

CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21 JUNE 2021 AT 7.40 PM AT THE CRONTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, CRONTON ROAD.

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

In attendance: Ward Councillor T Byron (Whiston and Cronton)
Vitti Osborne (The Clerk)
Steven Wong (United Utilities – Stakeholder Manager - Policy)
Vincent Dooley (Chair – Cronton Gala Committee)
5 Residents

29. APOLOGIES

All members were present.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received:

- (a) Councillor S Cooper – agenda item 10(b) Planning Application No. 21/00317/FUL – He knew the applicant.
- (b) Councillor G McGann – agenda item 10(b) Planning Application No. 21/00317/FUL – He knew the applicant.

31. MINUTES

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

32. ERECTION OF SECURITY FENCE AROUND BOOSTER STATION AT PEX HILL – UNITED UTILITIES LTD

The purpose of the booster station project was to resolve water shortage in the region during dry weather. Mr S Wong of United Utilities explained that the fence around the building was to address the physical safety of their staff having to attend the site for emergency remedial work at night and it was a standard design. Anti-social behaviour in the area was a concern and CCTV was unable to provide that level of protection. There were no changes to the planning application with the exception that they agreed to paint the fence green. Being no further questions raised, the Chairman thanked Mr Wong for attending the meeting and for the information.

33. CO-OPTION

Two applications had been received for consideration to fill the vacancy by co-option. The two candidates were put to the vote.

It was **RESOLVED** that L Terry received a majority of the votes and be co-opted as a Councillor with immediate effect. It was also agreed that a Declaration of Acceptance of Office be signed before the next meeting to be held on 26/7/21.

The Chairman thanked Mr V Dooley for his interest and looked forward to continuing working with him as an adviser on accessibility matters.

34. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

J Pullan, a resident, was concerned about two recent incidents relating to Knowsley Council's contractors attempted to carry out vegetation works during the bird nesting season between Fox's Bank Lane and Penny Lane (the proposed cycleway) without relevant permission. Feedback on a remote meeting with the Green Party representatives was also given.

35. COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was resolved that the unconfirmed minutes of the General Purposes and Environment Committee meeting held on 1/3/21 be noted.

36. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor T Bryon reported on the followings:

- Houghton Croft – grass cutting requested and work completed..
- Holy Family Church car park new exit – awaiting update from Knowsley Council.
- Traffic on Cronton Road (Country Park) – awaiting update from Knowsley Council.
- Parliamentary constituency boundaries review – Initial proposal: Widnes and Halewood County Constituency, which includes Widnes, Halewood, Whiston & Cronton.

37. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

(a) **Policing** – A day time break-in at Pex Hill and Police searched properties in Cronton.

(b) **Transportation in Cronton** – No report.

(c) **Environment** – A successful clean-up with more volunteers. The planters would be filled by the Cronton Garden Centre. The rotten wooden structure on the mound had been removed but the slide was retained. The fly-tipping in Penny Lane and Tue Lane had been reported. The gap at the back of the Pasture would be filled in. The Council requested for the information on the fly-tipping caught on the CCTV in Tue Lane/Penny Lane. Parking problems in Hall Lane caused by church attendees had improved.

38. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) To consider the following consultation:

PROPOSAL: CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW COUNTRY PARK COMPRISING OF THE CREATION OF SCULPTURED LANDSCAPE, HABITAT/WETLAND 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 MULTI USER ROUTE, NEW PATHS INCLUDING A MULTI USER ROUTE NORTH OF THE M62 BRIDGE UP TO WINDY ARBOR ROAD AND PROVISION OF NEW CAR PARK. VEHICULAR ACCESS TO BE TAKEN FROM CRANTON ROAD VIA ACCESS ROAD TO NEIGHBOURING EMPLOYMENT SITE/COUNTRY PARK CAR PARK WITH NEW FOOTBRIDGE OVER EMPLOYMENT SITE/CAR PARK ACCESS ROAD AND PEDESTRIAN/CYCLE ACCESS FROM CRANTON ROAD AND FOX'S BANK LANE.

