

Annual Meeting of Cropthorne Parish Council held on Monday 10th May 2010 in the Village School 7:30pm.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

V/chair Annis opened the meeting in the absence of Chair Hughes who had passed on his willingness to stand again if no other councillor was interested. There being no other interest indicated Cllr Meikle proposed, seconded by Cllr King, and the meeting agreed to re-elect Chair Hughes.

2. RECEIVE CHAIR'S ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The clerk was asked to inform Chair Hughes and make the necessary arrangements for his second term.

3. APOLOGIES

Present were	V/chair Annis (meeting chair)	WDC Cllr T McDonald
	Cllr T Meikle	WCC Cllr E Eyre
	Cllr M West	
	Cllr J Meredith	Parishioner 0
	Cllr J King	Clerk R J Coles

Apologies were received from Chair Hughes and Cllr Segar.

4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR, PLANNING COMMITTEE, FINANCE GROUP, RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER, INTERNAL AUDITOR AND VILLAGE HALL REPRESENTATIVES.

Cllr Meikle proposed, seconded by Cllr King that V/chair Annis stay as V/chair and the meeting agreed.

It was agreed that the Planning Committee would stay as the full membership of the Parish Council. It was agreed that the current Finance Group of V/chair Annis, Cllrs Meredith and Meikle with Chair available if necessary would continue as is.

It was agreed that the RFO position would remain with the Clerk as before.

It was agreed that Mr John R Welch of Orchard Rise, Main St would continue as internal auditor through to the end of 2010/11 financial cycle at least.

It was agreed that with Cllrs King and Segar being on the Village Hall Management Committee already no further representation was required and it was noted that there was a potential issue with the Standards Board of England and that it would continue to be carefully managed. There have been indications that this is a common issue which may be redressed in the near future.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

6. CONSIDER GRANTS AND RESERVES

Grants budgeted for 2010/11 includes £1650 for Playing Field maintenance (previously Sheppey mowing) and playground actual expenditures that may be re-designated to help the Sheppey Play Area.

The Council's balances and reserves at the end of 2009/10 were: -

Long Term Reserves	£ 500	10% of precept/regular spend
	£1000	one election
	£3500	legal ability to act quickly – total £5000
Commitments	£3500	Village Hall refurbishment
	£1000	Church Wall (Cllr Meredith to update)
	£ 310	2 off dog bins
	£1050	Flood grants to pass on
	£ 473	Comm 1 st /Pplan

Leaving free balances of £1170.81 with a precept of £3720 for 2010/11.

It was proposed by Cllr Meredith, seconded by Cllr Meikle, and agreed by the meeting that the above balances and reserves were confirmed and accepted by the Parish Council.

7. CONSIDER RENEWAL OF INSURANCE FROM 01.06.10 AND AUTHORISE PAYMENT.

It was proposed by Cllr Meredith, seconded by Cllr West, and agreed by the meeting that the insurance quote from AoN/Allianz be accepted at £361.82, a 7% increase.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cllr King proposed, seconded by Cllr West, and agreed by the meeting that the minutes for the meeting of 1st March 2010 be accepted and signed by meeting chair.

9. FLOODING – JULY 2007 - AFTERMATH

- a) WDC grants of £1,050 carried forward.
- b) Patty's Farm scheme (WDC £2500 grant) carried forward.

10. POLICING – contact is PC Stuart Toms (08457 444888/03003 333000)

Main policing issue at the moment is opportunistic theft from parked cars – HIDE IT OR LOSE IT – particularly around Harvington recently.

11. CHARITIES – nothing – Please note PC Notice board at School has details.

12. VILLAGE HALL – including Sheppey Play Project

Refurbishment Project is already delayed awaiting a type 3 asbestos survey that was six weeks late. Even after newsletters, open evenings and Five Alive there are still parishioners who claim they know nothing about this major project. A further two villages newsletter is planned together with signage at the site.

Cllr Segar and Tony King are due to meet with WDC planning officer to move the Play Project forward. The issue of post implementation costs and funding needs addressing particularly after the last similar project caused divisions between the 'then' Parish Council and the 'more recent' Parish Council.

The meeting continued as there were no parishioners present.

