

CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING



Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING** held on **13 February 2023** at 7.00 pm at the Parish Council Office, 7 Hampton Drive, Cronton.

Present: Councillors (Chair), D Rostance, (Vice Chair) R Hayes, J Foran, L Terry, D Thomas, W. Cook, and R Fielding

In attendance: Ward Councillor Ron Gaffney (Whiston and Cronton)
Ward Cllr Denise Allen (Whiston and Cronton)
V Dooley - Disability Advisor

157. APOLOGIES

Cllr G McGann - Ill Health
Cllr T Byron – Prior Engagement
Karen Newton Clerk – Covid

It was RESOLVED that apologies received from Cllr G McGann, Cllr T Byron and Karen Newton Clerk, be accepted.

158. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest

159. MINUTES

It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 09/01/2022 as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

It was moved by Cllr. D Thomas and seconded by Cllr. J Foran and all **AGREED**.

160. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No Participation from the public

161. WARD CONCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Ron Gaffney was in attendance and advised that the - The Cycle Footpath Planning application went to the Planning Committee on the 12th January 2023. He was the only person who voted against this and felt disappointed with respect to the high-quality objections and that Mark Pullan, a resident of Cronton spoke eloquently for 3 minutes but Cllr Gaffney didn't feel this was enough time regarding this issue. Cllr Gaffney felt this was close and didn't feel the reasons **FOR** were justified as the reasons **AGAINST** were stronger, however this was passed. There are 3 groups of opposition councillors and not one person turned up. Everyone at the meeting voted, no one abstained.

Cllr Rosanne Hayes listened to the meeting and felt that Richard Thorpes speech in favor was weak, she felt that because they have the funds to do this project they were going ahead regardless of any objections.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Gaffney', is located in the bottom left corner of the page.

Cllr Gaffney commented the only positive to come out of this was that the park on the colliery site and the link would have the work completed on it. Where the crossing is going will be in the middle of the lake, when it rains this gets quite full so the crossing will not get used. There will also be issues with the brook ongoing. The Gentleman from the Liverpool echo commented that it was a footpath to nowhere as it goes through Upton Rocks and crosses a bridge over the M62. Cllr Gaffney commented that the bridge is a high-risk suicide risk area. Smooth newts and Bats have been found in the area but this has been ignored and work continues. Cllr Gaffney feels that the work will not be started for years rather than months.

Anti-Social Behavior – this issue was ignored. Cllr Gaffney had received a letter from a resident whose mother lives in Pex Hill and she is afraid of going out, he will speak to the police regarding the issue. This has also been passed to the neighborhood watch Cllr Rosanne Hayes to take forward. Cllr David Rostance commented that there is more of an issue with the quarry in school holidays when the youngsters seem to congregate there, he monitors the quarry and can always tell by the amount of litter there is when it is being used. Cllr Rosanne Hayes that there had been a fire in one of the small lanes off the quarry so there is evidence that people have been there.

Foxes Bank Lane – After 2 years is now open so should start to alleviate the traffic problems.

162. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(a) **Policing in Cronton** – Cllr D Rostance - Occasional police van has been spotted he isn't aware of any issues.

Cllr Lianne Terry and Cllr Rosanne Hayes reported issues around Pex Hill on the Sunday evening. Thoughts were that there had been a drug raid in Rainhill and they spilled out into Pex Hill. There was Helicopter present and several police cars, police on foot with dogs searching the fields. Vehicles had been stopped.

(b) **Transportation in Cronton** – Cllr G McGann - No updates.

(c) **Environment** – Cllr D Rostance – No issues at present apart from litter around. Cllr D Rostance and Cllr J Foran to clear wreaths from the cenotaph early March. Cllr D Rostance to also arrange litter pick in March.

163. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No Planning Applications.

164. CYCLE PROJECT

Cllr D Rostance reminded the Council that the Cycle path was approved at the council. He feels that the deterioration of Cronton over the next 10 years will come down to the 4000 houses being built around the Cronton area so the impact of the Cycle path will be negligible in comparison. Cllr David Thomas commented on the paving and the signage and feels that the Council needs check regular what is happening with these as the project goes ahead so that it is appropriate and safe.

