

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held 11 August 2021.

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

In attendance; 1 member of the public.

08/256 Report from W.Y.Police Officers working on Crofton Safe Scheme

Members had been circulated with the Safe Scheme report for July 2021.

It was noted that no priority crimes were recorded in Crofton in July.

Cllr Elson commented on the correspondence received from PC Craig Steel, concerning the correspondence received from the MP, about complaints from residents about speeding on Doncaster Road. The Police Inspector has asked if this could be addressed via the SAFE scheme, by combining the Crofton and Walton area of the road and utilising SAFE scheme hours from the respective schemes. We can then bring in various other departments to assist us in both areas as part of their regular patrols. Members were reluctant to spend Safe Scheme money on such matters, it was therefore agreed that a cost be ascertained for the scheme.

Cllr Barnsley enquired if anyone had been approached by the Police NPT, to take part in a homeowner survey, following a visit to his house, Cllr Bennett commented that one of the Officers had informed him that they had been removed from working on the Safe Scheme to assist with the survey.

08/257 Wakefield MDC District Councillors Report

District Cllr Cummings had provided a report for the meeting which had been circulated to members, who duly noted the content.

Cllr Hewitt had sent the Clerk information on the blocked dyke on 'The Sidings' fields, which he required reporting to Cllr Cummings.

08/258 Public Participation session

A resident in attendance commented that Her Majesty the Queen, will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, members were asked if they would be supporting this event. Following discussion members were in favour of forming a Working Group to discuss and progress the event. The Clerk was asked to create a specific agenda item for future meetings.

08/259 Apologies for absence

Councillors; Bennett, Elson, Gordon, Harrison and Schofield.
Apologies were accepted.

08/260 Declarations of Interest

None declared.

08/261 Minutes of the previous meeting

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

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08/262 Matters arising from previous minutes

Following the letter sent to WMDC (see minute 04/224), it had been treated by them as a complaint. Due to the initial unsatisfactory response, a further complaint (Stage 2), was submitted and a further response received, which was not considered adequate. as it did not address problems about how ongoing development changes had caused a steady increase in traffic through the village. Following discussion, it was agreed to take the complaint further, Cllr Bennett was asked to draft a response for circulation to members who agreed to it being submitted.

08/263 Community Facilities

Report Parish Centre and Library

Cllr Bennett reported that;

The library had purchased a new clock

Volunteers had enquired about changes that would result from the effect of COVID 19, comment was made that restrictions should still be followed and information was provided in the 'Beacon' village newsletter advising to take all precautions for the protection of volunteers and users.

Cllr Robinson informed members that Building Regulations had been approved and the Architect had been engaged to project manage the new building. Five builders had been approached from which four replies had been received, they would be sent an information pack which would contain the Bill of Quantities to enable a price to be submitted. Cllr Chalkley commented that a funding application would be made to the Wellbeck Miners Trust.

Report Village Association

Cllr Bennett reported that

There had been a number of incidents involving the misuse of the building, the CVA would contact those users responsible to warn that action would be taken.

Recent improvement work would soon be completed.

Advice concerning planning permission, insurance and WMDC approval, would be given to the Guides following the request for a container.

The CVA would, on behalf of the Parish Council, request the services of an Electrical Engineer to carry out the testing of the Emergency Lighting.

The Fun Day had taken place earlier in the day, comment was made about the catering arrangements having been changed.

Members were informed that the football gala would be taking place in the last week of August and would be held over a three day period. There would be an expected increase in traffic within the village.

Report Allotments

Members were informed that information had been received which alleged that a plot holder (who had a tap within his plot), was taking water from the supply provided for the Hare Park allotment site, to be used elsewhere. Cllr Hewitt stated he was not aware that there was any misuse of the water supply. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the plot holder concerning the allegation and to confirm that the provision of a tap to be placed within an allotment would require Parish Council permission.

Cllr Hewitt reported that;

Further to the report concerning criminal damage and the theft of a container from a plot and moved to another plot, resulting in a potential exposure of the plot holder's allotment, Cllr Hewitt confirmed that the person responsible had the permission from

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the owner of the container to remove it. However, it was confirmed that placing a container on an allotment plot was not acceptable (Allotments Policy Statement 19.). A letter would be sent to the plot holder requesting it be moved.

Following the letter received concerning branches falling of a tree within an allotment plot and whether it was safe, the Clerk would arrange for a survey to be carried out. With reference to the above occurrences, there had been several attempts to engage with plot holders to seek their co-operation to adhere to the Parish Council Allotment Policy. Cllr Robinson suggested that a process be commenced, starting with an inspection of the Hare Park allotment site and to result in, an assessment being presented to the Council and anyone found to be in breach of the rules to be formally notified that legal action will be commenced against them.

Report Parish Cemetery

Cllr Chalkley reported that;

The water tap had been vandalised resulting in much escaping water, resident Mrs Chalkley had taken action and replaced the tap, she was thanked by the Council for her time and effort to resolve this.

Following circulation of the document, members agreed to adopt the Headstone Memorial Policy.

