

**Minutes of the remote Parish Council meeting held 26 April 2021.**

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

**In attendance;** District Councillor; Cummings.  
1 member of the public.

Cllr Chalkley informed members that the meeting was being recorded, he duly informed a member of the public in attendance, that they would be included in the recording, the resident gave her acceptance (see Crofton Parish Council Guidance for the Effective Management of Recording at Local Council and Parish Meetings July 2015).

**04/216 Report from W.Y. Police Officers working on Crofton Safe Scheme**  
Members had been circulated with the Safe Scheme report for March 2021.

**04/217 Wakefield MDC District Councillors Report**

Cllr Cummings informed all present;

Following the report about the footpath from Crofton to Charlston being impassable, it had been inspected by WMDC and the footpath was passable with no overhanging vegetation, so no action was required.

With regard to the hedge on Weeland Road and cuttings left on the footpath, they had been removed.

The gullies on Slack Lane blocked with hay, would be included in the jetting programme for the whole of Slack Lane.

Following the enquiry about when WMDC Highways adopted the triangle of land outside the entrance to the Sidings, the Highways Record Officer has investigated and advised that the road is probably an ancient road and just updated over time, the grassed area would probably be visibility splay for the corner and cycle track. Further to the request about the placing of boulders to prevent parking (minute 03/199), it was likely to just displace parking to places that cause far greater disruption such as in front of gates or within the highway itself. The reopening of facilities may alleviate the problem.

A new dog bin was being sourced for the Church yard.

Confirmation was received that the collection point for the wheelie bin for the Church was Ashdene Crescent.

In response to the enquiry about a Bye Law concerning horses or bikes the response received was that, there are regulatory signs (Circular) stated within the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 Act, that are used to prohibit horses from using an area, however these would require a legal order to make them enforceable. The other sign that could be used is a warning sign (Triangle) this warns pedestrians and drivers of the potential hazard, these do not require a legal order. These are the only 2 signs that are permitted to be erected on the Highway.

The chippings left in the watercourse by the School fence were of no risk as the watercourse was dry, due to operational priorities, they were unable to be removed

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but clearance work had been scheduled to be completed within the next 3-4 months. WMDC Street Scene had cut and cleared the brambles at Coppers Lake and would carry out any repair works to the path, with an initial completion date by 25 May. Further to the request for an A frame on the footpath between Priory Ridge and Springhill, it would not be considered as it could also stop safe access for the disabled or the public with pushchairs.

Work on the Hare Park Skate Park was now completed. It had been noted that contractors had been appointed to remove graffiti rather than WMDC Operatives, this was due to the removal being a specialist operation.

It was noted that there had been instances of anti-social area around the Children's play area and some fencing had been removed.

Following a resident's report about litter at the Ashdene Shops, the owners had been contacted.

The previously reported pothole on Hare Park has now had a permanent repair.

Further to the report about a fallen tree by the Sidings, it had been investigated and following a safety inspection and some minor works, the fallen tree does not pose any immediate safety risks, however other trees had been identified in this vicinity that require removal and this work will be carried out over the summer.

Cllr Barnsley commented on the traffic congestion in the village and especially so at School time in every direction, he stated a solution was required, Cllr Cummings duly noted the concern but was not sure what pressure could be applied to those Schools that were Trusts and not controlled by WMDC, continued lobbying of the Police and an approach to WMDC Highway Enforcement, were possible options (see minute 04/224). It was further suggested that District Councillor Matthew Morley (Cabinet Member for Planning and Highways), be invited to a Parish Council meeting, Cllr Hewitt asked that that any visit be made when relevant, not on an evening.

Cllr Bennett commented that on the good work carried out on the footpath from Crofton to Charlston.

Cllr Hewitt enquired if planning permission had been sought for the caravan storage on Shay Lane (see minute 01/163), he was informed that a response had not yet been received from the WMDC Enforcement Officer.

Cllr Kimbley had been approached by a resident about an area of grassland from Meadowfields Close to Springhill Drive, that was not being cut, he had offered to do the work and required permission to do so. Comment was made that it was previously cut by WMDC and that Cllr Cummings contact them and request it be resumed. Cllr Bennett asked Cllr Kimbley to send him copies of photographs that had been taken to establish if it was the resident's fault it had not been cut.

Cllr Gordon asked about the WMDC grass cutting schedule and what re-seeding was carried out on damaged locations, Cllr Cummings would enquire and provide a response.

