

**Minutes of the remote Parish Council meeting held 08 September 2020.**

**Present;** Councillors; Robinson (Chair), Chalkley (Vice Chair), Barnsley, Bennett, Elson, Gordon, Hewitt, Kimbley, Ripley, Stennett and Walker.  
Clerk to the Council; Barry Riley.

**In attendance;** District Councillor; Cummings.

Cllr Chalkley commented that the meeting was being recorded.

**09/089 Report from W.Y.Police Officers working on Crofton Safe Scheme**  
No report received.

**09/090 Wakefield MDC District Councillors Report**

Cllr Cummings informed all present;

Following a request for a full width speed table to be placed on Harrison Road (see minute 08/006), she had been informed there was no intention to replace the speed bumps currently in place, as the road was a bus route and through road.

With regard to the pot holes on the bus turning circle by the car park, funding to repair them would be a joint venture between Crofton Academy and WMDC. It was noted that one had already been attended to.

A PACT meeting had been arranged for Crofton on 30 November attendance was by using Teams.

Following a request for the amount of s106 funding remaining, it was £23556.

Cllr Hewitt commented on a pot hole near the junction of Harrison Road and Church Road, Cllr Cummings was aware of this. Following his enquiry about the skate park, he was informed that action had been planned and he would be sent an update.

Cllr Kimbley commented that the road sweeper had been active in the area he lived, he had been contacted about the fly tipping of grass in the ginnel in the Bedford Farm Area, Cllr Cummings stated she had contacted the resident and Harron Homes to seek a resolution.

Cllr Walker commented on speeding and inconsiderate driving on the road down to Anglers Country Park.

Cllr Bennett asked;

Cllr Cummings to liaise and co-ordinate with other parties when arranging the PACT meeting, rather than individuals contacting him direct.

He disputed the advice provided (see comment above) for not replacing the speed bumps on Harrison Road and requested further clarification.

With regard to the 20mph speed restrictions (minute 09/097), he asked why a 9 metre platform had been chosen.

With regard to shared funding for the bus turning circle (see comment above), he asked for the street lighting which was not working, to be dealt with.

Despite floral planters being placed on the footway adjacent to the car park, it was still being blocked, he requested a meeting with WMDC Highway Engineer Rob Fyfe. Cllr Ripley commented that there were speed tables on Slack Lane which were a bus route and through road which contradicted comments made earlier. Cllr Gordon asked for information that supported their reasoning.

Cllr Stennett asked if the 9 metre platform to be used in Crofton was similar to those

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in Agbrigg. She also asked for pot holes in the Manorfields area to be dealt with, Cllr Cummings duly noted the request.

Cllr Robinson asked if the yellow lines and zebra crossing on the bus turning circle could be repainted in addition to the pot holes being dealt with.

**09/091 Public Participation session**

No public in attendance.

**09/092 Apologies for absence**

Councillors; Harrison and Schofield.

Apologies were accepted.

**09/093 Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

**09/094 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meetings, were approved and signed by the Chair.

**09/095 Matters arising from previous minutes**

With regard to internal communications, Cllr Robinson asked that Councillors be allowed to comment whilst in Zoom meetings without interruption and to address the Chair prior to commenting.

Cllr Ripley commented that with regard to external communications of the Parish Council, any document should be approved at the next Parish Council meeting and not to the timetable of the Beacon to avoid errors. Cllr Robinson confirmed that the document issued to the Beacon for publication was prepared by Cllr Chalkley and approved by him. Cllr Chalkley had previously sent a precis of the meeting to the Beacon and it had been well received and without objection, it was noted that the precis was not the minutes but a general observation. Cllr Bennett commented that there was nothing stopping anyone taking notes and publishing them in the Beacon and it was more important that information was provided. Cllr Stennett appreciated Cllr Ripley's comments, however Cllr Robinson reiterated that the document was an appraisal and reminded members that a vote had been taken to change the date of the meeting to accommodate it being issued and there had rarely been any complaints about it. With regard to an error about the cleaner being named as the caretaker for the Sports Pavilion, it was suggested that it may be time to consider a change to the job title to that of a caretaker.

Cllr Barnsley called for a vote on whether to continue with sending a document to the Beacon, members voted as follows, For; 10, to continue.

Cllr Robinson asked Cllr Chalkley if he would send the Beacon entry out to all Parish Councillors each month so that they have the information that the residents have, Cllr Chalkley agreed.