165. BUDGET CONTROL REPORT

The Budget report was noted and **AGREED**

Cllr D Thomas doesn't fully understand the report and has asked if he can get some clarification from Karen Newton. Cllr W Cook and Cllr D Thomas agrees as this is quite new and different to Vitti's spreadsheets.

It was **RESOLVED** Cllr D Thomas would have some training on the new budget control sheet with Karen a date to be arranged.

166. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

It was **RESOLVED** that payments as listed in Appendix B be noted and approved.

167. PRECEPT 23/24

Cllr D Rostance discussed the use of the council office, reducing the Council meetings from 15 a year for a small council down to 11 what Cllr G McCann has suggested and will take to the next meeting. Cllr Rostance commented that the council office is only utilized 9 days a year in hours. He feels there is no justification to put a landline or internet in the Council building. There was a discussion around the cost and the need for the council to have a base.

Cllr Will Cook commented about needing a base to hold private meetings. Cllr Rosanne Hayes commented that the meetings are public. Cllr D Rostance feelings were more around justifying having the WIFI and telephone not closing the council office as this is also used for archive purposes. He suggested getting in more community groups to utilize the building and helping toward the cost.

It was **RESOLVED** that to help the parishioners, Cronton Parish Council have decided to set the parish tax per Band-D equivalent property for 2023/24 at the rate of £50.66 this is a 1.65% increase over 2022/2023. This has been achieved by making extra savings on individual budgets and using the Reserve, which continues to be kept at a prudent amount. The level of service will not be compromised.

168. BANK ACCOUNT SIGNATORIES

Cllr Rosanne had received an email to supply ID to become a signatory, Cllr D Thomas wasn't sure he had.

Cllr Will Cook commented he is the only trustee of the Cronton Parochial Trust. He has requested more trustees.

It was **RESOLVED** that Karen Newton will set up the new trustee.

169. RESIGNATION AND CASUAL VACANCY

Cllr David Rostance formally resigned as of Monday 16th February, he will return to hand over the Chairman at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 9th May 2023.

He discussed advertising for a new for a new Councillor. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Rosanne Hayes (Vice Chair) would Chair all Council Meetings up to the Annual Meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr R Hayes to Chair the Council meetings and that Karen Newton. (Clerk) will issue the Vacancy notice to KMBC

170. THE PASTURE MASTERPLAN

Cllr David Rostance received an email from Philip Hurst that has been circulated.

Green Flag inspection - There will be an inspection of the Pasture, Cllr Rosanne Hayes said there is already a notice on the noticeboard to say the inspection has already been done and has been passed. Cllr D Rostance will do an inspection and a litter pick of the



pasture tomorrow. Cllr David Rostance, Cllr John Foran and Cllr Rosanne Hayes will be at the pasture at 11am on Wednesday to meet the inspectors.

There's been an update with regards to extra funding for the pasture, there are routes that the Cycleway will affect the pasture so public facilities will benefit from that investment.

171. Taylor Wimpey

Cllr David Rostance – No movement what so ever on this development. He had emailed the owner of the Parklands to see if they had received any updates but had not received a reply to date.

172. MALC

No Updates

173. VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY MATTERS

(a) Cronton Gala to hold the Gala on the 9th September 2023 on the Pasture.

(b) HGV Signs at the junctions of Cronton Road with Smithy Lane, Hall Lane, and Tue Lane replies received from Paul Barker, Cllr David Thomas feels no reference was made to the small signs that are not really visible so he will draft a reply.

(c) Defibrillators – The community Centre donated towards their defibrillator – Check if its theirs or ours and who needs to replace the pads. Council to look at getting training - defibrillator course. Check with Shaun Cooper who did the courses.

174. Newsletter

Move publication to April/May 2023

175.

EXEMPT ITEM

It was RESOLVED that Karen Newton Cronton Parish Clerk Position to be approved into a permanent position and the Merseyside Pension Scheme to be reinstated all **AGREED**

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Signed



Date

13/02/2022