

CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE



Minutes of the meeting of the **Finance and Policy Committee** held on **19 January 2015** at the Parish Council Office, 7 Hampton Drive, Cranton, commencing at 7.56 pm.

Present: Councillors W Cook (Chairman), D Bray, S Cooper, J Foran, P M Green, G McGann, and D Rostance

In attendance: Vitti Osborne (The Clerk)
1 member of the public

29. APOLOGIES

It was resolved that apologies for absence received from Councillors G Pentin and I Watson be approved.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was reported that no declarations of interest had been submitted.

31. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting of Finance and Policy Committee held on **8 December 2014** as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

32. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no issues raised by the public.

33. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Agenda items 5, 6, 7 and 8 were related to setting the precept for 2015/16.

It was resolved that agenda items 5, 6, 7 and 8 be considered together.

34. PRECEPT 2015/16 AND THE PASTURE MAINTENANCE CHARGES

The Council has a small precept. The percentage of increase of precept to cover The Pasture maintenance is huge. The following proposals were discussed:

- Surrender the lease of The Pasture
- Increase the precept
- Get private contractors - collective tender with other Town Councils to be considered
- Ask neighbouring authority to provide the service at a reasonable price

If the park is not properly maintained, it has to be closed due to health and safety. As the maintenance charge will be borne by residents, whether residents have to be consulted or the Council should make the decision on the future of The Pasture was discussed. The Pasture is the only public open space in the village. People benefit from it at different stages either directly or indirectly. It provides outdoor facilities for children and young people. It is considered a good investment for prevention of anti-social behaviour.

While waiting for a reply to the Council's response from Knowsley Council, the Chairman will speak to other Councillors of the Borough to see what they feel about the charges.

It was resolved that a Special Council Meeting be held on Monday 2 February 2014 to continue discussion on the maintenance charge and the precept for 2015/16.

35. PAYMENTS

It was resolved that the following payments be approved:

- (a) The invoice for the Actuary Fee to Wirral Council (Merseyside Pension Fund) - £1,012.
- (b) The invoice domain name, email and hosting services for cronton.org (2015) - £121.38

36. FEEDBACK ON CRANTON NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORK

It was commented that often the Police and Knowsley Council Neighbourhood Services were represented at Network meetings but not Council meetings. This could give a wrong impression that the Network was overriding the Parish Council. To avoid confusion, the role of the Network had to be clearly identified.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed _____ Date 2 March 2015