

CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held on 12 October 2022 at 7.30 pm in The Old School, Croston.

Present Councillors K Almond (Chairman), R Baker, S Myers, B Paillusson, G Stubbs and N Woodcock.

Also present 1 Member of the Public.

84.22 Election of Chairman for This Meeting

Resolved: Cllr Almond was elected as Chairman for this meeting.

As the September meeting was cancelled due to the period of national mourning, a minutes silence was observed in memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

85.22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Fenemore and Peet.

86.22 Declarations of Interest

None declared.

87.22 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 July 2022

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

Resolved: Standing Orders were suspended.

88.22 Public Participation

A resident reported traffic problems along Town Road. The problems mainly concerned large tractors travelling at excessive speed, with drivers observed using mobile phones, and HGV's. Councillors advised incidents should be reported to the local Policing Team, with photographs if possible. The resident suggested preventing HGV's using the road at school times. Councillors advised Town Road is a trunk road.

Large vehicles causing damage to verges and properties around The Hillocks/Carr Lane junction were reported. It was mentioned Lancashire County Council had installed bollards to try to alleviate the problems.

It was suggested a litter bin should be requested from Chorley Council for the far end of Drinkhouse Road. Councillors advised that section of the road was private.

Resolved: Standing Orders were restored.

89.22 Planning Matters

22/00965/TCON Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area including the felling of 6no. leylandii at Croston Corn Mill, Grape Lane

22/00977/TCON Notification of proposed works to trees within a conservation area including the height reduction and reshape of 1no. holly, deadwood and crown reduction of 1no. silver birch, crown reduction and deadwood of 2no. cherry trees, crown reduction of 5no. river birch, crown reduction and deadwood of 1no. willow, crown reduction and deadwood of 1no. fruit tree and the felling of 1no. poplar at Manor House Farm, The Hillocks

22/00987/FULHH Single storey side/rear extension (following demolition of existing conservatory) at 39 Grape Lane

22/01000/TCON Notification of proposed works to trees within a conservation area including the felling of 1no. rowan, crown reduction of 1no. maple and the crown reduction of 1no. rowan at 43 Grape Lane

22/01024/TCON Notification of proposed works to trees within a conservation area including felling of 1no. sycamore, reduce 1no. willow to previous pruning points, removal of subordinate stem on 1no. sycamore, fell 1no. rowan and crown raise of 1no. ash at 35 Grape Lane

22/01025/TCON Notification of proposed works to trees within a conservation area including crown clean, crown raise and deadwood removal of 1no. oak, crown raise of 2no. oak, crown raise of 1no. yew, felling of 1no. prunus, stem reduction of 1no. yew, lateral reduction of 1no. birch, removed failed stem on 1no. crab apple, crown raise of 1no. sycamore, crown raise of 1no. horse chestnut, reduce 1no. sycamore and 1no. ash to previous pruning points at Oak House, Grape Lane

There were no objections to these applications.

90.22 Financial Matters

i) The monthly financial monitoring statement was presented.

Resolved: the monitoring statement was received and accepted.

ii) A request from Croston Village Festivities Group for a grant towards the costs of the road closure for the Christmas Fair and Lights Switch On was considered.

Resolved: a grant of £500 was awarded..

iii) Resolved: the following payments were approved:

£ 20.00	Croston Old School	Room hire
£ 849.60	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance	Grounds maintenance
£ 490.00	A Team	Telephone kiosk refurbishment
£ 250.00	Croston Coffee Day Committee	Donation
£ 1727.13	A J Gallagher Insurance	Insurance premium
£ 1677.61	Staff costs	Salaries, deductions and reimbursements
£ 35.00	Information Commissioner	Data protection registration
£ 424.80	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance	Grounds maintenance
£ 431.00	MCB Print	Newsletter printing
£ 100.00	Croston Scout Group	Newsletter delivery
£ 240.00	PKF Littlejohn	External audit fee
£ 1127.01	Staff costs	Salaries and deductions (October)

91.22 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021-22

The report of the External Auditor was noted.

92.22 External Auditor Appointment Arrangements

An option to opt out of the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments arrangements, which would require the Parish Council to appoint an appropriate external auditor, convene an independent auditor panel and develop a specification for the external audit contract, was considered.

Resolved: the current arrangements are to be continued.

93.22 Request for Use of Village Green

A request from the Village Festivities Group for the use of the Village Green on Sunday 4 December for the Christmas Fair and Lights Switch On was considered.

Resolved: permission was granted.

94.22 Remembrance Day

Arrangements for the Parade were discussed. The Parade will leave from The Old School and arrangements will be as in the previous year. Due to falling attendances in previous years refreshments will not be served following the event, instead monies usually spent on refreshments will be channelled to the Poppy Appeal.

95.22 Reports from Outside Bodies

No reports.

96.22 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 9 November 2022.

97.22 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the exclusion of members of the press and public for the following item was considered on the grounds that the item comprises information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and, in accordance with Part 1 (3) of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, is exempt from public disclosure.

Resolved: due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, Members of the press and public were excluded for the consideration of the following item.

98.22 Recreation Park Entrance

Resolved: resurfacing of the entrance area was approved.

99.22 War Memorial Maintenance

Resolved: repairs to, and cleaning of, the War Memorial were approved.

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