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

WCC Cllr Eyre asked for help and involvement from the Parish Council when the Census 2011 is carried out, correct data is very important as government money follows the data. Although the County Council is busy, particularly as they are now looking at £60m of cuts over three years, up from £45m, there is a feeling of frustration as much of expenditure is driven by national policies which in the uncertainty of who is governing, what are the policies going to be?

WDC Cllr McDonald lodged two reports to be included in the circulation pack. The first covered Challenges & Opportunities, Working to improve Rural Play Initiatives, Overall Crime reduction in Wychavon, Neighbourhood Wardens continued support of Vulnerable Residents and Supporting the Arts in Wychavon. The second covered election turnout, went well and feedback welcomed; Steven Jordan move from WDC Environmental Services Head to WCC Regulatory Services under new WETT Programme (part unitary authority?); Community Planning Event on Monday 7th June 3:15-6:30pm for Cllrs, PC's and Parish Plan groups to learn about plans and design statement; new play area at Abbey Park, Evesham and finally a new Parks Contractor to save £30,000 a year.

14. MATTERS ARISING

- a) Land behind Lower Croft – Clerk reported that there was no current major problem to what has been going on for years.

15. SOCIAL HOUSING

The situation with regards to additional social housing in Cropthorne has recently been made fractious following two events, namely: -

- 1 – indications that a planning application for 12 houses will be made by Festival Housing of Malvern with WDC withholding the site information, and

2 – A sudden decision by officers within the SWJCS to re-categorise the village from 3 (extra housing – local social needs only) to 2 (allocated 30 houses ‘free for all’ for developers) using no better information but by arbitrarily changing the rules.

The number of houses supported by the Parish Council following the Parish Plan is 4-6 but the developers want to build as many as possible to keep cost down so 12 is considered the minimum.

Following an extensive discussion it was agreed that as many of the Parish Council get together as possible under Chair Hughes to visit all the sites in the SWJCS January 2010 week commencing 17th May for an evening (not a Wednesday), ensuring all 14 original affordable housing sites are covered as well to produce a site by site strategy analysis in time for the next parish council meeting with WDC/SWJCS in attendance. To date local Conservative representatives have indicated that they would tear up this top-down, politically driven, central government, 3 million extra houses (SWJCS part of) exercise if there was a Tory administration, but this is now in serious doubt!

16. LENGTHSMAN - nothing

17. PARISH PLAN – priority continues with Sheppey Play Project above.

18. PLANNING

- a) **W/10/00143/PN – Mr J Turner, Environmental Agency, Sentinel House, Wellington Crescent, Fradley Park, Lichfield Staffs WS13 8RR – Extension of existing landing stage, new ferry cable and landing stages, canoe access and egress ramps** – A filing supporting Fladbury Parish Council and Crophorne Mill tenants views has been filed due to the site dislocation from Crophorne in general and a decision is awaited (see below****).
- b) **W/10/00139/PP – Mrs Hopley, Mead House, Brook Lane – First floor extension to provide two additional bedrooms** – A no objection response has been filed and permission has been granted.
- c) **W/09/02969/CU – Rev Spencer, Holland House Charitable Trust, Main St – Change of use of part of domestic dwelling to meeting room** - A no objection response has been filed and permission has been granted.
- d) **W/09/01992/CU – Mrs W Crowe, Longacre, Station Rd, Fladbury – Construction and change of use of riverbank for boat moorings, slipway and hard standing** – A filing listing a large number of concerns together with support for Fladbury Parish Council and Crophorne Mill objections has been filed due to the site dislocation from Crophorne in general and a decision is awaited. Subsequently a request to withdraw the application has been made in response to Environmental Agency letter.
- e) **W/10/00447/PP – Mr M Powell, Drumearn, Blacksmiths Lane - Variation of condition 2 of planning permission W/09/02545/PP to allow work to take place at weekends.** – Technical concerns over timescales and supervision of relaxed conditions have been lodged and are supported by Environmental Services. A decision placing some restrictions has been granted.
- f) **W/10/00657/PP – Mr A Dryden, 10 Middle Lane - Erection of a garage** – Technical concerns over public notification and concerns over height and raised windows have been lodged. A decision is awaited.
- g) **W/10/00143/PN – Environment Agency, Fladbury Weir - AMENDMENT Reduction in extension from 21m to 12m** - A filing supporting Fladbury Parish Council and Crophorne Mill tenants continued objections has been lodged due to the site dislocation from Crophorne in general and a decision from the Planning Development Committee is awaited (see above****).
- h) **W/10/00659/PN – Mrs D Conners, Severn Acres, Main Rd – Retrospective application for fence and pillars with iron gates** – An objection was filed particularly with regards to any permanency on a temporary site, subsequently an **AMENDMENT** to the title covering this part of the objection has been made. A decision is awaited.