A resident in attendance congratulated WMDC on their declaration in acknowledging an Ecological and Diversity crisis.

## **04/218 Public Participation session**

A resident wanted to engage with allotment holders to contribute to a bio-diversity improvement scheme, she was asked to provide information on the scheme so it could be placed on the notice board and an article placed in the Beacon newsletter. As an incentive, Cllr Barnsley suggested an award be made to who contributed the most. The resident wanted to organise a 'Green Week', and wanted the Parish Council to

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encourage groups to be involved, Cllr De Mello was asked to approach LIVE Crofton about becoming involved. Cllr Barnsley suggested that an approach could be made to the local schools about the initiative.

The Clerk was asked to recirculate the correspondence received from Cllr Hemingway, the Deputy Leader of Wakefield Council and Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Green Spaces, who was asking the Parish Council to support the District Authority and, declare a Climate Emergency and put in place a plan to reduce emissions to net zero.

**04/219 Apologies for absence**

Councillor; Schofield.

Apologies were accepted.

**04/220 Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

**04/221 Minutes of the previous meeting**

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

**04/222 Matters arising from previous minutes**

Cllr Chalkley had received information from LIVE Crofton, seeking permission to use the funds provided for VE Day that were not used. The planned works to upgrade the Winding Wheel (see minute 03/212), would result in the Wheel being moved to another position, Cllr Bennett requested that drawings be submitted for the plan, however Cllr Chalkley did not want any delay to the proceedings, following debate, it was agreed that the funds could be used and the work commenced.

Following the memorial headstone inspection (see minute 12/151), a number of failures of varying degree had been identified, with some in need of urgent repair, the Clerk was asked to seek quotes from 3 stone masons, for the cost to repair them. The Masons who had installed the headstones that had failed, would be sent a letter detailing the results of the failures. Cllr Barnsley enquired about the age of some of the headstones he was informed that some were old, but some placed within the previous six years were still under warranty. Cllr Bennett suggested using scaffolding poles to support unstable headstones.

Following a visit to Ackworth Parish Council Cemetery, it was established that they conduct periodic inspections and engage a stone mason to repair any failed headstones identified on behalf of the families/owners, in contrast, in Sharlston Cemetery, the failed headstones are laid down and the families/owners are contacted and informed which stone mason must to be used to repair them. Cllr Bennett enquired if there was any responsibility with Ackworth Parish Council for those headstones not inspected, but this was not known.

Cllr Gordon was asked if the Defibrillator had been placed at the Parish Centre, it had not, he would be liaising with Cllr Chalkley going forward.

**04/223 Community Facilities**

**Report Parish Centre and Library**

Cllr Bennett reported that;

Following the opening of the Library, visitor numbers were increasing having been

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initially low. Due to Coronavirus some volunteers were unable to return, so new volunteers were needed.

Cllr Chalkley requested an update from the Library for the Beacon newsletter.

A meeting had been held with the Architect to progress matters, it was expected that Building Regulations approval would be received in the next few days.

#### **Report Village Association**

Cllr Bennett reported that;

With a number of clubs now merging, the number attending meetings had reduced resulting in him being asked to remain as Chair and Treasurer (see minute 03/205)

Cllr Bennett asked that the relationship and operation between the CVA and the Parish Council be reviewed and whether the CVA should become more aligned with the Parish Council.

At the meeting matters discussed included the use of the building, members from the Sports teams were asked what their priorities were in relation to those of the CVA.

Cllr Bennett commented that the cleaner (employed by the Parish Council), had done an outstanding job to clear up the mess following the recent water leak and it should be acknowledged, members were in agreement.

There was a large amount of rubbish that required removing and a skip was required, comment was made that the cleaner was in negotiation to have it removed.

Cllr Kimbley commented that he had sought quotes for some plastering work that was still required and for decorating following the completion of recent work. He had received two quotes for the plastering the preferred option was for £500, he was asked to seek another for the decorating in addition to the one he had.

The contractor who had met with Councillors to install the manhole covers (see minute 03/204), had not responded to several requests for a commencement date, Cllr Kimbley commented he was in discussion with another company (Paddock Services), about the work.

#### **Report Allotments**

Cllr Hewitt reported that;

The Collection Day had proved most successful with 82% of rents collected.

Members were made aware of the fire that had occurred, there had not been a reason identified as yet as to the cause.

