

**Minutes of Croston Parish Council Meeting held on Wed 11th December 2024,
at Croston Old School.**

In attendance: Cllrs P Sloan, K Almond, C Turner, C Baines, D O'Kane and P Fenemore. Mr P Cafferkey (Acting Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer). Three members of the public were also in attendance.

1. **Apologies for Absence** Cllrs P. Strachan, C.Titherington-Teale,
2. **Declarations of Interests** Cllrs Fenemore & O'Kane (non-pecuniary interest) – item 10
3. **Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting** The minutes of the meeting held on the 13th Nov 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

4. **Public Participation:** to invite and listen to issues raised by members of the public.

Cllr Fenemore reported that a relatively large tree had blown over during Storm Darragh on the 7th Dec 2024. The tree had fallen across the highway on Grape Lane and had hit a wall adjacent to the highway. The Clerk agreed to contact Lancashire Highways Authority to establish if the wall had been inspected for any damage and if there was any risk of any of the other trees, from the same location, being blown over. Cllr Fenemore thanked Smiths Farm for their help in removing the tree from the highway.

5. Planning Matters:

- a. 24/00782/AGR. Land Off Moss Road Croston PR26 9JS. Agricultural determination for the erection of an agricultural building.
- b. 24/00892/TCON. Croston Hall Estate Grape Lane Croston PR26 9HB. Notification of proposed works to a tree within a conservation area involving the felling of a poplar tree.
- c. 24/00999/NOT. T-Mobile (UK) Ltd Telecommunications Mast Barbers Moor Farm Moor Road Croston. Notification of intention to remove 3no. existing antennas, 1no. existing GPS Node and 1no. existing cabinet to be replaced with 3no. antennas, 1no. GPS Node and 1no. cabinet with associated ancillary works thereto.
- d. 24/01011/FULHH. 11 Rectory Close Croston PR26 9SH. Two storey side extension including extension to existing front canopy.
- e. 24/00988/AGR. Drinkhouse Farm Drinkhouse Road Croston PR26 9JH. Agricultural determination for the erection of a storage building and associated hardstanding.

Council noted the above planning applications and there were no objections.

6. **Clerk's claim for Nov 2024. It was resolved** to approve the previous Clerk's claim for Nov 2024 for 13.75 hours, mileage of 12 miles and expenses of £1.40. The proposal was made by Cllr P. Sloan, seconded by Chair, Cllr C. Turner and agreed by Cllrs K. Almond, C. Baines and P. Fenemore. Cllr D. O'Kane abstained.

7. **Parish Council's Budget and Precept 2025-26.** It was resolved that the Parish Council's budget for 2025-26 be set at £44,648. In order to fund this budget it was also resolved the Parish Council's precept for 2025-26 be set at £38,157. Consequently, for a Band D house, for example, the annual precept would increase by £3.25; from £32.32 per annum to £35.57 per annum. This was proposed by Cllr Fenemore, seconded by Cllr Baines. Also agreed by Cllrs Sloan, Almond, and Chair, Cllr C. Turner. Against, Cllr O'Kane. The motion was therefore carried.
8. **Parish Councillor Vacancy – Update.** Following the resignation of Cllr Anne Double the Clerk confirmed that he had received notification from Chorley Council that a formal election would not be required, the Parish Council can now go ahead and co-opt a suitable person to fill the vacancy. It was resolved that the vacancy be advertised after Christmas. Proposed, Cllr Sloan. Seconded Cllr Baines. This was unanimously agreed.
9. **Appointment of Clerk – Update.** It was confirmed that interviews for a replacement Clerk had taken place prior to this meeting. Three candidates had been interviewed by an interview panel, comprising of the Chair (Cllr Turner), and Cllrs Sloan, Baines, Almond and Fenemore. It was resolved that the recommendation of the interview panel, as to their preferred candidate, be subject to an email vote by all Councillors, as the appointment needed to be a whole Council decision, this would then enable a prompt appointment in time for the next meeting. Proposed Cllr Sloan, seconded Chair (Cllr Turner), and agreed by Cllrs Almond, Baines and Fenemore. Against, Cllr O'Kane. The motion was therefore carried.
10. **Grant to Croston Community Centre.** It was resolved that due to a change in circumstances, the grant of £250.00 awarded to Croston Community Centre for the provision of a Christmas meal, could now be used to provide a meal (e.g. a buffet) in the new calendar year. Proposed Chair (Cllr Turner), seconded Cllr Sloan. The motion was carried unanimously.
11. **Report from Outside Bodies.** Cllr Fenemore reported that he had attended the Making Space for Water meeting at Chorley Council to present his report regarding concerns for flooding in Croston. Cllr Fenemore felt that his report had been well received. United Utilities had confirmed at the meeting that a scheme to alleviate the impact of stormwater in Croston would not be fully completed until 2035.
12. **Correspondence:** None
13. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wed 8th January 2025, 7.30pm, Croston Old School.

Agreed as a true record, Caroline Turner – Chair.

Caroline Turner, 8/1/25.

8th Jan 2025