

Meeting of Cropthorne Parish Council held on Monday 3rd December 2012 in the Village Hall 7:30pm.

1. APOLOGIES

Present were	Chair R Annis	0 parishioners
	V/chair T Meikle	CSO Simon Hall
	Cllr E Stoodley	WDC Cllr T McDonald
	Cllr M West	Clerk R J Coles

Apologies received from Cllrs Hardy, King & Segar and WCC Cllr Eyre.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

V/chair Meikle proposed, seconded by Cllr West, and the meeting agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 12th November 2012 be accepted and signed by chair.

4. BANNER HOMES Re SWDP 25-01 Blacksmiths Lane to address Parish Council
(Subsequently withdrawn)

5. FLOODING – JULY 2007 AFTERMATH & 2012 CURRENT

- a) WDC grant of £1,000 is still being considered.
- b) Cllr Meikle reported there had been no further development on the second additional ditch at Patty's Farm bend and action by WCC was awaited.
- c) The on-going problem of road flooding at Patty's Farm bend will require a multi-agency (PC/WDC/WCC/EA) approach to solve. Additional new flows have appeared during the recent floods and a review of the Parish Plan by V/chair Meikle is in order to see what if any additional consultation is necessary to address what may be a continuing worsening situation if climate change effects persist.

6. POLICING – contacts are PC Dave Shortell & CSO Simon Hall (03003 333000 Ext 3408/3499)
(Also new less urgent 101 services complement 999 emergencies)
(Neighbourhood Watch contacts are Sue Miller – 860 201, Angela Henderson – 860 683)

CSO Hall reported that there had been cases of stable break-ins on Field Barn Lane near the B4084 end with equine equipment the target. He is also going to revamp the Neighbourhood Watch scheme within the village in order to increase its effectiveness.

7. CHARITIES - none

8. VILLAGE HALL (to include Sheppey Play Projects & Village Library/Coffee mornings)

Cllr King provided the following Village Hall update via the clerk. The quiz fund raising event on Saturday went well with very good attendance. On environmental issues the Ground Source Heat Pump or RHI (Renewable Heat Incentive) application to OFGEM has been accepted, backdated to October. The current earnings to date are approximately £500. That represents a saving of 1000L of diesel oil and a saving of over 2 Tonnes of CO2. Since September our PVs have generated just over 1900 kWh of electricity and the feed in tariff (FIT) will pay us £320 for this. We have not yet been able to work out how much we have sold back to the grid or used ourselves, as western Power have yet to fit an import/export electricity meter.

The meeting continued as there were no parishioners present.

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

WDC Cllr McDonald asked that all parishes when considering NHB (New Homes Bonus) project to be prepared to consider multi parish initiatives projects and possibly school, non-educational, projects. Although the flood were nowhere near as bad as 2007 flood schemes and emergency services had resulted in the expected improvements in the protection of properties. He also noted that the EA were giving grants to individuals to help alleviate their problems. Cropthorne School has agreed to sign the Lower Croft entrance to the school in order to stop nuisance parking by parents.

10. MATTERS ARISING

- a) WCC Footpath Warden – Clerk will talk to the warden re Croft footpath problem.
- b) Safety issues of Bus markings & speed stickers – The Parish Council has withdrawn its support for providing householders with speed signs on their wheelie bins after consultation with the councillors. Two proposals for yellow lines at the village hall/ bus stop were considered and it was agreed by majority vote that three lines be requested, one either side of the village hall main entrance and another from the bus stop as far as the end of the southern tip of the triangle opposite. This latter line being omitted from the unsuccessful proposal. The clerk will contact WCC Highways Safety Officer Roy Fullee.

11. SOCIAL HOUSING - none

12. LENGTHSMAN – Clerk circulated Aug/Sep/Oct report.

The clerk and lengthsman were asked to inspect the row of trees on the Brook Lane verge with the problems of overhang and dead trees needing addressing.

13. PARISH PLAN – priority continues with Sheppey Play Project & Community Projects above.

It was noted from above that the Parish Plan may need ‘dusting’ off with regards to developing flooding issues.

14. PLANNING

Mid-Croft Land Project – Chair reported that little would happen until the SWDP, or alternative, was agreed by WDC in the near future.

15. FINANCE/PRECEPTING

- a) V/chair Meikle proposed, seconded by Chair Annis, that the Bank/Balance Schedules for 03/12/12 be accepted and sign by chair.
- b) Payments approved from above £

638	27	clerk dec sal/all paye	123.04
639	28	HMRC paye	80.40
640	29	Lengthsman aug-oct	147.15

- c) Cllr Stoodley proposed, seconded by Cllr West, and the meeting agreed to set the Precept at £5150 for 2013/14. It was noted by the clerk that the whole Council Tax system was changing ‘as we speak’ with its final outcome unclear to all but with a small chance that it could cause some future problems. The clerk was asked to write to the church wardens in order to clear up the £1000 reserve for restoring the remainder of the church wall within a reasonable timescale or returning the reserve to general balances by April 2014. The status of the church clock will also be sought after.

16. WEBSITE - none

17. CORRESPONDENCE - none

18. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

Chair raised the issue of the Lower Croft lay out and the problem it causes with vehicle access to a number of properties. The large green area would appear to be owned by WCC who were due to start some works in the area the details of which will be sought from WCC Cllr Eyre.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING(s)

The next Meeting of Cropthorne Parish Council is on **Monday 7th January 2013 7:30pm** at the **Village Hall**. Any items for inclusion on the agenda and proposed corrections to the minutes must be with the Clerk by Sunday 30th December 2012.

Chair closed the meeting at 09:35pm.

Signed (Chair) Date.....