CROPTHORNE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Monday 12th April 2010 in Cropthorne and Charlton Village School at 7.30pm

Present:	A Hughes	WCC Cllr E Eyre
	M West	
	J King	
	T Meikle	

 $\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{I} = \mathbf{C} + \mathbf{C} + \mathbf{C} + \mathbf{C}$

In Attendance:	K J Coles (Clerk)	6 Parismoners

Copies of the Agenda, last years minutes and the provisional Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2010 were available to all present.

(D. 11)

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

T--- A 44 - --- I - --- - ---

- 2. Apologies were received from V/chair Annis, Cllr Meredith, Cllr Segar, Hilary Hall, John Ayliffe and WDC Cllr McDonald.
- 3. The minutes from the meeting on 6th April 2009, having been previously circulated and corrected for minor spelling mistakes and surnames, were proposed for signing as a true record by Cllr Meikle, seconded by Cllr King and agreed for Chair's signature.
- 4. As there were no matters arising from the minutes the meeting continued.
- 5. Since the joint WDC/CPC Affordable Housing identification of 14 sites adjacent to the development boundary, all have been 'rejected' by WCC Highways (11), WDC Conservation (2) and CPC (1 garages in Lower Croft/rear of school). A further walkabout by councillors is expected to take place in June. An invitation to enter into joint talks with WDC, facilitated by Community First (Nigel Potter) with regards to a potential way forward and possible application from a provider is being considered. In the interim the Parish Council having been assured that it was a Category 3 parish under the regional spatial strategy (i.e. affordable housing local need only) has been informed that a technical sub committee in South Worcestershire has changed its criteria to move the parish up to category 2 (i.e. village sufficient to take a substantial allocation of about 30 mixed houses if possible). The Parish Council will be investigating what is going on. Fladbury have also been treated to the same sudden arbitrary change.
- 6. Chair Hughes presented and explained the annual accounts for 2009/10. The precept now represents a mix of about half in administration and half to the Village Hall and Sheppey. It was proposed by Cllr Meikle and seconded by Cllr West that the Receipts and Payments Provisional Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2010, having been previously circulated, be approved for onward auditing and finalisation at the Parish Council Annual Meeting on Monday 10th May 2010.
- 7. Chair Hughes reported that there were currently 455 electors in 227 households representing a population of about 600. The parish's profile was for more cars, more elderly and younger persons compared to average. The year started with 6 councillors (Hughes, Annis, King, Meredith, Meikle and West) with one vacancy that was filled by co-option on 06/07/09 by Jane Segar. The main event of the year was undoubtedly the successful go-ahead of the village hall refurbishment for which the committee and Chair (Cllr) King are owed the thanks of the village

as the £350,000 raised represented £600 for every person in the parish. The 09/10 precept of £475 against costs of £4,400 represented a deliberate policy to reduce reserves as we entered a recession. The corresponding figures for 10/11 will be £3,720 and £4,400+contingencies. The WCC funded lengthsman continued with his specific highway's duties.

Cllr Meikle reported that flood work worth £2,500 to help water drain away in the culvert near Patty's Farm (Willow Tree removal, bend modifications and open ditching) has been agreed with WDC and it is now up to obtaining agreement with the local landowner. Further funds of £1,050 are also held for related flood work if identifiable. Planning continued at a low level with mostly alterations and garages however lately a major moorings development opposite Fladbury (but in Cropthorne Parish with Jubilee Bridge access) is being dealt with. The Parish Plan has been adopted by the Parish Council and should also be adopted by WDC on 22/04/10 as an information source.

Since joining the Parish Council, Cllr Segar has also joined the Village Hall Management Committee and has been very successful in obtaining grants towards replace old swings and providing new play/exercise equipment for the Sheppey/east. The whole exercise is currently going through public consultation with a planning application expected in due course.

