

CRONDALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held “virtually” on Monday, 22nd February 2021

Note: Due to the Covid-19 emergency and in accordance with the Coronavirus Act 2020 {SI 392: The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020} the meeting was held “virtually” via “Zoom” (proprietary video conference product). Due to issues with simultaneously broadcasting via Facebook live feed, the meeting was recorded. A copy of this recording was posted for public viewing on the Parish Council Facebook page after the meeting. Key documents were displayed to participants during the meeting via the “share screen” functions.

The Facebook video was deleted after a 48 hour period.

PRESENT via Zoom Meeting

Councillor M Roberts – Chairman

Councillors D Argent, C Bryant*, R Freeman-Griffiths, N Lambert, S O'Connor, and W Douglas.

(joined part way through the meeting)*

APOLOGIES:

CLlr C Hebborn – Crondall Parish Council (experienced difficulties dialling in)
CLlr J Kennett – Hart District Council

IN ATTENDANCE via Zoom

Meeting:

Councillor J Glen – Hampshire County Council

Councillors C Dorn and K Crookes – Hart District Council

A Angove - Parish Clerk

The meeting commenced at 7.37 pm and ended at 9.25 pm

178/21 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

179/21 Minutes of 18th January 2021

A minor amendment was proposed to the previously issued minutes namely section 174/21 Clerk's Report (dog waste bins): CLlr O'Connor clarified that the sentence should read “*Well Road footpath entrance by Hook Cottage*” and not “*by Hook Meadow*”. This change was duly noted and the amended minutes were proposed for acceptance as an accurate record by CLlr Roberts, seconded by CLlr O'Connor and **AGREED** unanimously. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

180/21 Minutes of 21st December 2020 In Committee Council Meeting

The Minutes of the in committee council meeting were proposed for acceptance as an accurate record by CLlr Roberts, seconded by CLlr Argent and **AGREED** (in favour 5 : 1 abstention).

181/21 Matters Arising

- **20/03152/PREAPP Itchel House Farm (development of 100MW battery storage facility) –**
The Clerk confirmed, following last month's decision that CPC's comments had been submitted to HDC for their consideration.

- **Crondall & Ewshot Village Pump Group** – The Group have confirmed receipt of £400 from CPC and thanked the PC for their contribution.

182/21 Announcements from the Chairman, Clerk and Members questions received in advance

Cllr Roberts confirmed he had received an email from Forays relating to the OPM / Village Shop update, in which Forays confirmed that they had received strong feedback from their questionnaire and would be submitting an information note to CPC. Forays also indicated that they would be submitting an application to CPC for the development of OPM. Forays stated that they were conscious of general concerns around the closure of the current shop / Post Office and are actively looking at siting a temporary shop at OPM.

Cllr Roberts informed the meeting of a change to the agenda, insofar as the car parking report which had been issued late due to personal reasons had not had sufficient time for wider review in CPC. Cllr O'Connor confirmed that it would be helpful if councillors would respond to the document using Track Changes with the intention of the final document being approved at the March 2021 meeting. Cllr Lambert thanked Cllrs Roberts and O'Connor for the opportunity to contribute review comments.

(Cllr Bryant joined the meeting)

Cllr Argent requested that any meeting notes from discussions to date with the School be made available prior to document reviews in order that councillors are aware before commenting.

The Clerk confirmed that at present recordings of Council meetings held via Zoom are retained for 48 hours prior to deletion to allow parishioners and councillors post-meeting access. A member of the public had requested that this policy be changed to align with HDC, and that recordings were retained for 3 months. Cllr Lambert declared his support for this, however Cllr Argent confirmed that such a change would need to be submitted as an agenda item for the March meeting and voted on in the usual manner. This was NOTED.

In a similar vein, the Clerk confirmed that a member of the public had requested a copy of this meeting proceedings be sent electronically to him for his records. The meeting agreed that as the recording of the meeting can be downloaded from Facebook, there would be no need to take this additional action.

Cllr Lambert stated that in his opinion all CPC documents should be made available to public access. The meeting pointed out Cllr Lambert would need to raise this as an agenda item for a future meeting.

183/21 County and District Councillors Report

District Cllr Dorn:

- Confirmed the Hart budget is being set on Thursday, expressing disappointment to see that despite plenty of warning (18 months) the ruling LD/CCH coalition have not taken clear steps to achieve a balance and are planning to continue spending large amounts of money on a new settlement, while cutting homelessness budget. Huge losses on the pedestrianisation project were also noted.
- Flooding - explained that sadly the ground water has risen and is now overwhelming the pumps at the pumping station. Thames Water teams are working hard at all and odd hours to try and find the cross-connection. Tankers will be here for a while. Cllr Dorn is coordinating with HCC-Highways and Cllr Glen to ensure they get all the support they need to try and fix it as soon as possible. Cllr Dorn expressed disappointment that this issue has occurred yet again but that it is an issue for Thames Water management to resolve. He reminded residents to please not take it out on the frontline staff, who have had some choice comments directed at them and even been

driven at. Residents led by Mr Withers are working hard to help. Cllr Dorn is drafting a more detailed note to answer some of the questions that he sees coming up on social media.