Further to changing the disused allotment into a managed wild garden (03/205),

Cllr Elson had provided details to members as a pre-read and gave an explanation on the work to be done and that it would start in June. He had concerns about the access to the site which was being used by youths and that it was unsafe, it was agreed to report it to Network Rail.

Cllr Harrison was progressing matters concerning an entrance gate (03/205), despite contacting some companies he had not received a positive response, however he was liaising with Paddock Services (see above comment).

#### **Report Parish Cemetery**

Cllr Chalkley reported that;

He had visited the Cemetery with Cllr Stennett to discuss the provision of a new casket area, they had reached agreement on where it would be, Cllr Chalkley would contact a stone supplier to progress matters.

The Clerk informed members that he had received a grant application from the Church, he explained that there was a Statutory restriction on the Parish Council providing funds to the Church.

#### **Report Website**

Nothing to report.

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**Report Floral Display**

Cllr Robinson reported that;

The 3 tier planters would soon to be removed and be prepared for re-planting.

**04/224 Traffic issues**

In response to numerous complaints about traffic in the village, caused, by what is considered to be a result of recent previously approved developments, a letter would be submitted to WMDC Highways.

Cllr Walker made comment about speeding on Santingley Lane.

**04/225 Cleansing/Environment**

Nothing to report.

**04/226 Planning Notifications**

Members duly noted the applications and decisions received.

With regard to application 21/00395/FUL, concerning a proposed barn for storage of horticultural products on land North of Pontefract Road, the Clerk was asked submit comments concerning access and the type of products to be stored.

Also discussed was application 21/00672/FUL, concerning a retrospective application for a garden building at 1 Wentworth Drive, the Clerk was asked to submit comments confirming that the building was for gardening purposes and not residential use.

**04/227 Financial matters**

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

The Clerk provided members with a list of invoices for payment for the month of April 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	YLCA	Membership	942.00
BACS	YLCA	Training	30.00
BACS	YO Group	Stationery	6.66
BACS	Mayfair	Alarm	600.00
<b>Total £</b>			<b>1578.66</b>

Members duly noted the content of the quarterly accounts.

It was agreed to appoint YIAS as the Internal Auditor.

**04/228 Consider and discuss correspondence received**

No correspondence for discussion.

**04/229 HS2**

Members were made aware that a new CEO had been appointed.

**04/230 Parish matters**

Cllr Gordon informed members that he had received some helpful comments from Cllr Bennett, he would share that with the Public Consultation Group for the Railway Station, when he had produced the document. Comment was made that that the Walton Railway Station Group had been formed to oppose a Station in their village.

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Following the information provided in the pre-read document concerning the expiry of legislation which had allowed Council's to meet remotely, enquiries had been made by Cllr Chalkley for suitable premises to accommodate a physical meeting but he had received no response to the enquiries. Members discussed the three options available to them, it was agreed as follows For; 4, for option 1. For; 6, for option 2. It was therefore confirmed that the May Annual Parish Council meeting date would be held on Thursday 06 May (5 days earlier than the normal PC meeting date). A decision would be taken at this meeting to decide what to do about the June meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting would take place as usual before the Annual Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Chalkley informed members that a resident was arranging a Parish Calendar and had requested the use of the Parish Centre to present it, members noted the request. Cllr Kimbley informed members that he had been approached about the use of the Sports Pavilion for use by a group to teach social skills to people with learning difficulties, he had offered to supervise the event subject to coronavirus restrictions. Cllr Hewitt had noted that much of the hay which was getting into the gullies (see minute 04/217), was due to bales of hay not being covered. He had noted wagons containing waste rubble, being deposited at Baines Farm on Hare Park Lane and enquired if this was a licensed operation which required planning permission. Cllr Cummings would be asked to enquire.

Cllr Walker commented on groups of youths who are continually urinating on the walls of the old people's bungalows on Manorfield Court and Meadowfield Court. Cllr Kimbley had noted similar incidents occurring at the Sidings Playing Fields, Cllr Robinson would report both to the Safe Scheme Officers.

Cllr Robinson commented that the Annual Fun Day on the Sidings Fields was to be arranged after the May Elections and subject to coronavirus restrictions.

**04/231 Date of next meeting**

Resolved; that the Annual Parish Council meeting would be held on Thursday 06 May 2021 at 7pm.

**04/232 Members of the public and press were to leave before agenda item 18.**

It was agreed

**04/233 Matters to be discussed at the exclusion of the public and press**

Nothing discussed.

Signed .....  
Chairman Crofton Parish Council

Date.....