

# CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL MEETING



**Minutes of the Remote ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL held on 4 MAY 2021 at 7.10 pm.**

**Present :** Councillors S Cooper (Chairman), W Cook, J Foran, R Hayes, G McGann, D Rostance and D Thomas

**In attendance:** Ward Councillor T Byron  
Sergeant Philip Shaw (Merseyside Police)  
PC Nicola Parson (Merseyside Police)  
Vitti Osborne (The Clerk)  
Vinny Dooley (Chairman, Cronton Gala Committee)  
P Evans (Resident)  
J Pullan (Resident)

### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2021/22

It was moved by Councillor G McGann, seconded by Councillor J Foran and **resolved unanimously** that Councillor Shaun Cooper be re-elected Chairman for 2021/22.

### 2. CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

After signing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, Councillor S Cooper took the Chair.

### 3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2021/22

It was moved by Councillor G McGann, seconded by Councillor W Cook and **resolved unanimously** that Councillor D Rostance be re-elected Vice-Chairman for 2021/22.

### 4. DISPENSATION (DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011)

**It was resolved** that the application for dispensation received from Councillor R Hayes in respect of discussing and setting the Council's precept during the current term of office be approved.

### 5. APOLOGIES

All members were present.

### 6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D Thomas declared an interest in Agenda Item 27 – Village and Community Issues – Cyclepath.

### 7. COUNCIL VACANCY

No by-election was called. **It was resolved** that the council vacancy be filled by co-option.

### 8. MINUTES

**It was resolved** to accept the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29/3/21 as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

## **9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- (a) Social media – It was raised if the Council should further develop its method of communication and interaction with local people by using social media and creating its own Facebook. Its advantages and disadvantages, and monitoring issues were briefly discussed. The matter would be further considered at the next full Council Meeting.
- (b) Neighbourhood Watch Groups – PCSO Jon Stott was liaising with Councillor R Hayes to set up Groups in Cronton. He could also deliver information to the neighbourhood to promote the scheme and recruit more coordinators.
- (c) Speeding issues – Speed gun training had been put on hold due to the Covid-19 restrictions. The Police continued to monitor speeding on Smithy Lane and Hall Lane.
- (d) Parking on the pavement of Wheatfield Road and Smithy Close causing obstruction and endangering the safety of pedestrians – Attended by Knowsley Council.
- (e) Parking on the pavement outside the Dandelion Tavern on Cronton Road causing obstruction – Needed Police assistance.
- (f) Parking outside 3 Hall Lane causing obstruction – People attended to the church service should use its car park. The Chairman would write to the Holy Family Church.

## **10. COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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

- (a) General Purposes and Environment Committee meeting held on 12/4/21
- (b) Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 12/4/21

## **11. STANDING ORDERS**

**It was resolved** that the NALC model Standing Orders 2018 be adopted for 2021/22.

## **12. POWER OF DELEGATION**

**It was resolved** that the Powers of Delegation to Committees be adopted for 2021/22.

## **13. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COMMITTEES**

**It was resolved** that the Terms of Reference of the General Purposes and Environment Committee be adopted for 2021/22.

## **14. COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS**

- (a) To streamline the function of committees and to reduce duplications, the Chairman proposed to dissolve the Finance and Policy Committee. Special Council Meetings could be called where necessary to consider urgent matters.

After discussion, **it was resolved that the Finance and Policy Committee be dissolved** with immediate effect.

- (b) **It was resolved** that the undermentioned Committee be appointed for 2021/22:

### **GENERAL PURPOSES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr D Rostance (Chairman)  
Cllr G McGann (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr W Cook  
Cllr J Foran  
Cllr R Hayes  
Cllr D Thomas

## **15. REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

**It was resolved** that following representatives to outside bodies be approved:

- (a) **MERSEYSIDE ASSOCIATION OF TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS** – *Cllr S Cooper*
- (b) **MERSEYTRAVEL : CUSTOMERS FORUM** – *Cllr G McGann*
- (c) **KNOWSLEY CYCLING AND WALKING PROJECT (PRESCOT TO CRONTON)**  
*Cllr G McGann*
- (d) **CRONTON PATHWAYS** - *Cllr D Rostance*
- (e) **CRONTON GALA COMMITTEE** – *R Hayes*

## **16. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

The last sentence of paragraph 2 of the Introduction be amended as 'The Council will settle complaints based on the facts of the case and in the interest of fairness and justice'.