- Planning - Farnham Lodge planning was deferred, no reason given. Cllr Dorn was pleased to see that the Watery Lane variation of condition to build A287 roundabout was refused, although it is hoped that they will now get on and responsibly build it, they may yet appeal. Growing concern in the western parishes about the excessive representation by Hart officers on the Shapley Heath Thematic groups.
- Redlands Lane and roadworks: 8th March for ~ 8 weeks. They are coordinating with the Surgery to maintain access but could mean a detour or pedestrians only.
- Covid vaccinations continue to progress well across the District as infection rates fall (only 3 cases in Church Crookham West, Ewshot & Crondall during week 16th February). Free parking in Gurkha Square is available if being vaccinated at the Harlington Centre, after Conservative group pressure, although most Crondall residents will be offered Farnham hospital.

District Cllr Crookes:

Expressed frustration that the regular Parish Flood Forum meeting, which had been scheduled to occur had not gone ahead. Following the move of the previous HDC Flooding Officer to HCC, HDC have yet to fill the role. They are advertising for a replacement, but the loss of the highly effective previous incumbent, Mrs Suzanna Hope, has caused disruption across the board.

County Cllr Glen:

- Congratulated Cllr Dorn and his colleagues on their success in securing free parking for those parking at the Harlington for their Covid vaccinations.
- Echoed Cllr Crookes disappointment that the Parish Flood Forum had not gone ahead, adding that in his opinion it was still possible to hold the meeting, despite Mrs Hope not having been replaced.
- Confirmed that he had signed a petition raising concerns about HDC's increased spending on the Shapley Heath development, while reducing spending on homelessness.
- A full HCC meeting will be taking place at 10 am on Thursday, 25th and would be open to the public, should they wish to dial in. Cllr Glen confirmed that he would be asking a question about prioritising Special Needs Adults for the Covid jab.
- HCC will be increasing their tax by 4.99%, the maximum allowed without referendum. Explained that councils do not have the right to request more money of the Government because of the financial strains of the Covid crisis if they have not taken advantage of this maximum.
- Stage 1 of the new Local Transport Plan consultation finishes on the 28th. Cllr Glen confirmed that he had submitted a proposal for improvements to Jnc 5 (M3 - Hook) along similar lines proposed for Jnc 9 (M3 - Winchester) where pedestrian and cycle access without interfering with the traffic flow would be introduced. Additionally, a request for improvements to Hook Station to improve access for the disabled and elderly had also been made.
- HCC have invested £26.9m in climate change for schools to improve the energy efficiency of Hampshire schools.

No questions were raised, and Cllr Roberts thanked the councillors for their reports.

184/21 Representations by the public

The Clerk confirmed that there were no representations from the public

(Cllr Glen left the meeting.)

185/21 Planning Applications

Applications were considered in line with the previously circulated Planning Report and presented by Cllr Freeman-Griffiths.

21/00101/FUL	28 St Cross Road Crondall Farnham GU10 5PG	Demolition of existing conservatory and two outbuildings and erection of a two-bedroom dwelling with integral garage, new access and boundary treatment
Recommendation: To OBJECT on the grounds that the proposal would be contrary to policies SS1, NBE3 and NBE9 of HLP32, Saved Policy GEN1 and Crondall Neighbourhood Plan Policies 2d and 3 on the basis of: • Location: The site is not previously developed land and would represent “infill development” on a residential garden, which should be avoided given the lack of identified “need”; • Design and Character of the Area: The proposal would impact negatively on the character/appearance of the area as it would harm the spaciousness/openness feeling which are all strong positive features of the area; • Thames Basin Heaths SPA: No Statement to Inform and Appropriate Assessment has been provided and, in any event, no evidence that SANG mitigation is available and no SANG transaction secured. Cllr Lambert made the observation that there remained a need for more affordable housing in Crondall, noting that neighbours who had objected to the proposed development had all extended their own properties. Cllr O'Connor questioned the statement that there was a neutral impact on parking, with Cllr Freeman-Griffiths explaining that there would be parking on both properties. Cllr O'Connor concurred that there is a requirement for more 2-bedroom houses in the parish, but questioned whether this proposal is in the right location adding that an extension is not the same as a new house. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths proposed as listed, seconded by Cllr O'Connor, and AGREED (in favour 4/1 against, 1 abstention). <i>Note Cllr Douglas did not vote, having temporarily lost connectivity to Zoom.</i>		
20/03072/HOU	Thyme Cottage St Cross Road Crondall Farnham GU10 5PQ	Erection of a single storey front extension and porch entrance.
Recommendation: No Objection subject to : • Condition securing a Construction Management Plan covering: ○ Traffic management on Dippenhall Street and St Cross Road given the cumulative impact of the works next door to Lavender Cottage . ○ Sustainable waste disposal. • Condition securing the prior approval of external materials. Clarification was sought by Cllr Lambert regarding the statement about garaging, with Cllr Freeman-Griffiths clarifying that there are garages, but they are not linked to the property hence the issue with construction. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths proposed as listed, seconded by Cllr Argent, and AGREED (unanimous).		
21/00193/HOU	The Old Inn Pankridge Street Crondall Farnham GU10 5RG	Erection of a single storey side extension following demolition of existing conservatory.
Recommendation: No Objection subject to : • Condition securing the prior approval of external materials; • Hart DC being satisfied with the drawings and dimensions on the drawings. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths proposed as listed, seconded by Cllr Douglas and AGREED (unanimous)		

