

CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE



Minutes of the meeting of the **Finance and Policy Committee** held on **2 March 2015** at the Parish Council Office, 7 Hampton Drive, Cranton, commencing at 7.31 pm.

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)
1 member of the public

37. APOLOGIES

It was resolved that apologies for absence received from Councillor J Foran be approved.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

39. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting of Finance and Policy Committee held on **19 January 2015** as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

40. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no issues raised by the public.

41. THE PASTURE MAINTENANCE

At the end of 2014, the Parish Council was informed by Knowsley Council that it has to take over the ground maintenance of the Pasture from 1 April 2015. Consultations and negotiations took place to resolve the issue without success. This left the Parish Council little time to select a contractor through tendering procedures as all financial and contractual arrangements have to be finalised by the end of March 2015.

It was resolved that according to Financial Regulation 11.1(c) application to waive financial regulations relating to contracts to enable a price to be negotiated without tendering procedures be granted.

Five organisations/companies had been invited to provide a quotation for the maintenance of the Pasture. Four quotations were received for consideration. Two quotations were within the Council's budget. Members were in favour of the quotation from Knowsley Council for the following reasons:

- The price is within the Council's budget
- The Council is satisfied with the quality of service delivered by Knowsley Council
- Health and safety regulations are observed
- Playground inspections are carried out by qualified staff
- To maintain the Green Flag status
- Smooth transition and continuity of service

After discussion, it was proposed by Councillor G McGann, seconded by Councillor D Rostance, and **unanimously resolved** that

- (1) The quotation from Knowsley Council be accepted;
- (2) The recommended frequency for 'Grass cut – Tractor' and 'Shrub Maintenance' increased to 16 respectively be approved;
- (3) Traditional playground repairs: Option 1. A fixed sum is applied and financial risks met by contractor be approved subject to confirmation of the final price as the play equipment is already covered by the Council's insurance.

A final price including the proposed changes is to be obtained from Knowsley Council.

42. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF KNOWSLEY MBC: Draft Recommendations

A public consultation is being carried out Local Government Boundary Commission for England on its draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Knowsley MBC. It was proposed to rename Whiston South ward as Whiston.

It was commented that to truly reflect Cronton's community identity within the ward, the ward should be renamed as 'Whiston and Cronton'.

It was resolved that a representation be made to the Boundary Commission that the ward be renamed as 'Whiston and Cronton'.

The Chairman had submitted his observation in this respect.

43. PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE RENEWAL 2015/16

This is the third year of the 3-year agreement with Came & Company (Local Council Insurance) (insurer – Aviva). The renewal premium is £1,041.02, which is lower than last year. There were no changes to the policy.

It was resolved that the insurance policy with Came & Company be renewed.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Signed _____ Date 13 April 2015