

CRANTON PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING



MINUTES OF THE REMOTE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29 MARCH 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 T Byron (Whiston and Cranton)
Ward Councillor R Gaffney (Whiston and Cranton)
Vitti Osborne (The Clerk)
Vincent Dooley (Chair – Cranton Gala Committee)
Julia Pullan (Resident)

138. APOLOGIES

All members were present.

139. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received:

- (a) Councillor S Cooper – agenda item 8(c) Planning Application No. 21/00085/FUL – He knew the applicant
- (b) Councillor G McGann – agenda item 8(c) Planning Application No. 21/00085/FUL – He knew the applicant
- (c) Councillor D Thomas – agenda item 10 – Cyclepath – He lived in the nearby area.

140. MINUTES

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 February 2021 as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

141. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Proposed public footpath between Fox's Bank Lane and Penny Lane – Covered under agenda item 10.

142. COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

- (a) General Purposes and Environment Committee meeting held on 1/3/21
- (b) Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 1/3/21

143. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor R Gaffney reported on the followings:

- (a) CCTV in Tue Lane – It was expensive to install an additional camera or relocate the existing one. However, currently there were two temporary cameras operating in the village targeting fly-tipping.

- (b) Smiley face speed detector device for Smithy Lane – A device would be installed.
- (c) Flooding in some areas in Cronton and the Pasture – Knowsley Council was looking into flooding issues in the Borough.

144. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

- (a) **Policing** – No major incidents with the exception of an alleged shooting on a field in Tue Lane which had been attended by the Police.
- (b) **Transportation in Cronton** – The bus shelter on Cronton Road had been replaced with better facilities. Councillor G McGann had contacted Merseytravel to reinstall the bus service timetable.
- (c) **Environment** – No major fly-tipping issues had been reported. Hall Lane remained a hot-spot. Dog fouling was a big problem. It was suggested raising the issue with Knowsley Council.

145. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) **APP. NO: 20/00630/FUL**

APPLICANT: Callum Mckay

LOCATION: Meadows Pex Hill Cronton

PROPOSAL: CONVERSION OF LOFT INCLUDING THE ERECTION OF A REAR DORMER EXTENSION AND INSTALLATION OF 1 NO. JULIET BALCONY

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

(b) **APP. NO: 21/00002/FUL**

APPLICANT: MFG Construction Ltd

LOCATION: 22 Smithy Close Cronton WA8 5BT

PROPOSAL: ERECTION OF A 1 NO. TWO STOREY SEMI-DETACHED DWELLING TOGETHER WITH ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING DWELLING INCLUDING THE ERECTION OF A TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION

This application had been withdrawn.

(c) **APP. NO: 21/00085/FUL**

APPLICANT: Mrs T Harrison

LOCATION: 8 Forge Close Cronton WA8 5HJ

PROPOSAL: ERECTION OF A SINGLE STOREY FRONT PORCH EXTENSION INCLUDING THE REPLACEMENT OF GARAGE ROOF CANOPY

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

(d) **APP. NO: 21/00165/FUL**

APPLICANT: Mr and Mrs Jones

LOCATION: Dragon House Farm 370A Cronton Road Cronton

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

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

1. The proposal is not in accordance with the Green Belt Policy of Knowsley Local Plan
2. The proposed development is an inappropriate new development in the green belt
3. The site location is not a farm
4. the new built is not for agricultural use

146. UNITED UTILITIES FENCING PROPOSAL FOR PEX HILL PUMPING STATION

An update on the fencing proposal for the Pex Hill pumping station was noted. For improving the appearance of the fence adding hedgerows was suggested by members. United Utilities would be advised accordingly.

147. CYCLEPATH FOX'S BANK LANE/PENNY LANE

Councillor G McGann updated on the followings:

- A 100-year lease for the proposed cyclepath was in place.
- Design of the gate meeting accessibility requirements.
- Hedgerows along the path and the height.
- Litter bins collection issue.
- Widening the footpath between the Community Centre and Sandy Lane.

The following matters were raised by a Councillor/members of the public:

- (a) Path No. 1 to be extinguished. Response: believed it would be.
- (b) The height of the fence 1.6m and the width of the path 8m – Response: As given by Knowsley Council.
- (c) The path was pegged out and work on trees and plants took place before submission of a planning application.
- (d) Accessibility for wheelchair users had been raised at a site meeting with Knowsley Council.
- (e) Impact of the Scheme Limit on the area.

The Chairman concluded that a special meeting would be organized with a Knowsley Council Officer to discuss the matter further. The public would be consulted when a planning application was submitted.

148. BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT

It was resolved that the Budgetary Control Report as at 29/3/21 shown in Appendix A be received and approved.

149. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

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

150. GRANT 2020/21

A request had been received from Cronton Bowling Club to change the approved purpose for the grant of £100 for 'the maintenance of the green and surrounding area of the Club' to 'the work done to the lawnmower' for the reason that they would otherwise not have been able to have maintenance done to the green.

The change of purpose was considered a valid reason. After discussion, **it was resolved** that in this exceptional circumstance, retrospective approval for the change of purpose for the grant of £100 to Cronton Bowling Club be given.

151. COUNCIL INSURANCE 2020/21

The Council's 3-year long-term insurance agreement with Came and Company Local Council Insurance (an insurance broker) came to an end on 31/3/21. A quotation comparison of three companies was provided. The renewal premium was £1,297.07.

A quotation from BHIB Councils Insurance (an insurance broker working in partnership with NALC) offered a better cover for the Council. The 3-year long-term agreement premium was £917.17. The cover was underwritten by Aviva Insurance Limited.

The cover offered by BHIB met the requirements of the Council and the premium was competitive. After discussion, **it was resolved** to accept the quotation for a 3-year long-term agreement from BHIB Councils Insurance at an annual premium of £917.17.

152. STANDING ORDERS AND DIRECT DEBITS REVIEWS

(a) **It was resolved** that standing orders for the monthly payments of the Clerk's salary and the office cleaner's charges for 2021/22 be approved.

(b) **It was resolved** that direct debit payments for WaterPlus, British Gas and CF Corporate Finan (photocopier hiring) for 2020/21 be approved.

153. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS ANNUAL REVIEW

It was resolved that the Financial Regulations adopted on 7/9/20 be approved for 2021/22.

154. INTERNAL AUDIT TERMS OF REFERENCE

It was resolved that the Internal Audit Terms of Reference adopted on 17/2/20 be approved for 2021/22.

155. RISK ASSESSMENT ANNUAL REVIEW

Members received for consideration a Report on Risk Assessment and Management.

It was resolved that the Risk Assessment and Management Report dated 29/3/21 be accepted and approved.

156. EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL AND INTERNAL AUDIT 2020/21 ANNUAL REVIEW

The Council reviewed the effectiveness of the system of Internal Control and Internal Audit based on the presented framework.

After careful consideration, **it was resolved** that the Council has a sound system of internal control, its financial and operational management is adequate and effective and is satisfied with the risk management.

157. COUNCIL REVIEW

Members were invited to discuss ways to improve the operation of the Council or email ideas for the review to the Chairman.

It was resolved that a Working Group be formed to carry out the Council Review. Membership - Councillors S Cooper (Chairman), W Cook (ex-Chairman), R Hayes and D Thomas, and the Clerk. A report on the review will be published in autumn.

158. NALC - PREPARING FOR THE POSSIBLE RETURN OF FACE TO FACE MEETINGS

According to legislations remote council meetings could not lawfully take place from 7 May 2021. Councils would have to decide which course of action would best fit their needs and manage risks.

It was resolved that a Working Group be set up to plan for the return of the face-to-face meetings. Membership - Councillors S Cooper, D Rostance (Vice-Chairman), W Cook and G McGann.

To enable the Council to have enough time to prepare for the return of the face-to-face meetings, **it was resolved** that approval be given to hold the **Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting remotely on Tuesday 4 May 2021** instead of Monday 10 May 2021 as originally scheduled.

159. THE PASTURE MAINTENANCE

Members received for consideration a quotation from Knowsley Council on the Parish Council's request to extend the Pasture maintenance contract for one year from 1/4/21. The cost would be £4,123.99 (exclusive of VAT), a 2% increase of £80.86 on the 2020/20 maintenance cost of £4,043.13 (exclusive of VAT).

After consideration, **it was resolved** that the increase was acceptable and the Pasture maintenance contract be extended at a cost of £4,123.99 plus VAT on the same terms for one year from 1 April 2021.

160. THE PASTURE MANAGEMENT MASTER PLAN

Members welcomed the positive response from Caroline Holmes (Head of Environmental Sustainability Service, Communities and Neighbourhoods, Knowsley Council) and the proposed development of a new master-plan for the Pasture, subsequent to the discussion with the Parish Council at the meeting on 15/3/21.

Recently, Councillor D Rostance had a productive site meeting with Philip Hurst (Green Space Development Officer, Knowsley Council) about the master-plan, funding opportunities, drainage issues and outstanding maintenance items.

161. WEBSITE

The website ran smoothly and was updated on a regular basis. Material for promoting community activities such as the Gala would be welcome.

162. VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY ISSUES

Motorbike activities on some of the fields in the village had to be monitored.

163. GALA 2021

It was resolved that approval be given for the Gala to hold the next Gala on **Saturday 11 September 2021**.

164. CRONTON NEWS

The next new newsletter was on-going.

The meeting closed at 8.27 pm.

Signed _____ Date 4 May 2021