

CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING



Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on 25 November 2019 at 7.00 pm at the Parish Council Office, 7 Hampton Drive, Cronton.

Present : Councillors W Cook (Chair), , S Cooper, J Foran, G McGann, D Rostance, G Pentin and D Thomas

In attendance: Ward Councillor Ron Gaffney
V Osborne – Parish Clerk
4 Members of the Public

92. APOLOGIES

It was resolved that apologies for absence from Councillor D Bray be accepted.

93. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was reported that no declarations of interest were received.

94. MINUTES

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14 October 2019 as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

95. POLICING

The Chairman welcomed Constable Nicola Parsons of Merseyside Police (Knowsley) to the meeting.

The following policing issues were raised and discussed:

- (a) Upon the issue of Dispersal Orders at Upton Rocks (Halton), the problem of anti-social behaviour had transferred to the Pasture in Cronton (Merseyside). An expensive piece of play equipment was set on fire and trees were cut down. The situation had improved since Merseyside Police stepped up patrols in the area.
- (b) Lack of police visibility was a long-term problem.
- (c) Lengthy waiting times for calls to 101 non-emergency number. It was advised to report incidents via social media (24/7) and calls to 101 were properly followed up.
- (d) To formalise border policing cooperation between Cheshire and Merseyside Police Force to tackle ASB. Timely information was considered important to effectively addressing the problem.
- (e) Locking the Pasture gates at night was suggested.
- (f) Provision of smiley face speed detector and speed gun training was in progress.

96. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To minimise maintenance cost Merseytravel proposed to demolish the bus shelter on Cronton Road. It was raised if the Parish Council could take over the bus shelter. The Council considered that it was Merseytravel's responsibility but they would ask Merseytravel to explain why the Council had not been formally consulted.

Delayed response to 101 calls and social-media contacts – It was explained that all calls were subject to the operation of the system and they would be prioritised.

The government promised to recruit more police officers. It was raised if Cronton would benefit from the increase. No information was available to date.

It was pointed out that Merseyside Police had to maintain communication with Cheshire Police to enable them to respond in time when dispersal orders were issued.

The Cronton Gala Committee was being restructured. The Council continued giving its support.

The Chairman thanked Constable Parsons for attending the meeting. Her support was greatly appreciated.

97. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Councillor R Gaffney reported on the followings:

- (a) The smiley face speed detector would be reinstalled by the end of November.
- (b) He supported the community speed gun operation.
- (c) The cycle path linking Prescott and Cronton was on-going.
- (d) Non-physical calming measures would be implemented at the roundabout outside Cronton Garden Centre.
- (e) Overgrown hedges on Cronton Road had been cut.
- (f) Broken wooden fence at the fields next to the Community Centre required attention.
- (g) Some improvement work had been carried out on the KHT's properties in Smithy Close.
- (h) Coronation Gardens and St Anne's had been tidied up.

98. REPORTS

- (a) **Policing** – Covered earlier.
- (b) **Transportation in Cronton** – See Public Participation.
- (c) **Environment** – The Clean-Up Day on the 8 November 2019 was a great success. Councillor D Rostance would report the rubbish and fridge left outside a garage behind the shops. The flooding at the junction of Hall Lane/Cronton Road was caused by a problem with an underground gully in the opposite field. It had been followed up with the field owner.

99. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

APP. NO: 19/00596/OUT

APP. TYPE Outline Application

LOCATION: Holly Farm Chapel Lane Cronton

PROPOSAL: OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR THE ERECTION OF 4 NO. SEMI-DETACHED DWELLINGS (ACCESS AND LAYOUT TO BE CONSIDERED)

It was resolved that the Council objects to the planning application for the following reasons:

- 1. The applicant acknowledges that the proposed development is within the green belt and is making the application on the basis of special circumstances which are :-
 - (a) The site should be considered as previously developed land.

- The Parish Council does not accept this as the proposal relates to 0.13Ha of land forming part of the residential garden on which was not occupied by a previous permanent structure or any associated fixed surface infrastructure.

(b) The application should be considered as limited infill.

- The proposal goes beyond limited infill. The site borders a sports field on the Southern boundary and does not meet the criteria for infill as there is no gap between buildings to be filled. In this regard the Parish Council uses the Planning Inspector's decision in case DCS 400-019-367.

2. If granted there would be a failure to preserve the openness of the green belt.

100. BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT

It was resolved that the Budgetary Control Report as at 25/11/19 be approved and accepted.

It was also noted that funding had been set aside for a second defibrillator training early next year.

101. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

It was resolved that receipts and payments as listed in the attached Appendix be noted and approved.

102. PRECEPT 2020/21

The precept for 2020/21 would be discussed at the next meeting.

103. MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2020

It was resolved that the meeting schedule for 2020 be approved.

104. VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY ISSUES

- (a) Bus shelter on Cronton Road – The Council had not been notified of the proposed demolition was a concern.
- (b) Parking on the pavements in Smithy Close – Mainly caused by school parking especially in the afternoon. Similar problem on Cronton Road by the Dandelion and the hairdresser. Councillor R Gaffney would take it up on behalf of the Council.
- (c) Pavement conditions in Smithy Close – Damage had been repaired.
- (d) 3 KHT properties on Smithy Close – Improvement work had been carried out by First Ark for those in need.
- (e) Smiley face speed detection device – To be brought back by the end of November 2019.
- (f) Signage of Forge Close – The signage was too low for large vehicle drivers. It was the same problem for Tue Lane and Hall Lane. Councillor D Rostance would follow this up.
- (g) Parking on wrong side close to the exit of The Roundabout – To request for double yellow line marking at the junction of The Roundabout and Hall Lane.
- (h) Speed gun training – Application in progress.

- (i) Holy Family Social Club signs on public highway – To obtain an update from Knowsley Council.

105. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

It was very well attended and the sound system was effective.

106. ECUMENICAL CAROL SERVICE

Arrangements for the carol service had been made with the local schools and churches. They were also invited to nominate local charities to be considered to receive the church collection.

It was resolved that The First Step (to free from domestic abuse) in Knowsley was nominated and approved by the Council to receive the carol service church collection.

107. CRONTON NEWS

Suggested topics for the next newsletter:

- Rev Jenny MacGregor's retirement in June/July 2020 (Methodist Chapel)
- Defibrillator training update (volunteers' information)

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Signed _____ Date 6 January 2020