

**Minutes of Croston Parish Council Meeting
held on Wed 10th July 2024, at Croston Old School**

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs C Worthington and S Moul.

2. **To receive declarations of interest:** Cllrs Fenemore and Strachan declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 13 regarding the Men's Shed application and the Keep Croston Tidy application respectively.

3. **Minutes of the Last Parish Meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th June 2024 were approved as a true record.

4. **Public Participation:** Two members of the public were in attendance as representatives of the Royal Umpire Park regarding proposed changes to 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. The representatives expressed their wishes to maintain an open dialogue with the Parish Council. Cllr Fenemore suggested that the owners of the Royal Umpire Park hold a public meeting to outline their plans as this would allow greater time for discussion with the public than is available at a Parish Council meeting. The Chair stated that the Parish Council could help promote such an event. Cllr Almond mentioned overhanging branches impeding the footpath alongside the boundary of Croston Park Nursing Home and the poor state of the bus shelter opposite Croston Railway Station. Cllr Almond also mentioned that ordinarily the Parish Council subscribes to OPSTA (Ormskirk Preston Southport Travellers Association) for a small fee of £10, but this appears to have been missed this year.

5. **Planning Matters**
 - a) 24/00516/CLPUD. Withington Barn Farm Finney Lane Croston PR26 9JQ. Application for a certificate of lawfulness for a proposed rear/side extension.
 - b) 24/00475/TCON. The Lodge 3 Grape Lane Croston PR26 9HB. Notification of proposed works to trees within a conservation area involving the limb removal and crown reduction of 1no. beech and the crown reduction of 1no. silver birch.
 - c) 24/00472/FUL. The Old Police Station 1 Town Road Croston PR26 9RA. Roof extension and alterations in order to facilitate the provision of 1no. one-bedroom residential apartment at second floor level.
 - d) 24/00405/FUL. The Grapes Hotel 67 Town Road Croston PR26 9RA. Internal refurbishment of all rooms, reinstatement and repair of structural parts of the building where required including the replacement of all windows and minor changes to internal wall and door locations (part retrospective) and external works to provide external seating, minor landscaping works and a covered seating area.

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- e) 24/00406/LBC. The Grapes Hotel 67 Town Road Croston PR26 9RA. Application for listed building consent for the internal refurbishment of all rooms, reinstatement and repair of structural parts of the building where required including the replacement of all windows and minor changes to internal wall and door locations (part retrospective) and external works to provide external seating, minor landscaping works and a covered seating area.

There were no objections to the above planning items.

6. **Planning Update: Chorley Council's Response re** Re 24/00372/FUL, Croston Pharmacy 69 Station Road Croston Leyland PR26 9RL, Storage building to rear with enclosed walkway to main shop building. The Clerk reported that Chorley Council had responded to the Parish's Council comments in respect of this application. Chorley Council had confirmed that consultation had been carried out in accordance with the requirements of General Permitted Development Order (2015).

7. **Financial Matters:**

- a) *submission of the Parish Council's AGAR (Annual Governance & Accounting Return) for 2023-24* The Clerk confirmed that the AGAR had been submitted by the required deadline.
- b) *Statement of Accounts 2023-24.* The Clerk confirmed that the Statement of Accounts had been submitted by the required deadline.
- c) *Dates for the exercise of public rights for the inspection of accounts and supporting records.* The Clerk confirmed that the dates had been set at Monday 17th June 2024 to Friday 26 July 2024 (inclusive)
- d) *Financial Statement as at 30th June 2024.* **It was resolved** that the financial statement as presented by the Clerk be approved.
- e) *Approval of the following transactions made through the Parish Council's bank account during the month of June 2024.* **It was resolved** that the following transactions be approved.

Date	Payee	£	Description
03Jun2024	Direct Debit (GOCARDLESS)	36.96	Website monthly fee
03Jun2024	B/P to: Amanda Partington	80.00	Internal Audit Fee
13Jun2024	B/P to: N Norcross	31.57	Refund for plant container & soil
13Jun2024	B/P to: A Wade	738.00	Concrete base etc re Carr Lane bench
13Jun2024	B/P to: Croft Field	250.00	Grant Croft Field
13Jun2024	B/P to: Lee Distribution	56.00	Newsletter Distribution
24Jun2024	B/P to: Employee 2	7.60	Expenses Tax Mth 03
24Jun2024	B/P to: Employee 2	563.00	Salary Net Pay Tax Mth 03
24Jun2024	B/P to: Employee 2	10.80	Mileage Tax Mth 03
24Jun2024	B/P to: Countrywide Mntnce	1,380.00	Grounds Mtnce May
24Jun2024	B/P to: Employee 1	315.72	Salary Net Pay Tax Mth 03

