

CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING



MINUTES OF THE REMOTE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.00 PM.

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

In attendance: Steve Wong (Stakeholder Manager - United Utilities)
Matthew Buckley (Environmental Planner – United Utilities)
Vitti Osborne (The Clerk)
Vincent Dooley-Law (Resident)
Rosanne Hayes (Resident)
Geraldine Thomas (Resident)

83. APOLOGIES

All members were present.

84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was reported that no declarations of interest were received.

85. MINUTES

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19/10/2020 as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

86. UNITED UTILITIES PROJECT PROPOSAL AT PEX HILL

Regarding the £300 charity donation given by United Utilities to Knowsley Borough of Culture 2022 earmarked for Cranton, Mr Steve Wong confirmed that the organisation's charity funding had come to an end and the donation as a gesture of goodwill had been approved before the project proposal. It therefore had no connection with the planning proposal. The Parish Council agreed to keep the donation for the activities to be organized for Cranton by Knowsley Borough of Culture 2022. United Utilities would be kept updated with the events.

United Utilities proposed a new security paladin type fence around the newly completed booster pumping station at Pex Hill for the safety of their worker(s) having to attend emergency work at night. A briefing giving reasons for the proposal together with photos of two types of fencing had been provided to the Council prior to the meeting. This was a pre-application consultation and a formal application would be submitted to Knowsley Council. Nearby residents would also be consulted.

With regard to the suggestion of installing a CCTV instead of fencing, Mr Wong responded that CCTV could only send out warning, secured facilities were needed protect the worker(s) on site especially in the night time. Whereby the site had a history of Anti-social behaviour. United Utilities had an online reporting system and collected data for all their sites. Incidents were also reported to Merseyside Police. Mr Wong would provide the statistics to the Parish Council.

In respect of natural material fencing rather than metal, it was responded that metal fencing was their basic standard for staff safety across all their sites to ensure complete visibility hence reducing risk. Mr Buckley would look into other colour that would blend in with the building.

Hedging round the proposed fencing was suggested. Mr Buckey commented that rubbish and maintenance could be issues but he would raise this new approach with the planner of Knowsley Council. He also reminded that the site would be landscaped as in the original plan.

Mr Wong would also look into the complaint about site work continued after 8.00 pm.

It was concluded that the Parish Council would further consider the application when it was submitted to the Planning Office.

87. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- (a) Damaged fencing round the quarry at Pex Hill – Similar incidents had happened before. Mr Wong replied that there was a programme in place to inspect the fence at Pex Hill on a regular basis. He would investigate the complaint and encouraged Councillors to report incidents to him with photos to enable him to follow-up the cases.

The Chairman thanked the representatives of the United Utilities for attending the meeting.

- (b) Penny Lane Closure for roadwork and Holy Family Social Club car park resurfacing work – These two projects, without advance notice, took place on the same day had caused a great deal of chaos and confusion in the area. Knowsley Council would be requested to keep the Parish Council informed of all planning decisions relating to Cronton as well as all roadworks in the area to allow the Parish Council to inform residents in time and to ensure appropriate traffic management plan is in place.
- (c) Rubbish in a ditch in Penny Lane – The area not covered by CCTV was used as a dumping ground.
- (d) Pavement opposite the junction of Tue Lane and Cronton Road – Overgrown vegetation was blocking the pavement making it difficult to pass.
- (e) Overgrown vegetation blocking public footpaths along Cronton Road is a concern especially to wheelchair users.

A reply from a Knowsley Officer stating that the pavement would not be widened but would request landowners to cut back the overgrowth. The Council would also try to contact the landowners and a site meeting with Knowsley Council would be requested.

- (f) Some pavement surface in the village required attention.
- (g) A question about whose responsibility when an accident caused by a pavement condition was raised. The Parish Council would look into this.
- (h) Hedges on the Pasture were badly cut back causing potential danger to park users. Knowsley Council was made aware of the issue and would rectify the problem.
- (i) A village walk round to identify issues was suggested.

88. COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

- (a) General Purposes and Environment Committee meeting held on 2/11/20
- (b) Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 2/11/2020

89. COUNCIL CASUAL VACANCY

- (a) **It was resolved** that a casual vacancy created due to ex-Councillor G Pentin became disqualified for failing to attend any meeting of the Council in a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance on 2 March 2020 without giving reason for the Council's approval be noted.
- (b) **It was resolved** that the Notice of Vacancy dated 5/11/20 be noted.

- (c) The Elections Officer confirmed that no by-election request had been received and the vacancy could now be filled by co-option. The co-option would be advertised.

Voting would be in accordance with Standing Order 8(a) – Voting on Appointments, and by a show of hands. After discussion, it was agreed by a majority that a remote pre-meeting be held to consider the co-option voting procedure on Tuesday 29/12/20.

90. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

No reports.

91. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

- (a) **Policing** – No incidents were reported. Police presence appeared minimal.
- (a) **Transportation in Cronton** – No report.
- (b) **Environment** – The dumped tyres in Hall Lane had been cleared. Arrangement had been made to clear the leaves on the pavement by Cronton Hall.

92. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) **APP. NO: 20/00618/CLD**

APPLICANT: Mr Alex Cooke

APP. TYPE Certificate of Lawful Use/ Dev. Proposed

LOCATION: The Cottage Pex Hill Cronton

PROPOSAL: ERECTION OF A SINGLE STOREY DETACHED OUTBUILDING

It was resolved that the Council has no observations to make on this planning application.

(b) **APP. NO: 20/00578/FUL**

CASE OFFICER: Clare Appleyard

APPLICANT: The Land Trust

APP. TYPE Full Application

LOCATION: Former Site Of Cronton Colliery Cronton Road Cronton

PROPOSAL: CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW COUNTRY PARK COMPRISING OF THE CREATION OF SCULPTURED LANDSCAPE, HABITAT/WETLAND HABITAT CREATION, ASSOCIATED WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, ENGINEERING/EARTHWORKS INCLUDING CHANGES TO SITE LEVELS TOGETHER WITH THE ERECTION OF A SINGLE STOREY VISITOR CENTRE INCLUDING RECEPTION, CAFÉ, EDUCATION SPACE, RANGER OFFICES AND AN OUTDOOR TERRACE AREA; ERECTION OF OUTDOOR CLASSROOM CANOPY; SKY ROOM; PROVISION OF COLLIERY AND MINERAL LINE SUSTRANS ROUTES, NEW PATHS INCLUDING SUSTRANS ROUTE NORTH OF THE M62 BRIDGE UP TO WINDY ARBOR ROAD AND PROVISION OF NEW CAR PARK. VEHICULAR ACCESS TO BE TAKEN FROM CRONTON ROAD VIA ACCESS ROAD TO NEIGHBOURING EMPLOYMENT SITE/COUNTRY PARK CAR PARK WITH NEW FOOTBRIDGE OVER EMPLOYMENT SITE/CAR PARK ACCESS ROAD AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FROM CRONTON ROAD AND FOX'S BANK LANE.

The followings points were raised:

- The total number of access points to the country park.
- Safety issues relating the proposed crossing at Fox's Bank Lane over to Penny Lane.
- Anti-social behaviour problems

The planning application was referred to the next meeting for further consideration.

93. BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT

It was resolved that the Budgetary Control Report as at 30/11/20 shown in Appendix A be received and approved.

94. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

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

95. PRECEPT 2021/22

The General Reserves had been used to fund a few projects and consideration had to be given to top it up to an acceptable level. Precept would be further considered at future meetings.

96. AUDIT 2019/20 (CONCLUSION)

The external audit for 2019/20 had been concluded and no issues raised.

It was resolved that that the external audit completion letter and the External Auditor Report (Section 3) be noted and the Clerk was thanked for successfully completing the audit.

97. NEW WEBSITE

It was reported that the new website was near completion. Some transferred files needed to be updated. The Site Maintenance Team (Councillors D Thomas and S Cooper, and the Clerk) would attend the final training. The new website meeting the accessibility requirements would be ready to launch in the New Year.

98. CENSUS MARCH 2021

The Chairman would obtain more information from the Census Engagement Manager for Knowsley. Updates would be posted on the new website and in the office window.

99. St Helens Borough Local Plan 2020-2035

It was resolved that the St Helens Borough Local Plan 2020-2035 - Notification of Submission to the Secretary of State be noted. It was also noted that (GBP_089) the land north of the M62 and south of Mill Lane, Rainhill would not be released from Green Belt for housing development.

100. NALC CONSULTATION

It was resolved the Standards Matter 2: Public Consultation and Public Sector Survey be noted.

101. VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY ISSUES

(a) **Walking path round the Pasture** – The field was waterlogged most of the time, a walking path for all age users around the perimeter of the field was suggested. It appeared that the drainage scheme was not working and was suggested raising the issue with the project contractor. Knowsley Council was aware of the problem and Councillor D Rostance would follow this matter up with Philip Hurst, Knowsley Green Space Development Officer.

(b) **Smiley face speed detection devices** – No further progress in the provision of the devices for Smithy Lane and Hall Lane. The Chairman would follow this up with Ward Councillor T Byron.

102. VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE

Two sets of replacement tree lights were acquired. The tree would be erected and decorated by the 10 December 2020.

103. CRONTON NEWS

An A4 double-sided newsletter would be published in December 2020.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed _____ Date 4 January 2021