

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present Councillors A Peet, (Chairman), K Almond, M Cowley and P Fenemore.

Also present 7 Members of the Public.

23.19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors K Iddon, B Paillusson, and G Stubbs.

24.19 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

None declared.

25.19 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13 February 2019

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

Resolved: Standing Orders were suspended.

26.19 Public Participation

Residents provided views on proposals by Network Rail to address the Meadow Lane Bridge issue. A resident mentioned that, at the meeting with Network Rail, options, not just repainting, were offered together with an offer of a public meeting. A letter from Network Rail, providing details of costings and the offer to paint the bridge, was read out. A resident stated she was not happy the paint options were being considered at this stage and that other options should be looked at. An identical issue, which had been fought by Brinkworth Parish Council with the aid of the local MP, was mentioned. Concerns were raised that this may happen again with Station Bridge. A resident suggested financial compensation should be sought from Network Rail.

A member of the public provided information on her intention to organise a Croston family reunion in the village. Details of local social media accounts were provided for the member of the public to advertise the event. Suggestions to contact local organisations were also provided.

The Project Manager provided an update on the works on the Recreation Ground. The recent good weather has meant progress has been good and completion of the work is expected by the end of April. It is hoped to hold an official opening event in May. Problems with vandalism were reported and nitrous oxide canisters have been found on the site. Issues with the fencing and entrance for the development at 127A Station Road were mentioned. A specification for the mowing regime is being drawn up.

Resolved: Standing Orders were restored.

27.19 Planning Matters

19/00134/TCON Notification of works to trees in a conservation area: Kanzan cherry, remove two lower secondary branches, fell three silver birch trees and prune one silver birch by removing one subordinate lower limb at Hillocks Farm, 17 The Hillocks

There were no objections to this application.

28.19 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 the Croft Field Volunteers, towards the costs of maintenance of the Croft Field and arboretum was considered. A proposal to award a grant of £200 was made but not seconded.

Resolved: a grant of £350 was awarded, to be paid in the next financial year.

Councillor Almond then requested a recorded vote. The votes were as follows:

For: Cllrs Cowley, Fenemore and Peet. Against: None. Abstentions: Cllr Almond.

Councillors Almond and Peet, as members of Croston in Bloom, declared non-pecuniary interests in the following item:

iii) A grant request from Croston in Bloom, towards the costs of staging the 2019 Coffee day event, was considered.

Resolved: a grant of £200 was awarded, to be paid in the next financial year.

iv) Resolved: the following payments were approved:

£ 5000.00	The Potting Sheds	Recreation Ground interim payment
£ 16000.00	The Potting Sheds	Recreation Ground stage payment
£ 18.50	Croston Old School	Room hire
£ 20400.00	The Potting Sheds	Recreation Ground stage payment
£ 25.00	Parish and Town Training	Councillor training
£ 410.00	Printwise	Newsletter printing
£ 60.00	Village Courier	Newsletter delivery
£ 464.19	Employee 1	Salary
£ 659.39	Employee2	Salary and reimbursements
£ 49.60	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE
£ 10,94	E.ON	Christmas lights electricity

30.19 Meadow Lane Bridge

Views provided by residents at the meeting, together with responses to the newsletter article were taken into account. Councillors also provided feedback from discussions with residents, with the majority reported as being in favour of painting the bridge green. Reference was made to the campaign fought by Brinkworth Parish Council against a similar issue. The open ends of the bridge were mentioned and it was suggested they should be contained.

Resolved: Network Rail is to be advised that other issues, beyond simply the colour of the bridge, have been raised by residents which have not been addressed in the initial proposals.

31.19 Risk Assessment

Councillors completed the annual review in accordance with the publication 'Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England'. The existing procedures and controls were found to be adequate.

Resolved: the adequacy of the existing controls was noted.

32.19 Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were reviewed. Model documents had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Resolved: Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, as distributed to Councillors, were approved.

33.19 Lancashire County Council Household Waste Recycling Centres consultation

A consultation on revised opening times was considered. The possibility of the earlier closing leading to an increase in fly tipping was mentioned however Councillors decided not to comment on the consultation.

34.19 Reports from Outside Bodies

Chorley Liaison - the meeting of the sub group formed to look into Knotweed eradication had been cancelled as the Mersey Rivers Trust was unable to attend.

35.19 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 10 April 2019.

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