Cllr Stennett asked members if it was acceptable to continue posting to the Crofton Village Group, members agreed.

**09/096 Community Facilities**

**Report Parish Centre and Library**

Members were provided with information on the background to the issue which had led to the resident to replace his gate. To avoid further problems, he had requested the

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removal of the shrubbery entwined within the fencing, on the boundary between the Parish Centre and his property on Towers Close. He had offered to remove the shrubbery and the existing boundary fence (thought to be owned by the Parish Council), and install a new fence and provided the cost to do so. He offered to share the cost with the Council, or the alternative offer for the Council to gift him a metre of land and he would remove the shrubbery and erect the fence at no cost to the Council. Comment was made about the accuracy of the costings and that he was not a recognised fencing contractor and whether the fence was the responsibility of the Parish Council. Members were also informed most of the shrubbery was on the resident's side of the fence.

Cllr Robinson asked members to vote on the following three options;

1. Share the cost – For; 1.
2. Seek an alternative quote to install a fence – For; 7.
3. Do nothing- For; 2.

Cllr Bennett offered a further option which was to conduct a minimal repair, For; 3. The Clerk would inform the resident of the decision.

Cllr Chalkley commented on the re-opening of the Library and informed members what processes had been introduced to enable this, also that each volunteer had received training in safeguarding. Cllr Robinson gave thanks to Cllrs; Bennett, Walker and Chalkley and all library volunteers for their work in creating a COVID safe environment that allowed the facility to open to the residents.

Further to the Working Party having held discussions remotely concerning the provision of the new building, members were informed that Cllr Robinson had been invited to Chair future meetings and to arbitrate on any possible disagreements or disputes. It was considered that there was a lack of meaningful or tangible plans, it was also suggested that an approach be made to a professional consultancy to deliver the project. Further comment was made that discussions take place between all stakeholders regarding the desired requirements of the internal layout and tenders be invited to build the Centre including all ancillary works. Cllr Chalkley suggested that with the uncertainty of COVID 19, the idea of a temporary Portacabin should be dropped and books and furnishings be kept at the Sidings during the build of the new centre.

Cllr Ripley made comment about what he had already done and what had been agreed, to arrive at this particular point and stated that matters could not proceed without Building Regulations being obtained. Cllr Bennett commented that costs already incurred would not be incurred again, Cllr Walker asked if obtaining Building Regulations would produce more detailed drawings.

Members were asked to vote on the following three options;

1. A review take place of the internal layout – For; 9.
2. Approach a professional company to deliver the project – For; 9.
3. Obtain Building Regulations and not have a temporary building for the Library whilst the building was demolished -- For; 7.

### **Report Village Association**

Following discussion members were in agreement to the provision of equipment by Crofton Juniors Football Club for the resumption of sport following lockdown restrictions.

It was agreed that the Clerk would send a letter of support to Crofton Juniors Football Club for grant funding from the Football Association.

Cllr Bennett enquired if there had been any problems since the building had been re-

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opened, he was informed there had been some minor issues concerning the use of toilets and with the football teams asking for use of the changing rooms, A table used to prevent use of some areas had been moved which suggested someone had entered the building without permission.

Following a recent incident involving an individual who had suffered a heart attack and died, it was noted that the ambulance driver was not able to gain entry to the Sidings as they did not have a key, it was agreed that contact points be established.

#### **Report Allotments**

Cllr Hewitt reported that; a number of applications had been sent to the Clerk to enable plots to be allocated. The Clerk was asked to provide an updated list to him. Some tenants had been approached concerning the lack of cultivation on their plots but generally all was well.

#### **Report Parish Cemetery**

Agreement on the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft regarding Cemetery Regulations, Rules and Fees, could not be reached as it was considered there were contradictions in the wording. It was suggested that the Working Party hold discussions and for members to send any changes to the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft to Cllr Stennett prior to the discussion taking place, following which, the draft would be presented to members to approve, this was agreed.

Cllr Stennett explained why members had been asked to comment on the shape of the memorial stone as it was different from the majority of others in the graveyard, Cllr Chalkley suggested that only two shapes should be considered, Cllr Walker asked if the dimensions were permissible within the agreed parameters, Cllr Ripley suggested that if it was, then it was not problematic. Cllr Stennett who had been tasked with overseeing memorial applications

suggested that there should be freedom within the framework and the rules should be changed to reflect this, following discussion members were in agreement.

Cllr Robinson wanted a visit of the Cemetery to be arranged for members to attend on a twice-yearly basis in an effort to assist the working party, it was agreed the first one would be Saturday 19 September at 10.30am.