**It was resolved** that the amended Complaints Procedure be adopted for 2021/22.

## **17. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

**It was resolved** that the updated Freedom of Information Publication Scheme be adopted for 2021/22.

## **18. END-OF-YEAR REPORTS**

**It was resolved** that the followings End-of-Year Reports be accepted:

- (a) Chairman's Annual Report
- (b) General Purposes & Environment Report
- (c) Finance and Policy Report

## **19. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2020/21 AND INTERNAL AUDITOR APPOINTMENT 2020/21**

- (a) Members received for consideration the remote Internal Audit Report for 2020/21 dated 3 May 2021. There were no matters arising

**It was resolved** that the Internal Audit Report for 2020/21 be received and noted.

- (a) The Council was satisfied with the service of the Internal Auditor.

**It was resolved** that Mr David Blanchflower be re-appointed as the Internal Auditor for 2021/22 at the same audit fee of £97.

## **20. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2020/21 PART 3**

- (a) **Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21** – Members acknowledged their responsibility for ensuring that there was a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. They confirmed, to the best of their knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 that there were no weaknesses identified.

**It was resolved** that Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 be approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

- (b) **Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21** – The Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer certified that for the year ended 31 March 2021 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return had been prepared on a receipts and payments basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners’ Guide to Proper Practices and presented fairly the financial position of this authority.

**It was resolved** that the Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk was thanked for keeping the account records and for completing the Annual Return.

## **21. FIXED ASSET REGISTER**

**It was resolved** that the Fixed Asset Register for the year ended 31/3/21 be accepted.

## **22. PLANNING APPLICATION**

**APP. NO: 21/00165/FUL**

**LOCATION: Dragon House Farm 370A Cronton Road Cronton**

**PROPOSAL: ERECTION OF 1 NO. AGRICULTURAL STORAGE BARN FOR PERSONAL USE**

Planning decision and point 5 of the recommendations were noted.

- **Decision** – Planning permission granted.
- **Recommendations Point 5** - This permission is for a limited period only. The building hereby permitted and any foundations, buildings, structures, hardstandings, enclosures, ancillary works or other groundworks associated with the building shall be removed and the land restored to its former condition on or before 30th April 2023.
- **Reason:** To enable the Local Planning Authority to re-assess the proposal on the expiry of the permission having regard to local and national green belt policies.

## **23. BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT**

**It was resolved** that the Budgetary Control Report as at 4 May 2021 shown in Appendix A be received and approved.

## **24. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

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

## **25. BANK ACCOUNTS SIGNATORY CHANGES**

Councillor Denis Bray, who was a signatory of the bank accounts at NatWest, resigned from the Parish Council on the 9 April 2021. A replacement signatory was needed.

**It was** proposed by Councillor Ged McGann, seconded by Councillor W Cook and **resolved** that the Vice-Chairman Councillor Dave Rostance be approved the replacement signatory.

**26. REPOSITION OF THE TRAFFIC LIGHT POLE AT THE JUNCTION OF CRANTON ROAD/CHAPEL LANE**

Mr V Dooley commented that Knowsley Council's proposal for repositioning the traffic light pole at the junction of Cranton Road/Chapel Lane did not resolve the wheelchair accessibility issue in the area. Councillor R Hayes continued to pursue the matter with Knowsley Council on behalf of the Parish Council.

**27. VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY ISSUES**

(a) Councillor T Byron reported:

- Portable smiley face battery issue – would be resolved. It was commented that ideally two permanent devices with rechargeable solar panels could be installed on both sides of Smithy Lane.
- CCTV footage in Tue Lane – a prosecution was in progress for tyres fly-tipping.
- Kenley Avenue road surface issue – reported.

(b) Cycleway (Fox's Bank Lane/Penny Lane) – Councillor D Thomas would provide a consolidated list of questions and queries for Council's consideration. Councillor G McGann would invite Mike Kaciubskij of Knowsley Council to give an update at the next meeting on 24 May 2021, where matters could be further considered.

(c) Dog Fouling (proposed waste bag dispensing bottle on lamp posts) – Councillor R Hayes would follow this up with Councillor R Gaffney.

(d) The Pasture maintenance – Councillor D Rostance would contact Steve Jones of Knowsley Council for an up-date.

(e) Defibrillator – A cardiac arrest occurred in a house on Cranton Road close to the Community Centre but nobody was sent to get the defibrillator when North West Ambulance Service was contacted. This was being investigated. It was important that the 3 defibrillators were on the data base.

**28. CRANTON NEWS**

To be considered at the next meeting.

*The meeting closed at 8.37 pm.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date 21 June 2021