SWJCS/SHLAA January 2010 report and subsequent re-categorisation of village development to 2 from 3 which has major consequences on additional housing allocations (affordable housing need only to 30 general units) was covered above in the Social Housing section.

19. FINANCE/PRECEPTING

- a) Cllr Meredith proposed, seconded by Cllr Meikle, and the meeting agreed to accept the Bank/Balance Schedules for 31/03/10 & 10/05/09 for approval and signature by meeting chair.
- b) Payments approved from above

			£
526	1	AON Insurance	361.82
527	2	CALC sub	219.66
528	3	Clerk Sal, all	149.84

2011/04

20. **WEBSITE** - carried forward to June.

21. **CORRESPONDENCE**

4th March 2010

1	WCC	Let the library come to you
2	CALC	Update 2 28/01/10
3	EHS	Newsletter Dec 09
4	EHS	Newsletter Jan 10
5	WDC Cllr TM	Report Feb meeting
6	NSPCC	Helpline
7	Comm 1 st	Newsline Winter 2010
8	CALC	Update 3 05/02/10
9	CALC	Update 4 11/02/10
10	WCC	Community Greenspace Team
11	WCC	Tree Warden Scheme
12	CALC	Update 5 22/02/10
13	CALC/NALC	2010 Model Standing Orders
14	WCC Cllr EE	Report for Mar meeting
15	WDC Cllr TM	Report for Mar meeting
16	CALC	Update 6 03/03/10
17	WDC Cllr TM	Round-up March 10

19th April 2010

1	C&C	Direct March 2010
2	Wychavon Sport	AGM minutes
3	C&Cvhall	Minutes 11/01/10
4	CALC Update	7 11/03/10
5	WDC	Draft Residential Design Guide
6	WCC Cllr Eyre	Ward report March
7	CALC Update	8 22/03/10
8	C&Cvhall	Minutes 08/03/10
9	CAB	Grant request
10	NALC	Conferences – Localism in Action
11	PHS	Newsletter March/April
12	WCC	Partnership matters Spring 10
13	CALC Update	9 01/04/10
14	WCC	Green Wood & West Wood Children's centres
15	CALC Update	10 08/04/10
16	SWJCS	SHLAA January 2010 published
17	CALC Update	11 15/04/10
18	WCC responses	Parish Conference

22. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION**

- a) A village shop exercise is part of the Lottery application for funding the Village Hall. This has not moved forward since Mrs Whittington left the parish a year ago. Chris Watts is trying to re-launch and has been advised by 'The Plunkett Foundation' that a Parish Councillor could head up the steering group. This will be added to June's agenda. It was also noted that a village shop could work against the parish with regards to the current housing allocations in the SWJCS detailed above.
- b) The Walk to School project has arisen again and involves the Sheppey and the footpath from Blacksmiths Lane and Middle Lane. There are issues with access from the Sheppey across Blacksmiths Lane with a poor set of steps in place (land owned by Sheppey/Highways unclear) and an 'unofficial' dangerous cut through nearer the junction with Main Street. Cllr Eyre agreed to take up the issue with County and also inspect the site.
- c) An event run by the police supporting 'Help the Heroes' is due on Sunday 13th June.
- d) Chair Hughes, V/Chair Annis and Cllr Meikle (or Cllr Segar) are meeting with Strickland's at the Heath Works to be appraised of a major impending industrial building. It was noted that there are still outstanding issues on the legality of some of the site.

23. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)**

The next Meeting of Cropthorne Parish Council is on Monday 7th June 2010 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 30th May 2010.

Chair closed the meeting at 09:35pm. Signed(Chair)

Date