#### **Report Website**

Cllr Gordon reported that;

He had received information concerning web content accessibility guidelines which would enable ease of use for all users. In order to be compliant, a two-step stage would need to be completed, unless considered disproportionate to undertake. Having considered the NALC guidance and whilst maybe having the technical capability to apply the guidelines and produce the accessibility statement and proposed plan of action, the Council needs to consider other options including the process of obtaining/or approving quotes so that a company does some or all of the work.

Members were in agreement that three quotes be obtained.

#### **Report Floral Display**

Cllr Stennett reported that;

Having been circulated with the pre-read concerning Floral Displays for 2021 and the Miners Wheel, the Working Party recommended to the rest of the Parish Council that the present supplier First Impressions be used again, that the same number of hanging baskets be maintained and that the number of planters be increased by six more in different locations, with the increased costs being added to next year's budget.

Cllr Ripley commented that more licenses would be required for the planters.

Cllr Walker commented on the condition of the raised flower beds outside the funeral directors premises on Manorfields Court, Cllr Chalkley mentioned that it was a result

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of financial restrictions by WMDC and suggested that if they were not doing anything this could be overseen by the Working Party, an approach would be made to WMDC about this and to Burgess (the funeral directors), to sponsor them.

The Miners Wheel was in need of a re-paint and some base work repairs to bring it back to life and be a fitting reminder of the past. LIVE Crofton would be involved in the project.

Members were asked to vote on the following three options;

1. Go ahead with 40 hanging baskets and 12 three tier planters from First Impressions for the 2021 season – For;11.
2. Approach Burgess to sponsor the full cost of a three-tier planter – For; 11.
3. Go ahead with the exploration of the ‘Miners Wheel – For;11.

**09/097 Traffic issues**

Member were in total agreement to the proposals for the 20mph extension

**09/098 Cleansing/Environment**

Nothing to report.

**09/099 Planning Notifications**

Members duly noted the applications and decisions received.

It was agreed to submit an objection to planning application 20/00880/FUL.

**09/100 Financial matters**

Members were in agreement with the content of the monthly payments and receipts and bank reconciliation report for appropriate governance.

Members considered the information provided in the grant application from the Phoenix Cricket Club, which was for £2000 to upgrade the existing scoring box to an electronic one. Cllr Chalkley commented that the Club were from outside the village, Cllr Bennett stated that the Club were a valuable member of the CVA. It was also noted that the existing scoring box was the Parish Council’s (via the CVA). Cllr Ripley suggested 50% of the amount be offered, members voted as follows for the following three options;

1. Reject the application – For; 0.
2. Agree the £2000 – For; 4.
3. Agree £1000- For; 6.

The Clerk would confirm to the Club that £1000 would be awarded and they would need to liaise with the CVA to progress matters.

**09/101 Consider and discuss correspondence received**

No correspondence received.

**09/102 HS2**

It was noted that following the public announcement, construction had officially commenced to build the high-speed rail project between London and Birmingham.

**09/103 Parish matters**

Members again confirmed their support (having previously been asked), for the initiative taken by the Church regarding the installation of lighting to ensure community safety, on the public footpaths going through the Churchyard including passing Crofton Parish Council cemetery.

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Cllr Chalkley agreed to make arrangements for the provision of a Remembrance Service and the Xmas Lights.

Cllr Hewitt agreed to make arrangements for the provision of an Xmas tree.

Further to the report on the shooting of wild animals (see minute 08/011), Cllr Stennett had heard nothing further following information given to the Police.

Following comments made at the previous meeting about the discharge of firearms, and having researched information from the Highways Act concerning the matter, Cllr Bennett suggested that the persons responsible could be held liable for breaking the law. Cllr Ripley commented that all wild animals were protected and it was illegal to shoot them unless a licence had been granted to do so.

Cllr Kimbley informed members that the Police had previously attended at the Triangle concerning shooting incidents.

Cllr Hewitt sought confirmation on the membership of the Allotments Working Party as he thought some members had not been appointed, he was provided with the confirmation of those appointed.

**09/104            Date of next meeting**

Resolved; that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 13 October 2020 at 7pm.

**09/105            Members of the public and press were to leave before agenda item 18.**

It was agreed

**09/106            Matters to be discussed at the exclusion of the public and press**

Nothing discussed.

Signed .....  
Chairman Crofton Parish Council

Date.....