

CRONDALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on Monday 28th July 2014 in Crondall Church Rooms

- PRESENT:** Cllr D Argent (Vice Chairman) in the chair
Cllrs C Bryant, I Fortune, C Hebbbron, N Lambert, M Roberts
- APOLOGIES:** Cllrs C Dorn, E Groslin – Crondall Parish Council
Cllr K Crookes – Hart District Council
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllrs S Gorys, J Kennett (from 7.42pm) – Hart District Council
Mrs M Harris - Parish Clerk
3 members of the public
The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and ended at 9.14 pm

165/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

166/14 Minutes of 23rd June 2014 meeting

Cllr Lambert challenged the wording of Minutes 160/14 and 164/14, however his objection was overruled by the Chairman. The Minutes were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Bryant, seconded by Cllr Hebbbron and **AGREED** (3 in Favour:1 Against: 2 Abstentions by absence). The Chairman signed the Minutes.

167/14 Minutes of the 23rd June 2014 In Committee meeting

The In Committee Minutes were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Argent, seconded by Cllr Hebbbron and **AGREED** (4 in Favour:2 Abstentions by absence) as an accurate record. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

The Chairman sought Councillors' permission to bring forward Agenda Item 12 to be considered after the Matters Arising. This was agreed.

Matters arising from the 23rd June 2014 meeting not covered by the agenda

168/14 150/14 *Submission of the Annual Return*. The Clerk reported that this had been sent off in advance of the due date. A small number of queries had subsequently been raised and had been responded to, the Auditor's response to one of these was still awaited. Cllr Argent promised to update Council on progress in due course.

169/14 **155/14** *Stepping Stones Nursery*. It was reported that work was progressing in agreeing a formal agreement with Stepping Stones in accordance with the Heads of Terms agreed at the last Council meeting.

170/15 To consider the possibility of Council making a contribution towards clearing the Pond.

Mr Lloyd a local resident spoke to the Council explaining the background to the proposal and the necessity of the work proposed. Two photographs of the pond were displayed and a paper had previously been circulated. As the Environment Agency (EA) had stated that they were unable to assist with maintenance this year due to a lack of resources local residents wished to work together to dredge the pond, thus reducing the silt level and with the aim of

reducing the likelihood of blockages both at and 'downstream' of the overflow grille. Failure to undertake this work was, according to Mr Lloyd, likely to result in water flooding from the pond into Well Road and Pankridge Street with potential serious consequences for local householders. A quotation for a digger and driver had been obtained for £600. A further £50 was required for a Licence to be issued by the EA.

It was felt that the EA should be pressed on the £50 fee for a Licence to do work which was their responsibility.

During discussion concern was expressed that it is the existing vegetation that binds and stabilises the base and banks of the pond and that its inevitable removal during any dredging might actually have the perverse effect of making it more likely for material to enter the pipe leading away from the pond, resulting in possible blockages further down the system..

Mr Lloyd insisted that the EA biodiversity officer had stated that there was no reason why the proposed work should not go ahead, furthermore the EA appeared willing to grant a Licence. He felt it was unlikely that the EA would be prepared to give a recommendation that what was proposed was the right course of action, but that issuing a Licence was a good indication.

Cllr Roberts, seconded by Cllr Fortune proposed that the Council support the project financially (for this year only), but only on receipt of some reasonable assurance from a respected source that this was an appropriate course of action. This was **AGREED** unanimously. The Clerk was tasked to investigate the matter further (and Cllr Kennett suggested a possible source of expertise).

171/14 Announcements from the Chairman, Clerk, and members questions received in advance.

There were no announcements.

172/14 District Councillors' Report.

Cllrs Gorys and Kennett introduced themselves. Cllr Gorys updated Council on the Local Plan. He advised that substantial work had been undertaken to create a revised Plan which would be out for consultation between August and October 2014, analysed by December and republished in 2015 followed by government interrogation. It is anticipated the Plan will be in place in the latter part of 2015. The impact of this delay is not too severe as Hart already has an agreed 5 year land supply.

