**Minutes of the Croston Parish Council Meeting**

**held on Wed 8th Nov 2023, at** **Croston Old School**

**In attendance:** Cllrs K Almond, P Fenemore, S Moult, P Sloan, P Strachan, C Titherington-Teale, C Turner, County Councillor A Whittaker, Mr P Cafferkey (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer); County Councillor Alan Whittaker (items 1 to 4), Borough Councillor Alan Platt (items 1 to 7).

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Worthington & Cahill
2. **To agree the minutes of the last Parish Council mtg held on 11th Oct 2023:**
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th Oct 2023 were accepted as a true record and agreed unanimously.
3. **To receive declarations of interest:** Cllr Fenemore declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 14 as he would like any broken lights to be donated to the Men’s Shed.
4. **Public Participation:** County Councillor Alan Whittaker explained that he had attended a site meeting with the a representative of Lancashire County Council (LCC) Highways to look at the junction of Carr Lane and Turflands with regard to Planning Application 23/00462/FULMAJ, Croston Hall Farm – see item 5 below.

Brough Councillor Alan Platt had attended the LCC Parish and Town Council Conference and had brought back some “Slow Down, Save Lives” signs for use by the parish council; he will also distribute some presentation slides on flood defences which had been shown at the conference.
5. **Turflands / Carr Lane Corner:** Planning application 23/00462/FULMAJ refers. The parish council had written to LCC Highways requesting a site meeting with interested parties. This specific request was not responded to by LCC Highways but they had written to the parish council to confirm they had visited the site with County Councillor Alan Whittaker. Further to this visit, LCC Highways stated they had considered the parish council’s comments and reviewed the evidence, and as such LCC’s stance on this planning application remained the same. Discussion took place over the current plastic bollards which had been knocked over and then returned to an upright position. It was considered that if the plastic bollards were replaced with metal bollards then traffic would exercise more care at the junction of Turflands and Carr Lane. **It was resolved**, therefore, that the parish council would write to Chorley Council to request if they would make it a condition of the planning application that the existing bollards be replaced by metal bollards, at the expense of the applicant.
6. **Planning Matters**
	1. 23/00821/TCON | Notification of proposed works to trees within a conservation area involving the crown reduction of 1no. silver birch and the removal of 1no. weeping birch | Park View 38 Grape Lane Croston.
	2. 23/00820/FULHH | single storey rear extension and single storey side/rear in-fill extension (following demolition of existing side porch and rear conservatory) | 39 Grape Lane Croston
	3. 23/00835/TCON Hillocks Farm 17 The Hillocks Croston Notification of proposed works to trees within a conservation area involving the crown reduction of 1no. birch (T1), raise canopy of 1no. birch (T2), limb reduction of 1no. birch (T3) and reduce height of 1no. birch (T4)

There were no objections to the above items.

1. **Financial Matters:**
	* + - 1. The finance statement was presented and **it was resolved** that the finance statement be approved.
				2. **It was resolved** that the following transactions be approved.

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| **Amt**  | **Payee** | **Description** |
| £165.00 | Highfield Nurseries | Winter plants  |
| £36.00 | Croston Old School  | Room hire - Sep |
| £27.60 | Easy Web Sites | Monthly web site fee |
| £24.00 | Croston Old School | Room hire - Oct |
| £459.00 | Countrywide Grounds Maintenance | Grass Cutting |
| £252.00 | PKF Littlejohn  | External Audit Fee |
| £459.00 | Countrywide Grounds Maintenance | Grass Cutting |
| £574.27 | Employee 1 | Salary |
| -£350.87 | Chorley Council | CIL Income |

* + - * 1. **It was resolved** that the EasyWebsites price increase of £2.21 (excl VAT) per month as from 1st Jan 2024 be approved.
1. **Parish Precept 2024-25:** The Clerk presented precept data relating to other local parish councils for Croston Parish Council to take into account, if it so wished, when setting the 2024-25 precept at its Jan 2024 meeting. The council noted the comparative data.
2. **Clerk’s Contract of Employment::** The Clerk left the room for this item. No members of the public were present at this stage in the meeting. **It was resolved** that the Clerk’s contract of employment be approved.
3. **Clerk’s Claim for Sept & Oct 2023:** **It was resolved** that the Clerk’s timesheet for Sept and Oct 2023, including mileage and expenses, be approved.
4. **Donation to Royal British Legion: It was resolved** that a donation of £275.00 be made to the Royal British Legion poppy appeal.
5. **Annual Inspection of Recreation Park Equipment: It was resolved** that Wicksteed’s be engaged to undertake the 2023-24 safety inspection of the recreation park play equipment.
6. **Recreation Park – Winter Maintenance: It was resolved** that the ParishCouncil would fund £235.00 for materials and replacement trees for the winter maintenance of the recreation park which is kindly undertaken on a voluntary basis by the Croston Together community group.
7. **To confirm retrospectively the email approval of funding to Croston Village Festivities Group for the purchase of Christmas Light**.**: It was resolved** to confirm the decision, previously voted on by email, to approve the funding of Christmas Lights purchased by CVFG in the sum of £753.57. It was agreed to hand over any of the old unworking Christmas lights to the Men’s Shed.
8. **Parish Council Temporary Road Signs:** It was agreed that Cllr Sloan would lead on bringing a formal proposal to a future meeting for the purchase of two, possibly three, temporary road signs.
9. **Remembrance Sunday:** It was confirmed that all arrangements were now in place.
10. **Chorley Council Garages - Update:** The Clerk confirmedthat he had written, and issued a reminder to Chorley Council regarding the poor condition and unsightly state of the eight garages to the side of 54 Peartree Road Croston. As yet no response has been received; the Clerk agreed to follow this up.
11. **Pharmacy Parking:** It was agreed to continue to explore the possibility of parking provision for the Croston Pharmacy. Cllr Fenemore agreed to detail in writing to the Clerk / Parish Council how his suggested option for parking addressed each of the main objections raised by Chorley Council in response to the original planning application (ref 23/00217/FUL).
12. **Neighbourhood Plan**: Nothing significant to report.
13. **Date of May 2024 Meeting: It was resolved** that the date of the May 2024 meeting be changed to Wed 15th May 2024.
14. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wed 13th December 2023, 7.30pm, Croston Old School

Authorised as a true record: Pauline Strachan (Chair) 13th Dec 2023