

# CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MEETING



**Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on 2 September 2014 at 7.00 pm at the Parish Council Office, 7 Hampton Drive, Cronton.**

**Present :** Councillors W Cook (Chairman), D Bray, S Cooper, P M Green, G McGann, G Pentin, D Rostance and I Watson

**In attendance:** Vitti Osborne (The Clerk)

### **43. APOLOGIES**

All Councillors were present.

### **44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

It was reported that no declarations of Interest were received.

### **45. MINUTES**

**It was resolved** to accept the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23 June 2014 as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

### **46. MERSEYSIDE FIRE SERVICE CHANGES**

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service is undergoing restructuring. Gary Oakford, Area Manager, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service had been invited to give a presentation on changes in Knowsley and to clarify the services for Cronton in the future.

The rationale for the proposals was to deliver a balanced budget and the best service to the community. The operational response model used to mobilise fire engines was explained. Due to proximity, arrangements have been made with Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service (Widnes Fire Station) under Sections 13 and 16 of Fire Services Act 2004, to respond to calls from Cronton. Response time depends on the level of risk. Incident data for the previous 5 years has indicated that Cronton is a much safer area comparing with other areas of the Borough.

It was raised that the Parish Council had not been informed of the consultation and would like to be assured of its involvement in the future.

The Chairman thanked Gary Oakford for the information and for attending the meeting.

### **47. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present.

### **48. COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**It was resolved** that the minutes of undermentioned Committees be noted:

- (a) General Purposes and Environment Committee meeting held on 14 July 2014
- (b) Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 14 July 2014

#### 49. REPORTS

- (a) **Policing** – No report.
- (b) **The UK Age** – No report.
- (c) **Bus service** – No report.
- (d) **Environment** – Discussed under agenda item 17 (feedback on village inspection).

**It was resolved** that the above reports be noted.

#### 50. PLANNING APPLICATION

(a) **14/00148/FUL**

**Proposal:** Erection of detached garage with integral store

**Location:** Smaller Gorse Farm Alder Lane Cronton

**It was resolved** that the Council has no observation on the planning application but the Planning Office has to check that the development is solely for the stated purpose.

(b) **14/00401/COU**

**Proposal:** Change of use of shop unit to tuition agency

**Location:** 9 Hampton Drive Cronton

**Decision:** Granted

(c) **14/00325/FUL**

**Proposal:** Erection of two storey extension to part of rear elevation comprising of storage area at lower ground level and bedroom with balcony to higher ground level

**Decision:** **Granted**

(d) **14/00460/CLD**

**Proposal:** Application for a certificate of lawful development for the erection of single storey extension to rear

**Location:** Stocks Lodge Cronton Road Cronton

**Decision:** **Granted**

**It was resolved** that planning decision be noted.

#### 51. BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT

**It was resolved** that the Budgetary Control Report as at 2 September 2014 shown in Appendix A be received and approved.

#### 52. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

(a) **It was resolved** that the undermentioned payment be approved:

- Sefton Play Council for the event held on 7/8/14 = £4800/5 = £960

(b) **It was resolved** that the undermentioned receipts and payments be approved.

#### Receipts

Description	Amount (£)
Reserve Account interest (1st quarter)	3.72
Knowsley Council (Office hiring charges for elections on 22/5/14 £30, Office cleaner's overtime £16. Total £46)	46.00

#### Payments

Cheque no.	Description	Amount (£)
1283	Cancelled	0.00
1284	HMRC (April, May and June 2014 : Employer's NIC £9.25, Clerk's NIC £ 8.04 and PAYE £16.20. Total £33.49)	33.49
1285	Sarah Chesters (Knowsley Council's elections - Office Cleaner's overtime funded by Knowsley Council)	16.00
1286	Cronton Community Association (Grants 2014/15)	300.00
1287	Cronton Senior Citizens Christmas Party (Grants 2014/15)	200.00
1288	Cronton Pathways Project (Grants 2014/15)	100.00
1289	W M Osborne (Clerk's salary Standing Order adjustments for April, May, June and July 2014 paid by cheque)	20.08
1290	Cancelled	0.00
1291	Cronton Gala Committee (Grants 2014/15)	200.00
1292	W M Osborne (Reimburse Clerk for expenses paid in advance (Postage £33.14, Stationery £4, Colour photocopying £4.20, Office vaccum cleaner £49.99 and House-keeping (window cleaning for May, June and July) £12. Total £103.33)	103.33
1293	BDO LLP (External audit fee 2013/14)	120.00
1294	W M Osborne (A cheque made payable to the Clerk to be cashed to replenish the Cash Petty Cash Float to £50 : £50 - £7.75 = £42.25)	42.25
1295	Sefton Play Council (Payment for the Traditional Play Day held on 7 August 2014 on the Pasture : £4800/5 = £960)	960.00

#### Direct Debits

Description	Amount (£)
United Utilities (Water and wastewater services 20/3/14 - 25/6/14)	17.05
BT (Phone bill)	68.83
United Utilities (Surface water and highway drainage charges 2014/15 2nd Qtr payment)	29.09
British Gas (Electricity 2/5/14 - 30/6/14)	49.74

