

**Minutes of the remote Parish Council meeting held 09 March 2021.**

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

**In attendance;** District Councillors; Cummings and Heptinstall.  
PC Craig Steel.  
1 member of the public.

**a.** Members were given a presentation for co-option from candidate Kelly De Mello. A decision would be made under agenda item 18.

**03/198 Report from W.Y.Police Officers working on Crofton Safe Scheme**

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

PC Steel asked if members had any questions or wished to provide feedback with regards to the way the SAFE scheme has been run, he also stated that he intended to attend future Zoom meetings.

Cllr Robinson commented on recent activity which had happened at Middle Lane and anti-social behaviour problems occurring in the late evening.

Cllr Chalkley commented on an increased number of off road motorcycles, Cllr Elson commented that a 'scramble' bike was regularly seen in the village at midday and evenings, with the rider having no helmet, Cllr Walker had also seen the same individual being chased by the Police, PC Steel informed members that the individual was known to him and efforts would be made to arrest him.

Cllr Harrison asked if a patrol could be conducted at Coppers Lake to deter the smoking of Cannabis.

Cllr Cummings also reported two matters of anti-social behaviour occurring in the ginnel through the Churchyard and cutting through Priory Ridge to the Springhill estate.

**03/199 Wakefield MDC District Councillors Report**

Cllr Cummings informed all present;

With regard to horses gaining access to the Sidings (minute 02/181), she had made an enquiry to WMDC to see if the gate configuration could be altered.

With regard to the area outside the Shay Lane entrance to the Sidings (see minute 01/163 and 02/181), it was suggested that a solution may be to place boulders there or plant trees as part of the Climate Emergency initiative.

Two large pot holes on Hare Park Lane had been reported to WMDC Highways, an Officer had attended and raised an order for them to be repaired.

Blocked gullies on Walton View would be jet washed and cleared of debris.

It was noted that despite more bins being recently placed on the Sidings they were still becoming full and overflowing. It was suggested that there should be another placed around the middle area of the fields, Cllr Cummings stated there were now 4 bins and it would be unlikely that any more would be placed there, following a suggestion that the number of collections should be increased it was thought they were emptied twice a week.

Cllr Walker had noted that dog walkers were throwing dog waste bags into the field at

## **Page 2.**

Priory Ridge rather than using the bin provided.

Cllr Bennett commented that the new traffic calming zone was effective in slowing traffic.

Cllr Cummings was asked to report the following;

The footpath from Crofton to Sharlston was in need of attention.

Following recent work to the hedges in the village, cuttings were being left on the footpaths and needed removing.

The gullies on Slack Lane were full of straw.

Waste from recent work to trees on the Sidings had been left in the ditch and needing clearing before another problem was created.

Shrubbery in Coppers Lake needed to be cut back.

Cllr Cummings was informed that members of the public were depositing rubbish in the Church wheelie bins, therefore another bin was required. Cllr Gordon suggested that a penalty notice/bye law be erected to deter such behaviour, Cllr Cummings would investigate the matter.

Cllr Kimbley had been informed that fly tipping was once again occurring behind properties on Forage Way (see minute 11/139), and suggested that signs be placed there by WMDC to stop this, Cllr Cummings reminded members that WMDC Enforcement Officers had attended to investigate the matter, but were unable to do anything.

### **03/200          Public Participation session**

Nothing to report.

### **03/201          Apologies for absence**

Councillors; Hewitt and Schofield. Apologies were accepted.

### **03/202          Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

### **03/203          Minutes of the previous meeting**

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

### **03/204          Matters arising from previous minutes**

Members had been provided with a pre-read document from Cllr Gordon regarding the purchase of a Defibrillator. Cllr Stennett queried why this particular model was to be used inside the building rather than be visible, whilst the comment was noted, she was reminded that another unit outside Sainsbury's was being progressed, also that one outside the Parish Centre would require a cabinet at an increased cost. It was agreed as follows For; 9, to purchase the unit suggested by Cllr Gordon.

