

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 14 December 2021.**

**Present;** Councillors; Chalkley (Chair), Barnsley, Bennett, de Mello, Hampshire, Hewitt, Stennett and Walker.

Clerk to the Council; Barry Riley.

**In attendance;** 3 members of the public.

a. To receive nominations for the position of Vice Chairman.

Cllr Hampshire was nominated as Vice Chairman by Cllr Stennett, it was seconded by Cllr Barnsley.

Cllr Bennett was nominated as Vice Chairman by Cllr Chalkley, it was seconded by Cllr Hewitt.

Voting was as follows; Cllr Hampshire, For;4 Against;0. Cllr Bennett, For;3 Against;0. Cllr Hampshire was duly elected as Vice Chairman.

**12/331 Report from W.Y.Police Officers working on Crofton Safe Scheme**

Members were circulated with the Safe Scheme report for November 2021.

Cllr Hampshire commented on the number of cars causing an obstruction at School times, but had witnessed a Police car drive past and take no action.

Members once again expressed their dissatisfaction with the scheme (see minute 11/312), stating it was abysmal, Cllr Cummings commented that she also thought the Parish Council were not receiving 'value for money', from the scheme.

It was agreed that the Safe Scheme provision would be reviewed and clarification sought on how the scheme should operate in isolation to the usual Police provision.

**12/332 Wakefield MDC District Councillors Report**

District Councillor Cummings had provided a report for members, which gave an update on matters discussed at previous meetings in particular;

The Town and Parish Council Liaison Group had commenced (see minute 12/339).

Cllr Cummings offered her congratulations on the Christmas tree and decorations provided to residents by the Parish Council.

Cllr Chalkley stated his disappointment about the extra lighting not being provided as in previous years.

Cllr De Mello was informed about the possible closure of the Youth Club due to increasing concerns about the new coronavirus variant.

Cllr Hewitt asked if Cllr Cummings had any information on the land at Doncaster Road opposite Cambridge Crescent, he was informed that the land had been sold and surveys were being carried out.

Following the report about the raised kerb stone (see minute 11/327), Cllr Bennett asked Cllr Cummings to establish ownership of the road, it was thought it was the responsibility of the Academy.

It had been noted that the ditch by the cycle path on the Sidings Field, had been dry despite the recent heavy rainfall, it was discovered that the waterflow had been blocked, but it had now been resolved. Cllr Cummings was asked to arrange an inspection of the area.

Further to a previous enquiry about the provision of a grit bin at the junction of Ashdene Crescent and Ashdene Drive a bin had been provided but it was not a grit bin, Cllr Cummings noted the error.

With regard to a recent announcement about the Government 'Levelling-Up' fund, WMDC were expected to receive £450m, it was thought that some of the funding had been allocated to Crofton.

Members were informed that at the recent WMDC Plan 2036 examination hearing, it was confirmed that the Eastern Relief Road had not provided the benefits expected, a comment was also made about the appalling attitude of WMDC staff at the meeting.

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Cllr Cummings made it known that the Mayor for West Yorkshire was keen on opening railway stations and that Crofton was part of that discussion.

Cllr Stennett reported that there was a fallen tree by the Llama sanctuary on Santingley Lane that needed attention, Cllr Cummings duly noted the request. With regard to the shooting range (see minute 12/347), which had been reported to WMDC Animal Welfare, as it was private land it was the RSPCA that would need to investigate

### **12/333 Public Participation session**

Two residents were in attendance to enquire about purchasing a parcel of land owned by the Parish Council (The Copse), in order to extend their garden. They were asked if they had approached other neighbours about the idea, in order for the Parish Council to sell the land as a whole, but they had not. He was asked to formally write to the Parish Council to confirm what his proposal was.

A resident was in attendance to observe procedure as she was interested in becoming a Parish Councillor.

### **12/334 Apologies for absence**

Councillors; Harrison and Schofield.

Apologies were accepted.

It was noted that Cllrs; Chalkley (Chair), Bennett, De Mello, Hampshire, Harrison, Hewitt, Stennett and Walker, had attended the Zoom meeting held prior to the full Council meeting.

The Clerk informed members that he had invited the new Labour Councillor to the meeting but he was not in attendance.

### **12/335 Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

### **12/336 Minutes of the previous meeting**

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

### **12/337 Matters arising from previous minutes**

The Parish Council were now able to Co-Opt any candidates for the two available positions for Parish Councillor (see minute 12/347).

### **12/338 Community Facilities**

#### **Report Parish Centre and Library**

Cllr Walker that a group of young girls were attending reading sessions in the library.

Cllr Chalkley confirmed that face coverings were required when using the Library.

Following the information event (see minute 11/319), particular concerns were raised about disabled access and the storage area, a meeting had been arranged with space planners on the 25 January at 1.00pm, to discuss such matters.

Members were directed to the colour drawings displayed in the Parish Centre, they had been produced by a designer at a cost of £400, following discussion it was agreed that the cost would be paid by the Parish Council.

Members were informed that the Infant Group (see minute 11/314), had decided that it was safer to use Crofton Working Men's Club.