24Jun2024	B/P to: Croston Old School	30.00	Parish Council Room Hire
24Jun2024	B/P to: Countrywide Mntnce	1,380.00	Grounds Mntnce Jun

8. **Payments approved by email or pre-approved and retrospectively noted:**
None.
9. **Clerk's Claim for June 2024: It was resolved** that the Clerk's claim for June of 24.72 hours, £10.80 mileage and expenses of £86.54 (includes purchase of battery for defibrillator at £80.34) be approved.
10. **Recreation Park: It was resolved** that £490 be approved for the purchase of bark mulch which is to be placed on the marginal swale that runs alongside the ditch on the park; this work to be carried out by volunteers.
11. **Anti-Climb Paint: It was resolved** that the Chairman's action be approved to authorise A Wade Landscapes to apply anti climb paint at a cost of £255 (excl VAT) to the top of the container on the Recreation Park. This was considered necessary given the number of recent incidents of youths on the roof of the container and the fact that the Police had indicated they would only continue to support Parish Council's complaints if this preventative measure was taken.
12. **Councillor Vacancy:** Following the vacancy created by the resignation of Cllr Martin Cahill an interview panel comprising of three Parish Councillors had interviewed 7 candidates. The recommendation of the interview panel was to appoint Anne Double. **It was resolved** that Anne Double be co-opted onto Croston Parish Council.
13. **Grant and donation applications: It was resolved** the following grant donations be awarded:
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| a) | Croston Men's Shed (Lathe) | £209.00 |
| b) | Croston Village Festivities Group (Xmas Fair) | £500.00 |
| c) | Croston St Michael's Scouts (Family Day) | £250.00 |
| d) | Croston Community Centre (Xmas Lunch) | £250.00 |
| e) | Croston Coffee Day Committee | £250.00 |
| f) | Keep Croston Tidy (Insurance) | £134.40 |
| g) | Croston PT Ltd (subject to receiving further info.) | £250.00 |
- Cllr Fenemore abstained from voting on item a) and Cllr Strachan abstained from voting on item f); see section 2 (declarations of interest).
14. **Neighbourhood Plan:** It was agreed that the Parish Council should continue to formulate a Neighbourhood Plan but that a great deal further work was needed starting with a scoping document.

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15. **Public Rights of Way (PRoW):** It was agreed to draw up a list of all the PRoW in Croston with a view to these being walked by Cllrs to identify any signage or access issues that could be improved.
16. **Royal Umpire Park:** It was agreed that the Parish council could not provide any formal response to any proposed developments on the Royal Umpire Park until a formal planning application is submitted to the Planning Authority (Chorley Council). See also section 4.
17. **Car Parking:** It was agreed that information would be sought from Lancashire County Council on the procedure for requesting double yellow lines.
18. **Social media / Guidance:** It was agreed to defer this item until the Sept 2024 meeting to allow Cllrs time to consider any guidance.
19. **Chorley Operational Making Space for Water Meetings – Update:** Cllr Sloan has drafted a list of questions that can be used as a basis for raising Croston flood concerns at the next Chorley Operational Making Space for Water Meeting to be held on the 26th November 2024.
20. **Garages to side of 54 Peartree Road, Croston:** Given the lack of response from Chorley Council it was agreed that the Parish Council would request a face-to-face meeting with representatives of Chorley Council.
21. **Project Renovation Update:** John Christopher (Specialist Fabrications, Coppull) is waiting for the weather to improve to paint the bollards, safety barrier, replace flag pole, do signpost and remove weather vane for renovation plus replace chains at The Green and The War Memorial . A Wade is due to reset flags at the War Memorial in Sept. John McDougal Electrics and Ingrams Tree Work will be started on The Green when all Planning permission/ compliance has been sourced from Chorley Council for this work. It was agreed that the new Notice Boards will be ordered when all the work on The Green is complete.
22. **Reports from Outside Bodies:** None.
23. **Correspondence:** A member of public had emailed requesting information regarding the increase in the precept for 2024-25, the Clerk is to provide a response.
24. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wed 11th Sept 2024, 7.30pm, Croston Old School.

Approved as a correct record 11th Sept 2024, Pauline Strachan - Chair