Cllr Robinson and Chalkley had met with a contractor to supply concrete manhole covers for the Sidings, but as yet no quote had been received this was thought to be due to the products not being available, having considered alternatives and the need for a resolution to be found sooner rather than later, Cllr Bennett suggested that the quote received for metal covers be pursued as an interim measure as they were available, following discussion it was agreed to do so. The Clerk would be provided with the contact details of the contractor who had supplied the quote to make arrangements for the installation.

### **Page 3.**

Further to the pre-read document circulated to members. Cllr Elson commented on the content concerning grass cutting (see minute 12/158), with areas being left to grow for wildlife and wild flowers. Although in favour of the idea, he suggested that to let grassed areas around Crofton over grow will make it look untidy and people will start to not care about the surrounding areas, he would continue to litter pick and cut grass to keep Crofton looking tidy.

### **03/205            Community Facilities**

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

Cllr Robinson reported that;

There was no new information concerning Building Regulations.

Following discussion and confirmation from WMDC Electoral Office that they would manage the Election day from start to finish, the Centre would be used as a Polling Station on Thursday 06 May 2021.

Cllr Bennett suggested that an advert be placed in the Beacon confirming the Library would be open after 12 April when Covid restrictions were changed.

Comment was made that the Notice Board was in a poor condition.

#### **Report Village Association**

Following the receipt of quotes for ceiling repairs and toilets, it was agreed as follows For; 8, to accept the quote from Mirrorshine Plastering, the Clerk would arrange for work to be done.

Cllr Bennett reported that

He had been approached and asked to consider the building be used as a vaccination centre, as yet he had received no further information following the enquiry.

Following a recent email Cllr Bennett had received concerning the CVA, he informed members that he had decided to resign as the Chairman and Treasurer.

Cllr Kimbley commented that the grounds were being prepared to enable sports to commence.

#### **Report Allotments**

Members discussed what charges should be applied for the standard plot for the new financial year, Cllr Elson suggested it be raised from the current £11.00 to £15.00, some members were in agreement and some members were not, a vote was requested on whether to increase to £15 or to delay an increase to the following year. It was agreed as follows For; 4, for an immediate increase and For; 5, to the delay, plot holders would be notified of this when they received this year's letter.

It was agreed the date for collection would be Saturday 24 April, Cllr Chalkley was asked to advise on the use of the Parish Centre during restrictions.

Cllr Elson asked members to consider turning a disused allotment into a managed wild garden and offered to undertake the work to do it. Cllr Stennett enquired if the allotment was of any use and Cllr Harrison was unsure which allotment it was, Cllr Elson provided information in answer to the questions raised. Cllr Bennett having attended a recent Climate Change Forum Group (minute 03/212), commented that although areas of land should be left to grow wild, they still should be managed. It was agreed as follows For; 7 Against; 2, to support Cllr Elson's suggestion. He was asked to provide details to members for the next meeting.

Members discussed the letter received concerning the request made to replace the damaged polytunnel skin, at the Pontefract Road allotments. Members were reminded that the polytunnel had originally been provided by Crofton High School at no charge to the Parish Council, this had then been let to allotment holders for no charge. It was

**Page 4:**

agreed as follows For; 10, that the Parish Council would not pay for a new skin, but if the users wished to buy one themselves then they can, should they not wish to purchase a skin and feel it can no longer be used, it would be removed and the space turned into an allotment.

Cllr Harrison informed members that he was still obtaining quotes for fencing and gates (see minute 02/187).

**Report Parish Cemetery**

The Clerk informed members that there was only one remaining plot available in the casket area due to the recent activity. Cllr Schofield had informed the Clerk that he had made contact with a supplier of the concrete plinths used for the nameplates and had suggested two different sizes be considered. A decision was needed on where to site the next area for the plinths to be placed, Cllr Bennett suggested it either be left to the Working Party to decide or wait till April when restrictions were lifted for all members to visit and decide, Cllr Stennett from the Working Party, would make proposals for the next Parish Council meeting, Cllrs Walker and Chalkley offered to assist her.

**Report Website**

Nothing to report.

**Report Floral Display**

Cllr Elson confirmed with Cllr Robinson, that it would be May when the slabs would be placed in preparation for the 3 Tier Planters.