#### **Report Village Association**

Cllr Bennett reported that;

The extraction fan was no working in the kitchen, arrangements would be made by the CVA, to engage an electrician to conduct a survey.

A request had been made for the provision of an outside tap by Crofton Juniors.

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Cllr Bennett stated that he was being called upon to deal with a number of incidents involving the alarm system, comment was made that it would be beneficial for all users of the facility to be given instruction on its use.

Members were informed that the number of trustees on the CVA needed increasing, there should be four from the Parish Council, but at present there were only two.

#### **Report Allotments**

Following a number of recommendations received, the Clerk requested that a separate meeting of the Allotments Working Party be arranged to agree a revised Allotment Policy. Given the content of the Policy, all members would be invited to attend. This would take place on Sunday 23 January at 6.30pm.

The Clerk confirmed that he had received confirmation that WMDC's Allotment Policy was due to change to make allowance for tenants to have fowl on their allotments, this would need to be considered by the Parish Council.

Cllr Hampshire had some concerns about an allotment that had broken glass which was obscured by the grass growing over it. Cllr Hewitt duly noted this.

Cllr Hampshire also commented that the general condition of the allotments had vastly improved,

#### **Report Parish Cemetery**

The Clerk confirmed that;

Cllr Stennett liaised with him concerning any matters related to the Memorials.

Cllr Hampshire liaised with him concerning any matters related to burials.

#### **Report Website**

Cllr De Mello reported that;

She had changed the communication method for sending an enquiry to the Parish Council. Members were asked to send her any items that required posting on the web site.

#### **Report Floral Display**

Cllr Stennett reported that;

The planter by the mini-roundabout at Cock Lane had the plants in it pulled out, it had been reported to the service provider, 1<sup>st</sup> Impressions, to deal with the problem.

### **12/339 To receive reports from any outside bodies.**

The Clerk had attended the Town & Parish Council Liaison Group meeting, he reported it was well attended. Of interest was the implications of the Community Governance review by WMDC, specifically the changing of Parish boundaries, which could result in the changing, dissolving, grouping and creation of Parish Councils. Other topics included the overview of WMDC's, Climate Change agenda following their declaration of a Climate Emergency and the aim to achieve Net Zero by 2030.

### **12/340 Traffic issues**

Cllr Barnsley once again expressed his concern about the current traffic problems being experienced in the village (see minute 11/321).

### **12/341 Cleansing/Environment**

Nothing to report.

### **12/342 Planning Notifications**

Members duly noted the applications and decisions received.

Members noted that the retrospective planning application 21/01960/FUL, for the retention of a Caravan Storage Facility for a temporary period of 10 years, had been refused. Comment was made if the owner of the facility had sought permission for a shooting range behind the caravan park (see minute 12/347). however, the owner did not need permission, it was the owner of the guns that required the permission.

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**12/343 Financial matters**

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

The Clerk informed members that there was one invoice for payment for the month of December 2021;

**Resolved:** that the following be approved and passed for payment:

<u>Cheque/S/O/Bacs:</u>	<u>Payee:</u>	<u>Details:</u>	<u>£</u>
BACS	R.Hampshire	Windows	18.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>18.00</b>

The Clerk informed members that he had received notification of the date WMDC would meet to set the Council Tax for 2022/23. The Parish Council were requested to submit documentation for the Precept by Friday 11 February 2022. A discussion group was arranged to meet on Sunday 09 January 2022 at 7pm.

**12/345 Consider and discuss correspondence received**

No correspondence for discussion.

**12/346 HS2**

Following the information letter received concerning HS2 safeguarding of the extension of HS2 to Leeds, this would mean the route was not being cancelled till other proposals had been considered.

**12/347 Parish matters**

Cllr Hampshire had spoken to a resident about the possible sale of 'The Copse', (see minute 12/333).

Members discussed the concerns regarding the shooting range behind the caravan park (see minute 12/332 and 12/342).

The Clerk confirmed he had been notified by WMDC, that there had been no requests for an election for the recently advertised vacancies (see minute 12/337).

Cllr Barnsley commented that the deliveries by the Post Office were problematic with post taking several days to arrive, Further comment was made that applying a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Class stamp, made no difference.

Cllr Hewitt informed Cllr Cummings that flooding was once again evident by the bridge at Hare Park Lane, the comment was duly noted.

Cllr Hampshire had been asked about the proposed fencing at the Hare Park Lane allotments using the remaining s106 fund, he was informed that the proposal was made by a Councillor who was no longer a current member. The fund had been used in other areas of the village, but there was still existing funding for the provision of an entrance gate at the allotment site.

**12/348 Date of next meeting**

Following a request from the Clerk, the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Wednesday 12 January 2022 at 7pm in Crofton Parish Centre, High Street, Crofton.

**12/349 Members of the public and press were to leave before agenda item 19.**

It was agreed

**12/350 Matters to be discussed at the exclusion of the public and press**

Nothing discussed.

Signed .....  
Chairman Crofton Parish Council

Date.....