Following discussion, it was agreed that all Headstone Memorial Masons would need to be NAMM Registered to carry out work in the cemetery and would need to provide certification to the Clerk.

Following the information provided, members agreed that the current fees (with the exception of the memorial plaque), would be increased by £30.00,

Cllr Stennett would still be able to receive delivery of the burial plaques but would be unable to fit them, Cllr Chalkley offered to fit them upon delivery from Cllr Stennett, Cllr Robinson offered his assistance to Cllr Chalkley if required.

A further document had been circulated to members with suggestions for the work to be undertaken following a recent group meeting, Cllr Robinson provided information on the content of the document, resulting in approval for the following work to be undertaken;

Remembrance gardens.

Remove all the flags and tarmac pathway

Remove all saplings that have started to grow but retain the larger cherry tree.

Remove all the wooden surrounds.

Scrape area and sow with grass seed so it blends in with surrounding area.

Maintain the corner where the buried cremated remains are that is marked with a holly bush by putting a commemorative flag over it.

Future burial space

Next row will be at a lower level than the rest, therefore the preferred option is to start the next row at the bottom of the incline but straighten up the line of the incline, this would mean a very small amount of rectification, the incline could then become a 'Natural Wild' area for pollinators.

Signs

An Ackworth style cemetery rules sign to be designed and erected on the garage wall.

Replacing the two vandalised signs.

Trees

Remove the Ivy from the trees which have a TPO.

Report Website

Cllr Gordon reported that;

Information that he had recently been sent had now been added to the website.

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Report Floral Display

Cllr Robinson reported that;

He had received comments that would require adjustments to be made to the hanging baskets.

Members were made aware that a resident had complimented the Council on the provision of the hanging baskets.

08/264 Traffic issues

Cllr Kimbley commented that once again the entrance to Thorntree Avenue from Shay Lane was being obstructed.

Following road surface work carried out on the Meadowfields estate, some potholes that were repaired were again problematic, it would be reported to Cllr Cummings. Further to Cllr Hewitt's comments (see minute 04/217), for a WMDC Highways Officer to attend a meeting, he was informed that this had been addressed with the letter sent to WMDC (see minute 08/262).

It had been noted that the road surface at the side of the speed bumps on Harrison Road was crumbling, the sign at the top of the hill was also obscured by vegetation, they would be added to a report to be prepared by Cllr Chalkley to Cllr Cummings. Cllr Cummings had confirmed in her report (minute 08/257), that the missing sign for Slack Lane (which should be next to the Pinfold Drive sign), would be replaced.

08/265 Cleaving/Environment

Cllr Walker commented on the amount of fly posting around the village. Cllr Kimbley commented on the number of trees on the Sidings requiring attention (see minute 04/217), Cllr Chalkley would report both matters to District Councillor Cummings (see minute 08/264).

08/266 Planning Notifications

Members duly noted the applications and decisions received.

Members discussed application 21/01389/ENFAPP, for the erection of a radio antenna upon Land within the Green Belt at 5 Kingsley Avenue, it was noted that the Parish Council had raised issues about this originally.

With regard to application 21/01627/FUL, concerning the Springfield Centre on Pontefract Road. members had no objections subject to perimeter fencing and any gates. enclosing the whole site.

With regard to application 21/01853/FUL, for a detached garage and boundary wall at 4 Harrison Road, it was agreed an objection be submitted as there were concerns that the footings for the garage had been compromised, there was a resultant loss of day light and sunlight to neighbouring property, the proximity of the fence to the boundary was in question and was considered an undesirable precedent.

Application 21/01960/FUL, by Atkinson Brown Storage Limited, Shay Lane, was a retrospective planning application for the retention of Caravan Storage Facility for a temporary period of 10 years. It was agreed that an objection be submitted as it compromised a number of issues.

08/267 Financial matters

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

Members were in agreement with the quarterly accounts.

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It was agreed to review the Financial Risk Management at the next meeting.

08/268 Consider and discuss correspondence received

It was agreed to discuss the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020, at the next meeting.

08/269 HS2

It was noted that there had been indications that Phase 2b (the Eastern leg from Birmingham to Leeds), may be shelved or even cancelled.

08/270 Parish matters

Cllr Bennett had noted that the hedge on Hare Park Lane adjacent to an allotment, had been cut but the debris had been left on the road, it would be reported to Cllr Cummings.

Cllr Barnsley reported that the Constable & Pinders Charity was still attempting to arrange the transfer of the address and contact for the bank account (see minute 11/139).

Cllr Barnsley informed members he had concerns about the impact the City Fields Housing development would have on NHS services in Crofton. He would circulate to members a report he had prepared for them.

08/271 Date of next meeting

Resolved; that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 14 September 2021 at 7pm in Crofton Parish Centre, High Street, Crofton.

08/272 Members of the public and press were to leave before agenda item 18.

It was agreed

08/273 Matters to be discussed at the exclusion of the public and press

Nothing discussed.

Signed
Chairman Crofton Parish Council

Date.....