**03/206           Traffic issues**

Cllr Kimbley commented on the ongoing problem of exiting Thorntree Avenue on to Shay Lane as the left view was obstructed by vehicles parking on the footpath. Cllr Robinson offered to investigate further and report the matter to the Police. Cllr Walker mentioned that the same problem was being experienced at Priory Ridge.

**03/207           Cleansing/Environment**

Nothing to report.

**03/208           Planning Notifications**

Members duly noted the applications and decisions received.

Cllr Elson enquired where St Joseph's Catholic Church was, having been informed, he was given information on why it became a disabled centre and the reason why planning was being applied to change it to a Children's Day Nursery.

It had been noted that even more caravans and mobile homes were now to be seen on the Shay Lane site opposite the Sidings Entrance (see minute 01/163). Concern about caravans turning into the entrance causing obstructions and the provision of a shooting range that was now also on the site, also needed reporting to WMDC Enforcement Officer Ian Garrett, who was investigating the original report. The Clerk would contact Cllr Cummings who had instigated the initial enquiry.

Members had been informed that Nostell Brickworks had applied for planning to excavate a seam of clay from the former colliery at Streethouse to their site at Nostell, Concerns were raised that a route through Charlston down to Crofton via Weeland road to reach Doncaster Road to get to Nostell brick works on Swine Lane, could be used. The WMDC Planning department would be contacted to ask that the route is free from any potholes, before, during and after the works and that the road is kept clean and free from any debris. A request for any royalties due to the transporting

**Page 5;**

through Crofton would also be made, should the application be successful.

**03/209 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 March 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	Falon	Nameplates	187.42
BACS	Falon	Nameplates	187.42
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£374.84</b>

Cllr Bennett enquired what the purchase of a Garden Cabinet was for, he was informed it was purchased via the Chairs Allowance and was an outdoor facility for a resident to provide a free book club whilst the Library was closed.

The Clerk had provided members with a document detailing the costings from Electric supply companies (see also minute 02/191), in order to decide on which supplier should be appointed, following discussion it was agreed as follows For; 9, to appoint Octopus.

Cllr Gordon provided members with an update concerning the proposal presented for acceptance (see minute 02/191). He was asked to provide costings for the project and present to members before submission to the WMDC s106 fund. He was asked to write to the residents who had contributed ideas explaining why their proposal had not been taken forward.

**03/210 Consider and discuss correspondence received**

Members had noted the content of the information sent concerning the consultation letter and proposed plans in relation to the proposed upgrade to the existing telecommunications installation at Larkdale Farm, Cllr Harrison commented on the source of the information he had supplied in the pre-read document circulated to members which highlighted the effects of such an installation, further research by Cllr Stennett supported the possible damage such masts cause. Cllr Walker gave an alternative opinion which was that there was information that such an installation was not as dangerous as the information provided suggested. Members discussed the balance of such effects against the provision of 5G and the benefits that would bring and that it was a replacement mast, members were agreed as follows For; 7, Against; 2, that the Parish Council request that the size/style of mast to be used is appropriate for the area and would be looking for this as a condition within the planning application, if not an objection would be submitted.

**03/211 HS2**

Nothing to report.

**03/212 Parish matters**

Cllr Gordon had sent a draft document to the Railway Station Public Consultation Working Party for further discussion.

Cllr Bennett had attended a meeting organised by WMDC involving a Climate Change Focus Group, he would produce a report for circulation to members.

**Page 6:**

Cllr Chalkley commented further on the planned works to upgrade the Winding Wheel (see minute 02/187), members were agreeable to the suggestions made and to provide funding for the work to be carried out by LIVE Crofton. Cllr Barnsley suggested the group also approach the Constable & Pinders Charity for a grant.

**03/213            Date of next meeting**

Resolved; that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 13 April 2021 at 7pm.

**03/214            Members of the public and press were to leave before agenda item 18.**

It was agreed

**03/215            Matters to be discussed at the exclusion of the public and press**

Members voted as follows; For 9, in agreement to the co-option of the candidate.

Signed .....  
Chairman Crofton Parish Council

Date.....