

# CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MEETING



### **MINUTES OF THE REMOTE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7.00 PM**

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

**In attendance:** Ward Councillor R Gaffney (Whiston and Cronton)  
Vitti Osborne (The Clerk)  
Vincent Dooley (Chair – Cronton Gala Committee)  
Julia Pullan (Resident)

#### **120. APOLOGIES**

All members were present.

#### **121. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

It was reported that no declarations of interest were received.

#### **122. MINUTES**

**It was resolved** to accept the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 January 2021 as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **123. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Proposed public footpath between Fox's Bank Lane and Penny Lane** – The plan for the country park had been submitted but not including the public footpath. J Pullan raised as to whether the Parish Council was aware of a public consultation on the creation of the public path. She was concerned about the erection of fences on the path in April, environmental impact and policing problems should it not be a public right of way, and further commented that the proposed footbridge might not have been considered by Knowsley Council. The Chairman replied that the Parish Council had no knowledge of a public consultation but would respond to a formal planning application when submitted. Councillor G McGann would find out the latest situation of the proposed footpath and would keep J Pullan informed.

**Uneven pavement outside Cronton Village Chippy** – V Dooley and Councillor R Hayes tried to find out whose responsibility it was to improve the access to the chippy for the disabled without success. The ownership of the pavement in question had to be ascertained before further action could be taken. The Parish Council supported the pursuit and would reimburse Councillor R Hayes for the Land Registry search fee. V Dooley would keep the Council updated.

#### **124. COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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

- (a) General Purposes and Environment Committee meeting held on 18/1/21
- (b) Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 18/1/21

## **125. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Councillor R Gaffney reported on the followings:

- (a) Cycle path – The cycle path would go through planning application and public consultation stages. At present there was no fixed time schedule. As suggested the crossing point on Fox's Bank Lane would be moved to a safer location.
- (b) Smiley faced speed detector device for Smithy Lane – There was a delay due to change of supplier. Councillor Gaffney would continue following this up.
- (c) Flooding arising from intensive rainfall in Cronton Road and Wheatfield Road, Hall Lane and Fox's Bank Lane – Various investigations and remedial works had been carried out by various parties. Richard Thorpe of Knowsley Council was aware of the scale of flooding problems in these areas and was working out a plan to resolve the problem but it would be an ongoing project. A work schedule was requested by a member. Councillor Gaffney would keep the Council updated.
- (d) Flooding on the Pasture – It was suggested inviting Caroline Holmes of Knowsley Council to address the issue at a remote meeting with the Parish Council. The site was worth keeping the Green Flag status.
- (e) Dumped tyres in Fox's Bank Lane and Tue Lane – Councillor Gaffney raised the issue with Paul Christopher of Knowsley Council. The Police was aware of the incidents. Unfortunately the CCTV video could not provide sufficient evidence to prosecute in this incident. Councillor Gaffney would check the video footage with the CCTV team and follow-up the request for a second camera in Tue Lane/Penny Lane area.

## **126. COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

- (a) **Policing** – No major incidents in the village expect a burglary near in Smithy Lane. There had been little Police visibility.
- (b) **Transportation in Cronton** – No report.
- (c) **Environment** – Quick response from Knowsley Council to fly-tipped types dumped in Hall Lane, Tue Land and Penny Lane.

## **127. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

No planning notifications from Knowsley Council.

## **128. BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT**

**It was resolved** that the Budgetary Control Report as at 15/2/21 shown in Appendix A be received and approved.

## **129. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

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

## **130. BANK RECONCILIATION**

**It was resolved** that bank reconciliation as at 31/12/20 be approved.

### **131. PRECEPT 2021/22**

Based on discussions at previous meetings, it was proposed and **resolved that** the precept for **2021/22 be set at £22,775** being an increase of 2% over the previous year.

The budget for 2021/22 would be published on the website by mid-March 2021.

### **132. THE PASTURE MAINTENANCE**

Councillor D Rostance stated that there was still a lot of outstanding ground maintenance work still to be done as maintenance vehicles could not access the lower part of the Pasture due to the bad weather. The Parish Council needed Knowsley Council's support to resolve the ground condition of the Pasture and for the proposed pathway round the perimeter. He therefore considered it prudent to extend the maintenance contract for one more year with Knowsley Council.

After a discussion on whether to extend the contract for another year or to put it out to tender, it was recommended to extend the ground maintenance contract. This would allow the Pasture Working Group to look at all maintenance aspects of the Pasture and to work out a plan for a new contract for future years.

**It was resolved** that the current ground maintenance contract with Knowsley Council be extended for one more year subject to the cost to be confirmed by the Borough Council.

It was also raised that the parish of Cronton had a high Council Tax collection rate comparing with other areas in the Borough but there was hardly any investment by the Borough in Cronton. This unfair distribution of resources had to be addressed. Provision of Council Tax collection rates of respective areas in the Borough would be useful for further discussion.

### **133. GRANTS 2020/21**

A request had been received from the Cronton Senior Christmas Party seeking permission to use the 2020/21 grant for the Christmas Party in 2021 because they were unable to hold the event in 2020 due the Covid restrictions imposed by the Government.

**It was resolved** that approval be given to the Cronton Senior Christmas Party to use the 2020/21 grant in 2020/21 in this exception circumstance.

### **134. MERSEYSIDE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (MALC)**

MALC was a Councillor led Association for Parish and Town Councils in Merseyside. The Chairman attended the last meeting about its future. In principle, the Parish Council **agreed** to be involved in the reform of the MALC and Councillor Shaun Cooper would represent the Council.

### **135. NEW WEBSITE**

Councillor D Thomas reported that the new website was up and running as scheduled. A meeting was held between the Chairman, Clerk and himself about the website maintenance and modification. Suggestions and photos were welcomed and matters relating to editorial control of the website could be referred to the 3 contacts. The Working Group continued to keep the Council updated.

### **136. VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY ISSUES**

(a) **A Memorial bench on the Pasture** – The request in memory of a resident Tony O'Dowl had withdrawn as a more appropriate site had been chosen.

(b) **Fly-tipping and rubbish issues** – The CCTV camera in Tue Lane only surveilled the two laybys not along the Tue Lane and Penny Lane. If it was relocated to the junction of Tue Lane on the left, it could cover a wider area. An extra camera would increase the chance of recording sufficient evidence to proceed with a prosecution. Councillor R Gaffney would look into these two proposals on behalf of the Council.

Updates on village and community issues could be sent to Councillor S Cooper, who would update the issue list.

**137. CRONTON NEWS**

Nothing much to report due to Covid lockdown.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date 29 March 2021