

Crofton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on the 14th March 2023 at 7pm.

Present: Councillors; Trevor Chalkley (Chair), Simon Bennett, Bob Hewitt, Esme Slater, Glenda Towns, Sylvia Walker, Dwayne Walkington,

Apologies: John Barnsley, Kelly De Mello, Jayne Wilby

Clerk to the Council: Rebecca Maindonald

In attendance: District Councillors Maureen Cummings (left with apologies at 7.35) & Usman Ali (withdrew at 7.50pm)

There were 5 members of the public present.

03/155	<p>SAFE Scheme. Report from W.Y Police Officers working on Crofton SAFE Scheme. No Police present. Members were circulated with the Safe Scheme report for February 2023. There was extensive discussion concerning the ongoing anti social behaviour issues in the Village. The Chair confirmed that he had requested that a representative of the scheme attend a meeting, however he had been told there was no one available to attend. He felt that it was disgusting that the Village were paying for a service that wasn't being provided. A number of examples were given of incidents in the village which included intimidation, residents feeling unsafe, vandalism and young girls being followed. The Chair confirmed that he was disgusted and would therefore be contacting the Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin to try and find a resolution.</p> <p>District Cllr Maureen Cummings agreed with the Chairs comments and suggested that contact be made with Deputy Mayor of West Yorkshire for Police and Crime Alison Lowe.</p> <p>District Cllr Usman Ali confirmed that he had reported crime and vandalism to Inspector Costello, and agreed to try and arrange a public meeting on this matter. He acknowledged the issues that were severely affecting the community, but was frustrated that police enquiry desks had closed, whilst the policing aspect of the precept had increased. He suggested that the media could be contacted to see whether they would put a photograph and an article in the gazette.</p> <p>ACTION- Cllr Chalkley to contact the Mayor of West Yorkshire to express his concerns. ACTION- District Cllr Ali to contact Mayor Tracy Brabin and Deputy Mayor Alison Lowe.</p>
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03/156	<p>WMDC District Councillors Report.</p> <p>District Cllr Ali updated the meeting on a number of areas that he had been working on including land drainage, the mud on Doncaster Road, tarmac deteriorating on Hope Street, the grant for £5,000 had been approved for the Library and liaising concerning the park.</p> <p>As District Cllr Cummings had given her apologies and withdrawn from the meeting, the Chair ran through her report. A list of roadworks were noted.</p> <p>It was noted that following the car being rolled in Manorfield, there were concerns about whether the road surface could deteriorate after the leaking oil and fluids.</p> <p>ACTION- District Cllr Ali agreed to look into this.</p> <p>It was also noted that there was a crab apple tree located outside 8 Springhill Drive, on a highway verge. Request that it be looked at and kept under review on a regular basis as there is concern about stability.</p> <p>ACTION- District Cllr Ali agreed to look into this.</p> <p>District Cllr Ali withdrew at 7.50pm.</p>
03/157	<p>Public participation, any person wishing to record the meeting in any format whatsoever is encouraged to contact the Clerk prior to the start of the meeting.</p> <p>A member of the public reminded the Council of the forthcoming Coronation and felt that in addition to celebrations and commemorations, some form of snapshot of the community should be arranged. A collage, which was to be made from squares that could be embroidered by everyone was discussed. The finished item could then be displayed in the Church. He was hoping to obtain support and publicity from the Council. The deadline to complete this project would be the end of April. The Council agreed to provide all of the support and publicity that was possible.</p>
03/158	<p>To receive apologies for absence and approve Councillors unable to attend the meeting should give a reason.</p> <p>John Barnsley, Kelly De Mello, Jayne Wilby all reasons accepted.</p>
03/159	<p>Declarations of Personal and/or Pecuniary interest.</p> <p>None received.</p>
03/160	<p>Confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 14th February 2023.</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting dated the 14th February 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p>