LOCATION: Former Site Of Cronton Colliery, Cronton Road, Cronton, Knowsley, L35 1QR

It was resolved that comments on traffic, light pollution and security be re-submitted.

(b) **APP. NO: 21/00317/FUL**

APPLICANT: Mr Brian Fullerton

LOCATION: 1 Sanbec Gardens Cronton WA8 5GY

PROPOSAL: INCREASE OF HEIGHT TO EXISTING BRICK WALL ON CRONTON ROAD UP TO 2.0M HIGH INCLUDING BRICK PILLARS TOGETHER WITH THE DEMOLITION OF INNER BOUNDARY WALL

It was RESOLVED that the Council has no observations to make provided the proposal meet the planning requirements.

39. BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT

It was RESOLVED that the Budgetary Control Report as at 21/6/21 shown in Appendix A be received and approved.

40. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

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

41. SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

It was agreed to set up a Social Media Working Group consisted of Councillors S Cooper, R Hayes and D Thomas to create a Social Media Policy for the Council.

Social Media Policy and Council Review would be discussed at the next full Council Meeting on 26 July 2021.

Apart from the website, whether the Council should also use social media to connect with the community was raised.

42. GRANT APPLICATION 2021/22

The grant budget had not been fully allocated. **It was RESOLVED** to allow another round of grant applications. The closing date would be three weeks after the date of notice.

43. WEBSITE

Members' were invited to contribute contents.

Registration of the site of St Anne's Well was raised and referred to the next General Purposes and Environment Committee meeting.

44. VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY ISSUES

(a) Accessibility proposals for the area by the crossing outside the chippy on Cronton Road – Richard Thorpe of Knowsley Council's detailed proposal was noted. V Dooley was concerned about the width of the pavement might not be wide enough for bigger wheelchairs. After discussion, the Council recommended to accept Knowsley Council's proposal but keep the railing. Councillor R Hayes undertook to respond to Knowsley Council.

(b) Electric vehicle charging points – Councillor T Bryon undertook to enquire about Knowsley Council's plan.

(c) Cycleway – Councillor G McGann gave an update on the progress of the proposed cycleway. Planning application for Phase 8 (Fox's Bank Lane/Penny Lane) would be

submitted in the next few weeks. Works at the crossing on Cronton Road and the widening of the pavement would be delayed due to the drainage issue on Cronton Road which needed to be resolved. Mike Kaciubskyj, Project Manager of Knowsley Council, had all the information provided by local residents concerned, and Councillor G McGann also updated him with all the concerns raised. After a discussion on whether a pre-application meeting with Mike Kaciubskyj, as promised, was still necessary, Councillor G McGann would contact Richard Thorpe of Knowsley Council to organise a meeting with Mike Kaciubskyj and he would keep Councillors informed.

- (d) Smiley face speed detectors – Permanent devices for Hall Lane and Smithy Lane (set at 20mph) charged by either solar panels and/or wind turbines or on permanent electric supply. Councillor T Byron to follow up.
- (e) Halton Delivery and Allocations Local Plan (DALP) – The proposed housing development in Sandy would reduce the greenbelt between the two Boroughs. The Parish Council objected to the proposal but was disappointed by Knowsley Council for not giving the same level of support in their comments to protect the interest of village. Loss of identity resulting from the proposed parliamentary constituency boundary change to Cronton was also raised. After discussion, Councillor T Byron agreed to write to Mark Cawood (Head of Planning Services) and copy to the Leader of Kowsley Council to convey the view of the Parish Council and to request Knowsley Council to change their comments on the proposed housing development at Sandy Lane to objection.

45. CRONTON NEWSLETTER

Awaiting government announcement on lifting Covid-19 restrictions, activities would get back to normal. Village news could be viewed on the website.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Signed _____ Date 26 July 2021