Cllr Kennett advised that Hart was in good shape financially and had budgeted savings and reductions in administration (including staff), whilst retaining customer facing services, to put something back into reserves at the end of the year. The Chief Executive had recently left and a £120,000 saving per annum had been generated by promoting his two deputies into a job share role covering the CEO responsibilities. This was working well and there were no plans to change in the near future. It had recently been agreed to share Licensing services with a neighbouring local authority.

In response to Councillors' questions Cllrs Gorys and Kennett advised that the Planning department is fully staffed however the Conservation role remains shared with Hart receiving a relatively small proportion of this officer's time. Robert Jackson from Planning was reported to be working at East Hants 4 days a week for professional and career development purposes to the benefit of Hart. Other shared services e.g. Legal services were now working well with some of the legal team having desks at Hart. The funding and investment for the new leisure centre remains a major project.

173/14 Planning applications

Councillors referred to the report circulated in advance by Cllr Lambert and considered each application individually.

14/01381/HMC	9 Glebe Road Crondall	Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.
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A neighbour of the property adjoining the one under discussion drew Council's attention to the loss of light that he perceived he would suffer as a result of the new rear wall of the proposed extension and concerns about the boundary line between the two properties, as he felt the drawings were of insufficient quality to assess the true boundary.

Cllr Lambert and other Councillors expressed concerns about the proposed parking arrangements 'on the road' as this property was situated opposite a junction. Cllr Lambert confirmed that the parking proposed did not meet Hart's requirements.

Cllr Argent proposed **OBJECTION** *The rear extension will result in the material loss of light and amenity, due to the close proximity of the mass, length and height of the proposed rear extension on the adjoining property. Cars parked at this junction of Glebe Road and St Cross Road continually cause safety issues for children and parents. Fails to meet the Hart District Council car parking requirements.*

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Lambert and **AGREED** unanimously.

14/01491/FUL	Furney Copse Farm Crondall Road Crookham Village	Siting of Portakabin and mobile home for agricultural worker (Retrospective)
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Cllr Lambert proposed **NO OBJECTION** *subject to permission given for three years only.* This was seconded by Cllr Argent and **AGREED** unanimously.

14/01554/FUL	Clare Park Hospital Clare Park	Single storey extension to existing electrical switch room and relocation of generator fuel tank
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Cllr Lambert proposed **NO OBJECTION** *the Fuel tank to have a suitable bund.* This was seconded by Cllr Fortune and **AGREED** unanimously.

14/01374/HMC	Rose Cottage Pankridge Street Crondall	Erection of a picket fence along the front boundary with two gates. Erection of fences along the banks of the stream at the rear of the property with gates for maintenance.
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Cllr Lambert proposed **NO OBJECTION**. This was seconded by Cllr Bryant and **AGREED** unanimously.

Other Planning Matters

Cllr Lambert reported that he had that afternoon been advised of an application to site three more permanent pitches within the existing Traveller site. Cllr Lambert is seeking an extension of the period for the Council's response and if unsuccessful it may be necessary to call an extra Council meeting before the next scheduled meeting.

Cllr Lambert referred to a potential Enforcement issue at The Old House, Church Street.

Cllr Lambert reported that he had attended a meeting on the Local Plan where the future housing needs in Hart were revealed alongside a number of options as to where the dwellings, 395 per annum until 2032, might be built.

174/14 Update on the Parish Council's new website.

The Clerk reported that the website had now been live for almost three weeks. She and the Chairman had received a number of compliments and no requests for changes. The Chairman and Clerk had received a brief training session and were now learning how to make amendments and add additional items. Council agreed that it was important to keep the website up to date.

175/14 Dates for Parish Council meetings in 2015.

Council discussed the list of dates previously circulated and these were agreed.

176/14 Use of the Farnham Road Recreation Ground

The paper previously circulated was discussed. In response to a question the Clerk confirmed that Fleet Albion wished to continue using the pitch for the 2014-15 season. Cllr Lambert expressed concern about the pitch being over used. This was not felt to be a problem but would be kept under review. Cllr Argent proposed acceptance of the previously circulated paper and its recommendations, this was seconded by Cllr Roberts and **AGREED** (5 In Favour: 1 Against).

