



CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the **General Purposes and Environment Committee** held **remotely** on **1 MARCH 2021** at 7.00 pm.

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

In attendance: Ward Councillor R Gaffney (Cronton & Whiston)
Caroline Holmes (Head of Environmental Sustainability Service, Knowsley Council)
Vitti Osborne (The Clerk)
Vincent Dooley (Chairman, Cronton Gala Committee)
J Pullan (Resident)

55. APOLOGIES

All members were present.

56. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was reported that no declarations of Interest were received.

57. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the General Purposes and Environment Committee meeting held on 18/1/21 as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

58. THE PASTURE

The Chairman welcomed Caroline Holmes (Head of Environmental Sustainability Services, Knowsley Council) to the meeting to discuss the ground conditions of the Pasture and its maintenance. At present the field was waterlogged and totally inaccessible most time of the year. The issue had recently been raised with Caroline Holmes and her team. She was aware of the problems and other maintenance issues of the area, and would work with the Parish Council to address them.

The lease for the Pasture was signed between Whiston Rural District Council and Cronton Parish Council in 1973. The then District Council and Knowsley Council maintained the site and covered the cost but it was stopped in 2015 due to the austerity measures imposed by the government. Since then the Parish Council took over the maintenance of the site. Apart from the Council's operating costs, the Pasture maintenance cost now represented a significant portion of the Parish Council precept. Being the smallest local council in the Borough financed entirely by the precept, the Parish Council would not be able to pay for any additional maintenance cost. In 2016, the Pasture became a Centenary Field and the joint responsibility for maintenance mentioned in the Deed of Dedication needed to be clarified.

It was also pointed out no additional maintenance requirements for the Pasture were mentioned or documented in the drainage project nor its 5-year Site Management Plan 2013-18 until the Parish Council recently expressed the current concerns.

A pathway around the perimeter of the field was suggested. Residents of all ages would benefit from this invaluable facility. Concern about keeping site at Green Flag status was also raised.

Caroline Holmes would take on board the issues raised and work out a maintenance programme meeting the needs of the community and budget requirements. Knowsley Council could also give support for funding applications.

The Pasture Working Group chaired by Councillor D Rostance would work with Knowsley Council on the proposed maintenance programme.

The Chairman thanked Caroline Holmes for attending the meeting. Her assistance in this matter would be much appreciated.

59. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cyclepath (Fox's Bank Lane/Penny Lane) – Concerns were raised about impact of the use of electric scooters and bikes on the cyclepath and neighbouring areas. Erection of appropriate signs was also suggested. Councillor G McGann would report on the development/progress of the cyclepath.

60. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Councillor R Gaffney reported on the followings:

- **Council tax anticipated collection rates** – Knowsley Council (98%), Parish and Town Councils (97.5%).
- **Home Watch Scheme** – PSCO to contact the Clerk.
- **An additional CCTV for Tue Lane/Penny Lane** – On-going.
- **Tyres fly-tipping in Cronton** – Issue resolved.

61. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No planning notification received from Knowsley Council.

62. THE PASTURE GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Awaiting a reply from Knowsley Council on the request for extending the maintenance contract for another year.

63. CPRE – CUMBRIAN COAL MINE

Regarding the circular email from CPRE seeking support to 'No to the Cumbrian Coal Mine proposal', it was commented that it should be left to the decision of the Cumbria Country Council.

64. NEW WEBSITE

It was reported that the team could now implement changes and information would be updated on a regular basis. Website traffic statistics would be obtained from the provider. It was the Council's decision not to participate in social media. However, members of the public can communicate with the Parish Council via the website contact form and matter raised would be responded as soon as possible.

65. VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY ISSUES

- (a) **Cronton Home Watch Scheme** – To recruit people for the new scheme via the website and newsletter. More information to be obtained from the PCSO.

(b) **Cyclepath update** – Councillor G McGann reported on a recent site meeting with Mike Kaciubskij (Project Manager) and Joanne Frear (Sustainable Travel Officer) of Knowsley Council.

- Planning application – April/May 2021.
- Approval – August 2021.
- Work on site – September 2021.
- Completion – December 2021.
- Some remedial work on trees – one on Fox’s Bank Lane
- Path wide – 5-meter wide.
- A 100-year land lease signed about 5 years ago.
- A small piece of land in ‘Old Penny Lane’ to be resolved.
- An ecological survey to be carried out – findings to be implemented.
- The path would be adopted by Knowsley Council and under the jurisdiction of the Police.
- A new crossing at a straighter stretch of Fox’s Bank Lane
- A future site meeting – more plans would be provided.
- The path will be fenced – side to be decided.

After, whether the cyclepath would be a Right of Way and the type of gate for all users including wheelchair users at the path access were also raised.

(c) **Dog fouling** – The complaint received to be referred to Knowsley Council for action.

(d) **An additional CCTV for Tue Lane/Penny Lane** - Councillor R Gaffney to follow-up.

(e) **Uneven pavement outside Cronton chippy** – A survey to be carried out by Knowsley Council.

66. CRONTON NEWSLETTER

Suggested topic(s) for the next issue:

- Task updates – Councillor S Cooper

The meeting closed at 8.17 pm

Signed _____ Date 12 April 2021