03/161	<p>Matters arising from the previous minutes.</p> <p>12/126b- This meeting has now taken place. An AGM was planned for April, which required names for a Chair, Secretary and a Treasurer.</p> <p>***- Chair has been in touch with PHS and has received a refund.</p> <p>12/126d - Chair has spoken to a Funeral Director.</p> <p>12/126e – The layout of the new website has been viewed. The Chair thanked Martin for all of his hard work.</p>
03/162	<p>To receive Councillor Resignation.</p> <p>The Resignation of Councillor Helena Stennett was noted, along with her reasons for doing so. The thanks of the Council were recorded for all of her hard work and everyone wished her all the best for the future.</p>
03/163	<p>Discuss Coronation/Jubilee Spend.</p> <p>a) Memorial Centre of Village</p> <p>It was confirmed that investigations were underway for the November Commemoration. There were funds set aside. Consideration was being given to transferring names from the Doncaster Road memorial, which had been discussed previously as there were concerns that the current location was dangerous. There were queries concerning where the wreaths would go, whether names were required on the proposed new memorial, whether it could be incorporated into the Coronation. Designs were discussed, with the meeting agreeing that this should be taken forward.</p> <p>The Chair reported that a steel bench could cost in the region of £4,000-£5,000 and he had received a price for a wooden bench for £800. Various locations were discussed for the new bench, including the Doctors surgery, replacing the War Memorial bench and also the new Parish Centre. The possibility of a sculpture rather than a bench was also discussed. There was concern that using it to replace a bench could be controversial as the majority of benches were memorial benches.</p> <p>RESOLVED- agreed to purchase the bench which would be kept in the Parish Centre until a suitable location could be found.</p> <p>b) Jubilee Tree.</p> <p>It was understood that a Plaque had been purchased and a location for a tree to commemorate the Queen’s Jubilee to be found.</p>
03/164	<p>Community Facilities:</p> <p>a) Report Parish Centre and Library.</p> <p>The meeting heard that an Easter raffle was taking place. A £5,000 grant from Wakefield Council had been secured which would be spent on bookcases. The Constable and Pinders charity were donating £250, which would be used for secure filing and storage cabinets. Other potential grants were being investigated. There had been more money requested for books. Cllr Bennett suggested that secure storage would also be required. The meeting noted the location of the accident report book.</p> <p>b) Report Village Association</p> <p>The meeting noted the damage that had been caused to the Shutters. It was felt that the Insurance Excess would potentially be more than the work. It was suggested that signs be erected stating that there were no items of value on the premises.</p>

	<p>c) Report Allotments Cllr Walkington reported that he had received paperwork from former Cllr Stennett and was currently working through it all. Cllr Walker had agreed to help with certain tasks. The meeting was informed that any monies collected should be deposited in the financial year that it relates to. As such could next years collection be the first Saturday in April. This year, the payment date was Saturday the 25th March between 10.30am and 12 noon. The Clerk was invited to attend.</p> <p>d) Report Parish Cemetery. The Chair confirmed that the Cemetery administration had been busy recently with requests and queries.</p> <p>e) Report Web Site. The first version of the new website had been demonstrated by Martin. It had been agreed that Cllr Slater would work alongside the Clerk. It was confirmed that the Website should be able to facilitate End of Year Audit documentation, with at least the last five years audit reports being available.</p> <p>f) Report Floral Displays The meeting once again discussed the payment that was due to be made in April for hanging baskets. Following discussion, it was agreed that payments needed to be made during the financial year that they were applicable to. It was also agreed that new forms needed to be produced so that it was clear a <u>donation</u> of £71 was requested. RESOLVED- that new forms needed to be drafted.</p>
03/165	<p>To receive reports from outside bodies:</p> <p>a) Constable and Pinders Charity (Cllr John Barnsley) There was no report as Cllr Barnsley was not present at the meeting.</p>
03/166	<p>Cleansing and Environment It was noted that Meadowfields was getting worse. The Chair agreed to contact District Cllr Cummings. The gulley was also covered in leaves. ACTION- The Chair to contact District Cllr Cummings.</p>
03/167	<p>Planning: Cllr Bennett raised the issue of the application to approve change of use from commercial premises to a flat. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would not submit any comments.</p> <p>It was also noted that there had been a new fence installed on a property. The meeting felt that this was an improvement, however there was discussion concerning the curtilage of the property and the ownership of the land. ACTION- The Chair agreed to write to Highways to ask them to investigate. He would check the boundaries, address details and liaise with the Clerk.</p>

03/168

Finance/Accounts (Cllr Simon Bennett acting RFO)

To receive bank reconciliation and report on receipts, payments, balances

The Acting RFO confirmed that there had been a payment of £71 recently received for a floral display, all present agreed that a further Statement was not required.

