

2010/05

Meeting of Cropthorne Parish Council held on Monday 1st June 2009 in the Village School 7:30pm.

1. APOLOGIES

Present were	Chair Hughes (9-18)	WDC Cllr T McDonald
	V/chair Annis (1-8)	WCC Cllr E Eyre
	Cllr T Meikle	Parishioners - 1
	Cllr M West	Clerk R J Coles
	Cllr J Meredith	
	Cllr J King	

The Parish Council has been given permission to co-opt for its current vacancy.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr King – Personal and prejudicial interest as Chair of Village Hall Committee.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cllr Meredith proposed, seconded by Cllr West, and the meeting agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 11th May 2009 be accepted and signed by V/chair.

4. FLOODING – JULY 2007 – AFTERMATH

- a) WDC grant of £1,000 is still being considered covering about three potential possibilities.
- b) The latest Cropthorne Flood Plans from WDC have been circulated to councillors.
- c) Cllr Meikle via the Clerk has registered a potential project for WDC to consider as part of their £5000/parish additional real work schemes.

5. POLICING

PC Stuart Toms reported that there were 22 crimes (up from 13 the year before) made up of 0 burglary dwellings, 5 burglaries non-dwellings, 3 vehicles, 2 assaults and 12 other incidences. All were considered reasonably low-level items and compares with Fladbury 14, Charlton 18 and Wick 10. Norton & Lenchwick had 81 but there is a large distortion due to the 'Twyford' effect. A recent spate of vandalism seems to have stopped after police intervention in the area.

6. CHARITIES - nothing

7. VILLAGE HALL – Cllrs King & Meikle reported back that as members of the Village Hall Management Committee had to be trustees, adding Cllr Meikle did nothing to clarify the Standards Board issue. Chair Hughes later agreed to talk to Charlton PC Chair Brian Browne (who is also Standards Chair for Wychavon) on how Charlton addressed the issue.

The meeting continued, as there was no request to address the council.

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S / DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

WCC Cllr Eyre indicated activity was minimal pending the current elections. She was active in the WMRSS particularly around schools as school age (or approved activities – college, job, apprentice) was being raised from current 16 to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015. It is proposed that all service providers (schools, WCC, WDC, police, health etc) to the 14-19 age group get together in consortia to ensure that no children slip through the net and that standards are significantly improved, with no gaps or duplications, and a modern career service, locally based, is brought back in after recent government failures to centralise. Footways budgets and allocations by parish will soon be underway.

WDC Cllr McDonald reported that the £10.9 million Evesham Leisure Centre was on time and budget and would do Wychavon proud, being a fantastic investment in activities. Swine flu continues to be monitored and planned for. There has been a

problem with a steep rise in benefit claims and changes during the current economic crisis and backlogs are being addressed particularly where landlord issues could escalate.

Both WCC Cllr & WDC Cllr had attended a WMRSS discussion at the Joint Core Strategy formation of Malvern Hills, Worcester City and Wychavon. There is still a major difference of opinions with rural wanting urban development prioritised and urban areas wanting the rural areas to take far too many houses. Concerns were expressed that large national house builders, who can only build large bland estates are having too much influence on planning officers in the chasing of such large numbers. Small builders should be part of the process for sympathetic designs of low numbers in the rural villages. County and district officers showed serious knowledge gaps with the aim being to complete the exercise rather than to do it properly. Concerns over no windfall building allowances for 10 years were raised as a serious issue in the area. Even some of the urban sites would cause local problems as being too far away from their town centres and 2007/08/09 numbers of houses being built were unknown.

9. MATTERS ARISING

a) Clerk's Contract – V/chair Annis requested the item be carried forward.

10. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

It was noted that the Cropthorne village accessibility score was rather arbitrary and could change status quickly with say the addition of a shop at the village hall. A change of current category from 3 through to 1 could lead to 30 – 70 new houses being allocated via the WMRSS directives rather than the current mainly low numbers of affordable housing and some windfall infilling.

11. LENGTHSMAN

The clerk presented a report covering April & May activity that cost £129 and is funded by WCC. This report is on the notice board.

12. **PARISH PLAN** – Action list will be circulated with next meeting's agenda and responsibilities will be discussed.

13. PLANNING

a) **W/09/00849/PP** – Mr Carver, Silver Rill House, Overbury, Tewkesbury for Southern Court, Main St – Provide two car garage extension and a detached two car garage – A no objection response was filed and a decision is awaited.

14. FINANCE/PRECEPTING

a) Cllr Meikle proposed, seconded by Cllr King, and the meeting agreed acceptance of the Bank/Balance Schedule for 01/06/09, including renegotiated insurance premium and the late lengthsman's invoice.

b) Payments approved from above

			£
503	4	CPRE	canx-err
504	5	Allianz Insurance	337.15
505	6	Clerk Sal, all May	144.47
506	7	Lengthsman	129.00

c) V/chair Annis proposed, seconded by Cllr Meredith, and the meeting agreed to accept The Statement of Accounts for audit approval and Clerk and Chair signed off.

d) V/chair Annis proposed, seconded by Cllr Meredith, and the meeting agreed to accept The Annual Governance statement duly completed in the affirmative for audit compliance and Clerk and Chair signed off.

2010/07

15. WEBSITE

Cllr Meredith will approach as many of the voluntary organisations within the village to meet with Chris Hall to agree an approach to the village website. It was suggested that John Agg be involved and the issue of long-term ownership will be investigated.

16. CORRESPONDENCE - nothing

17. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

a) The Clerk was asked to contact Severn Trent's lawyers to see if a property representative could be contacted with regards to their claim and intentions over Baldwin's Bank. It has always been the Parish Council's objective to protect the area in its current state as an important feature of the village.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of Cropthorne Parish Council is on Monday 6th July 2009 7:30pm at the Village School. Any items for inclusion on the agenda and proposed corrections to the minutes must be with the Clerk by Sunday 28th June 2009.

Chair closed the meeting at 09:20pm.

Signed(Chair)

Date