

# CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MEETING



Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on 16 February 2015 at 7.00 pm at the Parish Council Office, 7 Hampton Drive, Cranton.

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

**In attendance:** Vitti W M Osborne (The Clerk)  
1 Member of the public

### 130. APOLOGIES

**It was resolved** that apologies for absence received from Councillors J Foran and G Pentin be approved.

### 131. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was reported that no declarations of Interest were received.

### 132. MINUTES

**It was resolved** to accept the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 January 2015 and the Special Council Meeting held on 2 February 2015 as accurate records and signed by the Chairman.

### 133. NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

The Chairman welcomed Steve Gowland, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator of Knowsley Council to the meeting.

Neighbourhood Services is undergoing restructuring. At present, S Gowland is promoting the new Healthy Homes in Knowsley project, however he is still responsible for neighbourhood management issues. As budget tightened, jobs need to be prioritised.

The followings were discussed:

- Drainage of the Pasture – a long-term target.
- The Council takes over the maintenance of the Pasture.
- Tue Lane – pothole at the bend.
- Smithy Lane and shop front – pavement resurfacing needed.
- Speeding through the village from Rainhill.
- Issue of large vehicles travel to and from Rainhill via Hall Lane.
- Mill Lane to Pex Hill – footpath maintenance.
- Borough Boundary at Hall Lane – fly-tipping hot spot.

S Gowland is able to attend the meeting on a quarterly basis. The Chairman thanked him for his contributions.

### 134. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that the fields at The Roundabout were used as toilet and the hedges need tidying up. The footpath at Mill Lane leading to Pex Hill is obstructed by overgrowth and

walkers have to walk on the edge of the farmland. Screaming and shouting in the Pasture at night remains an issue.

### 135. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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

- (a) General Purposes and Environment Committee meeting held on 19 January 2015
- (b) Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 19 January 2015

### 136. **REPORTS**

- (a) **Policing** – No anti-social behaviour issues.
- (b) **The UK Age** – No report.
- (c) **Bus service** – No report.
- (d) **Environment** – The Borough boundary at hall Lane is a fly-tipping hot spot. Large pieces of furniture were found dumped there from time to time.
- (e) **PWCKV Partnership Advisory Board** – The Chairman attended the themed meeting on 'Get the best return from the Knowsley Pound' held on 2/2/15. A report was presented.

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

### 137. **PLANNING APPLICATION**

No planning application notices were received from Knowsley Council.

### 138. **BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT**

**It was resolved** that the Budgetary Control Report as at 16 February 2015 shown in Appendix A be received and approved.

### 139. **RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

**It was resolved** that the undermentioned receipt and payments be approved.

#### **Receipts**

Description	Amount (£)
Reserve account interest for Oct 14	0.91
Reserve account interest for Nov 14	0.76
Reserve account interest for Dec 14	0.83

#### **Payments**

Cheque no.	Description	Amount (£)
1306	CPRE (Membership renewal 2015)	36.00
1307	Cancelled	0.00
1308	Yodel Creative Ltd (Council's website - domain name, email and hosting services for cronton.org)	121.38
1309	Wirral Council (Clerk's pension actuary fees)	2,012.00
1310	Cronton Nurseries Ltd (Village Christmas tree)	180.00

**Direct Debits**

Description	Amount (£)
United Utilities (Water and wastewater bill 16/9/14 - 9/12/14)	22.22
BT (Quarterly phone bill)	54.22

**Standing Order**

Description	Amount (£)
W M Osborne (Clerk's January 2015 salary: net PAYE and NIC )	696.95
S Chesters (Office cleaner's January 2015 wages)	31.41

**140. BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was resolved that the Bank Reconciliation as at 31 December 2014 be accepted and approved.

**141. PRECEPT FOR 2015/16**

Members were disappointed at the short notice given by Knowsley Council that the Parish Council has to take over the maintenance of the Pasture from April 2015. It was considered appropriate to request Knowsley Council to carry out a final inspection of the site to ensure the park is fit for purpose and to provide a play equipment inspection report for the past twelve months.