## Standing Orders

Description	Amount (£)
W M Osborne (Clerk's June 14 salary: net PAYE and NIC )	675.22
S Chesters (Office cleaner's June 14 wages)	31.41
W M Osborne (Clerk's July 14 salary: net PAYE and NIC ) ( <i>revised amount</i> )	696.95
S Chesters (Office cleaner's July 14 wages)	31.41
W M Osborne (Clerk's August 14 salary: net PAYE and NIC )	696.95
S Chesters (Office cleaner's August 14 wages)	31.41

### 53. **BANK RECONCILIATION**

**It was resolved** that the Bank Reconciliation as at 30 June 2014 be approved and accepted.

### 54. **AUDIT 2013/14**

A letter dated 29 July 2014 had been received from BDO LLP informing that the Council Audit for the year ended 31 March 2014 had been completed and there were no matters which came to their attention which required the issuing of a separate additional issues arising report.

(a) **It was resolved** that the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2014 be approved and accepted by the Council.

(b) **It was resolved** that an audit fee of £120 be approved.

### 55. **ELECTRICAL INSPECTION – PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE**

The Council received for consideration a quotation from an electrician Darren Seddon for an electrical inspection and the maintenance of the smoke alarm in the Council Office (£200 including an electrical inspection certificate).

**It was resolved** that one more quotation be obtained for consideration.

### 56. **GRANTS APPLICATIONS (2014/15)**

**It was resolved** that the thank you letter from the Gala Committee be noted.

### 57. **KNOWSLEY COUNCIL – LOCAL ADVISORY GROUPS**

(a) Members received for information Knowsley's New Strategic Partnership Arrangements adopted in June 2014. The new model includes four local Advisory Groups, replacing the Area Partnership Boards, to provide a locality focus on partnership matter. Whether the new structure is for the benefit of Cronton was raised. Feedback will be given after the first meeting.

**It was resolved** that the New Strategic Partnership Arrangements be noted.

(b) **It was resolved** that Councillor Will Cook be nominated to serve on the new Prescot, Whiston, Cronton and Knowsley Village Local Advisory Group.

## **58. KNOWSLEY BOUNDARY REVIEW**

Knowsley Council has proposed to reduce the number of wards from 21 to 15 and number of elected members from 63 to 45 based on a 3 members per ward model. This council size enable the Council to manage its business effectively and provide for convenient and effective local government. This also helps generate savings.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has been invited to carry out a review and a consultation is now launched to seek views on future ward boundaries. The objective is to deliver electoral equality for voters across the borough.

Impact on precept and distribution of population/electors in the proposed new wards were raised at a recent briefing.

**It was resolved** that the feedback on Knowsley Council Boundary Review Briefing be noted.

## **59. STATE OF THE VILLAGE**

Councillor D Rostance presented a Report on the Village Inspection took place on 31 July 2014. Ward Councillor Tony Newman, Chairman Councillor Will Cook and Councillors Denis Bray and David Rostance, and John Foran took part in the Inspection.

Issues in the following areas were identified in the walk around:

- Roadways and Pathways
- Painting
- Weeds
- Overhanging hedges
- Miscellaneous

Manual litter picking service was also suggested.

John Flaherty of Knowsley Council drew up an action plan with a view to complete as much as possible by the end of August 2014. A follow-up site meeting took place on 1 September 2014. Knowsley Council has done an excellent job in tidying up the village. Road surface and pavement works are still outstanding.

**It was resolved that**

- the Village Inspection Report and Action Plan be noted;
- Councillor G Pentin to speak to Cronton Farm to cut back the hedges of the Farm along Cronton Road.
- a letter be sent to the Police House to cut back the overgrown hedges; and
- to keep this item on the agenda.

Members thanked the Chairman for the follow-up inspection.

## **60. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

A number of local children were found congregated in some parts of the village. The size of the group might be intimidating but posed no threat. An incident has been reported to Dave Rimmer (PCSO) and the Chairman will speak to Dave Rimmer again about the issue raised.

**61. REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Areas near the War Memorial will be decorated for the Service at no extra cost to the Parish Council. Rob Alan of Knowsley Council will come up with a proposal for consideration.

The followings were also suggested:

- A sub-committee meeting be held.
- The service will be a couple of minutes longer.
- The opening hymn is reduce by one verse due to the length of the recorded music.
- A letter requesting Police attendance.

**62. NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORK**

**It was resolved** that the draft minutes of the Cronton Neighbourhood Network meeting held on 8 July 2014 be noted and the draft agenda for the meeting to be held on 7 October 2014 be approved.

**63. HOLY FAMILY CHURCH**

The Holy Family Church remains open and is served by a priest in Prescot.

**It was resolved** that a congratulation letter be sent to the Working Group for their efforts in securing the future of the Holy Family Church.

**64. CRANTON NEWS**

The following topics were suggested:

- Holy Family Church remains open
- Fire Stations mergers
- Remembrance Sunday Service
- Boundary Review Consultation

***The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.***

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date 13 October 2014