotation £4885 (+VAT) for the installation of a land drain had been obtained. Councillors agreed to continue with the procedure to tape off the area and review the effect of this.

## 111.23 **Newsletter** A delivery service for the quarterly newsletter was considered. It was suggested receipt of the newsletter should be checked with a sample of residents following delivery.

Resolved: Lee Distribution is to provide the service.

## 112.23 **Electric Vehicle Charging Points** This item was deferred to a future meeting.

## 113.23 **Neighbourhood Plan**As Cllr Fenemore was not present to provide a report, this item was deferred.

## 14.23 **Crime Figures** Figures for August had shown a marked increase in reported crimes within the village. A suggestion to invite the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner to a meeting was put forward.

## 115.23 **Remembrance Day** Arrangements for the Parade were discussed. Volunteers will be required at the road closure points and a bearer for the Women’s British Legion Flag is required.

## 116.23 **Rainbow Flag** A request from a resident to display the Rainbow Flag in June 2024 was considered.

Resolved: permission to fly the Rainbow Flag for a two week period from 1 June 2024 was granted.

## 117.23 **Reports from Outside Bodies** Chorley Liaison - Lancashire County Council’s Cabinet members for Highways and Transportation attended the meeting. Information was provided on alterations to the method of laying surface dressing on roads which should avoid blocked gullies.

## 101.23 **Date of Next Meeting** A proposal to reschedule the October meeting due to staff holidays was considered.

Resolved: the next meeting will take place on 18 October 2023.

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