To approve accounts for payment

The following payments were discussed and agreed-

O2 - £45.60

Currys -£734.98. The other £39.25 is for equipment to the Sidings

Clerks Training Course- £18.00.

WMDC- £10.00 (for the Ground Lease that the Sidings Building stands on)

Clerk £13.49 for the purchase of an iPhone case and paper

RESOLVED- that these payments were agreed.

A bill had been received for maintenance of the cricket pitch and outfield for £6,000+, however Cllr Chalkley and Cllr Bennett would be meeting with CVA

It was noted that £165 had been received from the Church, in order for the Community Café to open at the Parish Centre once a month. The Acting RFO confirmed that the payment was made to the Parish Council, which was then paid out again.

The meeting discussed payments for Safe Scheme. It was agreed that it wasn't sustainable to keep paying for it as it was not felt that value for money was being provided. The Invoice for the 4th quarter was £2,000, where normally it was around £1,500. Cllr Bennett agreed to investigate costs and confirm them to the Clerk, in order that a letter could be sent to them, querying why the hours had decreased and the cost had increased.

It was noted that a letter had been received asking whether Crofton Parish Council wished to remain within the Safe Scheme. The acting RFO was concerned that as this had been budgeted for, the Council should try to resolve the issues before considering discontinuing.

ACTION- It was agreed that Safe Scheme be contacted, querying the amount.

There was further discussion concerning whether to discontinue the scheme, a vote was proposed.

Proposition- To cease paying for the Safe Scheme.

2 For ceasing.

3 against ceasing.

2 abstentions.

RESOLVED- that the Safe Scheme only continue if it was possible to do so until June 2023. If an annual commitment was required, it was agreed to decline.

ARFO reminded Councillors that Funding for the Police had been approved as part of setting the 2023/24 Precept Budget. As in previous years all Councillors had been sent a draft budget for the precept and no Councillors had made any comments or raised concerns about the proposed Precept/Budget, which was

	<p>formally approved at the January Parish Council meeting without any objections or comments so that it could be submitted to Wakefield MDC.</p>
<p>03/169</p>	<p>To receive items of Correspondence The meeting noted a request for Grant funding from the Wakefield Community Foundation. Following discussion, as the grant would not go directly to the residents of Crofton, the Council agreed that they were unable to assist. Action- That the Clerk respond to the email accordingly.</p>
<p>03/170</p>	<p>Parish Matters (Including Traffic Issues)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The current status of HS2 was discussed. b) Cars parking on junctions and opposite driveways- agreed an article to be submitted to the Beacon- The Chair will submit an article. c) Plug plants- the recent email that had been circulated was discussed. Action- Cllr Walkington to investigate purchasing £100 worth. The Chair would contact Wakefield Council to request locations to plant. d) The position of Deputy Chair will be left on hold for now. e) Nomination packs were available for completion. The Chair agreed to take them all in to Wakefield Electoral Services. If there were 13 or less candidates, they would all be elected uncontested. All candidates must fill expenses form out, even if it was a zero. f) It was suggested that the Clerk contact District Councillor Cummings to obtain an Electoral Register.
<p>03/171</p>	<p>To agree date of the next Parish Council meeting</p> <p>RESOLVED- that the next Parish Council Meeting would be held on Tuesday the 11th April 2023 at 7pm in Crofton Parish Centre, High Street, Crofton.</p> <p>Members of public and the press were asked to leave the meeting before agenda item 19.</p>

Signed.....Date.....
Chairman Crofton Parish Council

<p>03/172</p>	<p>Matters to be discussed at the exclusion of the public and press.</p> <p>The ARFO gave Councillors an update about the Council being VAT being Registered. This does not only enable the Council to reclaim VAT but also requires any services provided to be charged VAT at the appropriate rate. This raised a major issue in that if we charged VAT for use of the new building this could result in any VAT claimed against building costs being fully reclaimed by the Government. This would relate to the first 10 years following the completion of the building.</p> <p>It is therefore suggested that any services provided would be based on covering costs only and that all documentation for providing services should be checked to ensure the correct wording is used</p> <p>ACTION- That documentation is reviewed accordingly.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.</p>
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Signed.....Date.....
Chairman Crofton Parish Council