Four companies had been contacted to provide a quotation for the maintenance. So far two quotations were received in addition to the one from Knowsley Council. These figures could be used as a reference for setting the budget.

After discussion, it was proposed by Councillor S Cooper, seconded by Councillor D Rostance and **unanimously resolved** that the budget for the Pasture maintenance be set at £6,000.

The final precept proposal was discussed. It was proposed by Councillor S Cooper, seconded by Councillor D Bray and **unanimously resolved that the precept for 2015/16 including the Pasture Maintenance Budget and the Employer's Contributions to the Clerk's Pension Budget be set at 21,252.22.**

The 2015/16 Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant Payment to be distributed by Knowsley Council is £1,127.78.

**142. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME**

To meet the requirements for passing a statutory resolution, 28 days notice of the meeting at which the resolution was to be passed and the terms of resolution to be proposed had been given.

The Actuary report from Merseyside Pension Fund detailing the employer's contribution rate had been considered. The rate is 26.5% based on the underlying assumption at 31 March 2013 actuarial valuation and will apply until 31 March 2016, when a new rate will be implemented following the 3 yearly valuation.

(a) **It was resolved** that the Council to become a participating member of Merseyside Pension Fund be approved.

- (b) **It was resolved** that the Council to pay the employer's contribution rate as stipulated in the Actuary Report be approved.
- (c) **It was unanimously resolved** that the **CLERK of CRANTON PARISH COUNCIL** be admitted to membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme operated by Merseyside Pension Fund with effect from 1 February 2015.
- Mrs Wing Man Osborne holds the position of Clerk.
- (d) **It was resolved** that a formal admission be sent to Merseyside Pension Fund.
- (e) **It was resolved** that Employer's contributions for February and March 2015 be funded from the Uncommitted Reserve.

#### **143. SALARY AWARD FOR 2014 - 2016**

A report on 2014 – 2016 National Salary Award had been presented to the Council for consideration.

*It was resolved that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s. 1 the press and members of the public be excluded during consideration of the following matter on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempted information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.*

*The clerk declared an interest in respect of the item of business to be transacted. She and the member of the public left the meeting room.*

*The Clerk and the member of the public re-joined the meeting when the deliberation was finished.*

**It was resolved** that the Clerk's salary (SCP26) for 2014/16 be adjusted accordingly to the agreement reached by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC). Payment is to be covered by either the budget surplus or Uncommitted Reserve.

#### **144. NALC LEGAL BRIEFING**

**It was resolved** that the Legal Briefing on transparency code for parish councils with an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000 (England only) be noted. The Code applies to the Council as the turnover for 2014/15 will not exceed £25,000.

#### **145. ALLOWANCE FOR TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILLORS**

**It was resolved** that the Council has no issues to be brought to the attention of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Members' Allowance, Knowsley Council.

#### **146. RISK ASSESSMENT**

The Council considered the Risk Assessment and Management Report as at 16 February 2015.

**It was resolved** that the Risk Assessment and Management Report as at 16 February 2015 be accepted and approved subject to the Pasture items to be updated.

**147. EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL AND INTERNAL AUDIT 2014/15**

The Council reviewed that the effectiveness of the System of Internal Control and Internal Audit 2014/15.

**It was resolved** that the Council's financial management is adequate and effective and it has a sound system of internal control to facilitate the effective exercise of the Council's functions including the arrangements for risk management.

**148. INTERNAL AUDIT – TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Council reviewed the Internal Audit – Terms of Reference.

**It was resolved** that the Internal Audit – Terms of Reference for 2015/16 be approved.

**149. HALTON COUNCIL CONSULTATION**

**It was resolved** that Halton Council's consultation on Widnes and Hale Green Belt Study Site Assessment & Local Centre Review be noted.

**150. STATE OF THE VILLAGE**

This item had been covered at the beginning of the meeting.

**151. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

There are no anti-social behaviour issues but residents have to remain vigilant.

**152. CRONTON NEWS**

Articles for the Spring Newsletter are to be sent to the Clerk. The Precept will be the main item for this issue and the Chairman undertook to write the article.

***The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.***

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date 30 March 2015