177/14 Update on the Playground refurbishment

It was reported by the Clerk that the tender documentation had been amended in line with Council's discussions and had then been sent out to nine playground providers. One had declined to tender 'on this occasion' and six had made arrangements to visit the site to take measurements and review the tender proposal in situ. Tender responses are due by 20th August 2014. Councillors Dorn, Groslin, Roberts and the Clerk were thanked for their work on this project.

178/14 Finance - Payments and Purchases to be Made.

Acceptance of the 'payments to be made' report was proposed by Cllr Roberts seconded by Cllr Bryant and **AGREED** unanimously.

The 'purchases to be made' report was reviewed and there was some discussion around the proposed purchase of a tree guard for the Jubilee Oak. It was subsequently agreed to remove this from the list of proposed purchases. Subject to this amendment Cllr Argent proposed, seconded by Cllr Lambert that these purchases be made. This was **AGREED** (5 In Favour: 1 Abstention).

179/14 Finance – Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure to end June 2014.

The Balance sheet and Income and Expenditure Report were **NOTED and ADOPTED**.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

180/14 *Estates report.*

Cllr Bryant spoke to his report previously circulated.

Various ideas were suggested regarding staking / protecting the Jubilee oak and it was agreed that Cllr Bryant would discuss these with Sean (including the possible use of an existing tree guard no longer needed in its present location). Cllr Bryant brought forward a quotation (recently obtained) for the necessary repairs to the Hook Meadow vehicular entrance. Whilst Council felt that this was good value they remained hopeful that HCC would repair the area. It was agreed that Cllr Argent would approach HCC prior to the next Council meeting to try to secure a firm date for this work, otherwise the Council would go ahead and complete it.

Cllr Bryant reported that he would be contacting a local company with a view to cutting the Hook Meadow hedges that it was not possible to do in-house.

The Estates Report was **NOTED**.

181/14 *Memorial Applications and Burials.*

The Clerk spoke to her report. Cllr Lambert was advised that Council would not discuss his concerns on one of the matters reported until (and if) there was further action required. Council **NOTED** the report circulated.

182/14 *Faster Broadband*

Cllr Hebbbron advised that little had happened since the last meeting. Responses were awaited from two individuals within BT. Cllr Hebbbron was thanked and requested to remain 'on the case'.

183/14 meeting with HCC Roads Department representatives

Cllr Argent took questions on his report previously circulated. Cllr Lambert asked whether Crondall would join the Parish Lengthsman scheme. Cllr Argent responded that this was felt to be unsuitable for Crondall with its significant mileage of roads; initial indications were that the Council could do little for the £1,000 on offer and might be expected to do a lot more. Furthermore it was unclear whether the scheme would actually go ahead. Cllr Lambert asked Cllr Argent to raise the issue of Heath Lane's ditches with HCC.

Cllr Argent's report on the meeting was **NOTED**.

184/14 Correspondence.

There had been some correspondence in regard to burials and interments, and the usual bills. A hard copy of the playground inspection report had also been received, this was available for inspection.

185/14 AOB:

Cllr Lambert asked whether Council had been approached regarding the installation of water meters. He was advised that no approach had been made.

Cllr Lambert asked about progress on the street lighting PFI. Cllr Argent responded that he was in touch with Hants CC staff regarding the whole issue of street lighting and billing and would advise Council if he received any news.

Cllr Fortune asked whether the Council had any strong views on littering or fly tipping for a response to the DCLG. Council advised that there were no perceived problems in Crondall and any fly tipping was referred immediately to the local authority for them to deal with.

Cllr Roberts reported a recent conversation in the Burial Ground with a visitor when he had received a complaint about the state and appearance of the Memorial Wall. It was agreed that this should be a future agenda item.

Cllr Hebborn solicited information regarding the 'mobile fish and chip van' service. This was generally agreed to be an 'excellent' facility and Cllr Lambert stated that it was likely to continue.

Cllr Bryant brought forward a request for information from a local resident for the Clerk to deal with.

Cllr Roberts reported that the Village Shop had been broken into at the weekend and cigarettes stolen. The job appeared to be professional.

Cllr Argent referred to an idea regarding 'Polite Parking Notices' which had been inspired by something seen in Greywell Parish. The Clerk was requested to look at a potential policy for this.

Signed as a true record dated 18th August 2014