

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Meeting held on 10 May 2023 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

Present Councillors P Strachan (Chairman), K Almond, P Fenemore,
C Titherington-Teale and C Worthington.

Also present 12 Members of the public.

Cllr Fenemore, as Vice Chairman, opened the meeting.

41.23. Election of Chairman

Resolved: Cllr Strachan was elected and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was received.

42.23 Election of Vice Chairman

Resolved: Cllr Worthington was elected.

43.23 Delivery of Acceptances of Office

Councillor's Declarations of Acceptance of Office were received.

44.23 Apologies for Absence

None received.

45.23 Declarations of Interest

None declared.

46.23 Councillor Vacancies

Applications for co-option to fill the four vacancies arising due to insufficient nominations submitted by four candidates were due to be considered. As there had been a further application submitted following the publishing of the agenda, Councillors agreed to defer the process until the June meeting.

47.23 Other Appointments

Resolved: the appointments were confirmed:

Croston United Charities: Cllr Almond.

Layfield Charity - Cllr Almond

Tree Warden - Cllr Almond

Appointments to the remaining outside bodies were deferred to the June meeting.

48.23 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 April 2023

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

Resolved: Standing Orders were suspended.

49.23 Public Participation

Representatives from the Ulnes Walton Action Group provided information regarding the Public Inquiry into the appeal against the refusal of the planning application for the new prison at the Wymott/Garth site. The Inquiry is to take place on 19 September 2023 and the Inspector will consider only evidence relating to highway safety and capacity issues.

The Group has asked local parish and borough councils for financial support towards the costs, totalling around £5000, of appointing a Transport Consultant to present evidence at the Inquiry. The Group also requested a representative of the Parish Council speak at the Inquiry.

Residents of properties adjoining the Recreation Park advised of problems, including anti social behaviour and criminal damage, caused by up to 70 young people gathering on the Park. The young people have been kicking footballs on the safety surfacing, damaging a wooden fence and throwing objects at properties. The incidents have been reported to the local Police. A Councillor advised anti-social behaviour is a Police issue and further incidents should be reported. The availability of images from the Parish Council's CCTV system to identify individuals was queried. The meeting was advised this had been offered to the local Police. A representative of the Friends of Croston Station advised of anti-social behaviour on the station.

A mobile unit selling pizzas outside Fresco Fresco was reported.

Standing Orders were restored.

50.23 Planning Matters

23/00334/TCON Notification of proposed works to trees within a conservation area including the crown lift of 1no. oak, limb removal of 1no. oak and cut back 1no. sycamore and oak at Croston Park Nursing Home, Town Road

23/00338/FULHH Single storey rear extension at 3 Castle Walks

23/00343/TCON Notification of proposed works to trees within a conservation area including the removal of including the crown thin of 5no. acer platanoides at including the crown thin of 5no. acer platanoides at Croston Village Surgery, Out Lane

There were no objections to these applications.

51.23 Financial Matters

i) The monthly financial monitoring statement was presented.

Resolved: the monitoring statement was received and accepted.

ii) Resolved: the following payments were approved:

£ 24.00	Croston Old School	Room hire
£ 424.80	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance	Grounds maintenance
£ 300.00	Croston Scout Group	Grant
£ 80.00	Internal Auditor	Internal audit fee
£ 1235.35	Staff costs	Salaries, deductions and reimbursements

52.23 Asset Register

Councillors completed the annual review of the asset register.

Resolved: the Asset Register was approved and signed by the Chairman.

53.23 Recreation Park

Councillors discussed recent anti-social and intimidatory behaviour on the Park. A number of suggestions to try to alleviate the problems were put forward. These included additional signage, use of the CCTV system, additional and regular attendance by the local Neighbourhood Police Team, employing private security, contacting local retailers regarding the selling of alcohol to young people, contacting local schools highlight the issues with their students, identifying the individuals responsible, possible relocation of the seating and access to other facilities, including Chorley Youth Zone.

A suggestion to set up a sub group to look into possible solutions was put forward and improved signage is to be looked into.

54.23 Use of Village Green

A request from Croston in Bloom for the use of the Village Green on 20 May 2023 for the annual plant sale was considered.

Resolved: the request was granted.

55.23 Reports from Outside Bodies

The meeting was advised the Croston/Azay-le-Rideau Twinning Association is to disband.

56.23 Date of Next Meeting

7 June 2023.

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