8. Footpaths – Hilary Hall (860212) reported, "My apologies for absence. All footpaths have been walked this year. They are all clear although there was a great deal of bramble growth last summer. The worst footpath 513 from the main road past the old police house. I usually take my secateurs with me. Path 508 leading through a field to Cropthorne Heath has been cleared of brambles and a fallen tree, and self-closing gates installed each end of the field. Way mark signs remain a problem and are often broken or disappear altogether. I will be most grateful to anyone who finds any difficulties would let me know and I will do my best to rectify."

Charities – John Ayliffe (860011) reported, "Randolph Meakins, Patty's Farm & Widow Lye's Charity Annual Report 2009-10. As most of you are aware, the charity is a small village charity used for the benefits of the parishioners of Cropthorne.

- The income of the charity has once again been affected by the recession that has restricted funds available, although there are signs of this improving.
- The charity this year has seen a major change with the retirement of Gordon Cropper as a trustee. Gordon was one of the original trustees of the charity, which was set up in 1982, and was a co-opted member. In his time as a trustee, he had held the position of Chairman for several years. His knowledge of the village, which will be irreplaceable, has been invaluable. Mrs Sheila Castle who has become a co-operative trustee of the charity for the term of 4 years has taken his place on the committee.
- As in previous years, Tesco vouchers totalling £1,880 were distributed to the senior residents over the age of 70 years who have resided in the village for a minimum of 5 years. This again proved to be very popular. At last years AGM the Chair of the PC thought the term of residency to be 'potentially divisive' and as Chairman of the trust I said I would take this back to the committee to discuss. The result of which is that the trustees decided to leave the qualification requirement as it is, stating that the

charity is a small village one and although it would be preferable to widen the scope by bringing the qualifying period down, there would not be sufficient funds to support it year on year and other possible beneficiaries would lose out. However, the trustees did not rule out revisiting this again in future years.

- The trust also distributed a total of £450 to 15 students who approached the charity, and are in full time further education. Each received a cheque for £30 towards the cost of books.
- In June, £362 paid for a trip for senior citizens to the Butterfly Farm in Stratford upon Avon by coach returning to the village hall for afternoon teas. This was well received although the numbers were slightly disappointing. Residents who were not able to go on the trip were invited to the village hall for afternoon tea. As stated in previous reports, this is a bi-annual event.
- Several residents who were unfortunately hospitalised were given a small suitable gift. The welfare and another grant totalled £557.
- As you can see, the charity has distributed over £3,240 to several individuals and groups of residents, and although the charity is not immune to the financial problems of the world, we will endeavour to provide support to the residents of Cropthorne wherever we feel we can help."

Walkabout – Recent meeting indicated all was in place and only the potential weather was a concern.

Village Hall and Sheppey – Cllr King reported that Paula Stride has been lost to Australia but the (Cllr) Jane Segar had joined the committee and has not stopped working tirelessly for the Sheppey play area for the youth of the village. Neil Fairburn had returned to Northumberland so Marion was maintaining the tractor for the six new volunteers, including 3 PC councillors, to mow the field, which would probably require remedial work this year. This will be investigated after the walkabout usage. The tractor is old and temperamental and will need eventual replacement. Junior football makes good use of the free facilities whilst the two fee paying adult teams appear to be almost more problem than they are worth with complaints regarding litter, language etc needing to be addressed.

Refurbishment is fully funded and builders move in on 19^{th} April to start work on 26^{th} . The community shop aspect is dependent on someone reforming the steering group. The new hall will have 3 independent activity spaces and will be up to villagers to make use with existing and new activities as the committee provides the facilities. New funding via 200 club (ticket still available) and Xmas raffle well supported by local businesses raised £3500. Villagers' support at the AGM on Tuesday 20^{th} April in the School (Hall Shut!!) is welcomed. The re-opening of the hall is scheduled for 22/10/10, communication with the village via a newsletter/ web site connections also requesting ideas for expanding usage is planned.

9. As there was no other business raised Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.05pm

Signed:

Date:

Chairman