21/00368/HOU	Ashley Bourne Redlands Lane Crondall Farnham GU10 5RF	Demolition of existing double garage and erection of four bay timber garage with storage over
Recommendation: No Objection Cllr Argent sought clarification of the plans for development of the upper level. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths clarified that the application defined this as a storage area. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths proposed as listed, with the caveat that the upper level cannot be used for accommodation. Seconded by Cllr Argent and AGREED (unanimous).		

Cllr O'Connor asked whether Cllr Freeman-Griffiths had had sight of a pre-app for further development to the side of The Horns. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths confirmed that he had not seen it. Cllr Roberts thanked Cllr Freeman-Griffiths for his report.

186/21 Conservation Area Document Refresh

Cllr Freeman-Griffiths provided a verbal update confirming that as agreed at the previous meeting, ABA Consultancy had been taken on to assist with development of the documentation. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths also confirmed that the Conservation Area Advisory Group had been requested to complete some fact-checking work on behalf of CPC, namely checking the schedule of listed buildings against the English Heritage database. They will also proof-read the existing documentation for inaccuracies. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths confirmed that ABA had conducted their initial site visit to Crondall.

The meeting NOTED the report.

187/21 Parish Council Newsletter

The Clerk had distributed the draft newsletter to Cllrs for comment. The meeting thanked the Clerk for her efforts in producing CPC's first ever newsletter. Cllr Lambert stated that he thought there was too much coverage of planning issues and asked that "Farnham Road" be added in front of "Recreation Ground". The Clerk noted Cllr Lambert's comments. Cllr Argent suggested that the order of appearance of two paragraphs on the precept announcement be reversed. This was noted. Cllr O'Connor asked how the newsletter would be distributed. The Clerk confirmed that this would be achieved via Facebook, CPC website and hard copies at the Village Shop. Cllr Douglas confirmed that he would work with the Clerk going forward to support development of the newsletter over the coming months. Cllr Roberts proposed that the newsletter be adopted with the agreed amendments, seconded by Cllr Freeman-Griffiths, and AGREED (unanimous).

(Cllr Dorn left the meeting.)

188/21 Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

The Clerk provided a brief update, confirming that she had been speaking to HDC about the arrangements and preparations for the referendum. The Clerk confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum version would be made available for review by the public from 24th March via HDC's website (a link from CPC's website will be provided). Discussions are ongoing around the feasibility of members of the public reviewing hard copy at HDC's offices in Fleet, given COVID constraints. In the meantime, the Clerk had agreed access to the Church Rooms for parishioners to view the documents by appointment with the Clerk.

Cllr O'Connor explained that the vote would be a simple YES or NO, adding the CPC cannot actively campaign for the new plan but could provide clarification of its contents. Cllr O'Connor provided an outline of the Neighbourhood Plan communication plan. The Clerk confirmed that CPC would be

receiving general support from HDC, including advice on what can and cannot be said by CPC. Cllr Argent asked whether a list of FAQs and their answers would be provided. Cllr O'Connor confirmed that this would be covered by the correspondence he is drafting. The update was noted.

FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

189/21 To NOTE the Risk Management Register 03/2021

There were no questions. The report was formally **NOTED**.

190/21 Ratification of payments

The circulated list of 11 items including Payroll valued at £4,016.10 was proposed by Cllr Roberts, seconded by Cllr Argent, and AGREED unanimously.

191/21 To Consider and Agree a list of items for spending requests

None

192/21 To NOTE the Income and Expenditure Report and Balance Sheet to 31st January 2021

There were no questions and the report was **NOTED**.

193/21 To NOTE the independent examination of the Bank Reconciliation for January 2021

The Clerk confirmed that she had undertaken an independent examination of the Bank Reconciliation for January 2021. No questions were raised. Council **NOTED** the Clerk's report.

REPORTS

194/21 Clerk's Report

The Clerk drew the meeting's attention to several points from the previously distributed report:

- Litter bins - CPC agreed with the Clerk's proposal to redistribute the bins emptied by HDC, to include Farm Lane, and if possible, the footpath near Hook Cottage.
- Bus stops - In the absence of a second quote having been received, it was agreed that a decision on bus stops would be deferred until the next meeting.
- Tractor Shed - The meeting agreed that work as outlined should go ahead, and once the Clerk had received competitive and comparable quotes, the work should proceed.
- The meeting agreed to the request from a parishioner to install a memorial bench on Hook Meadow as outlined in the Clerks report.

The Council **NOTED** the report.

195/21 Footpaths Report

The Clerk provided a brief verbal report. Cllr O'Connor noted that several finger posts had rotted and fallen over and questioned whether Cllr Hebbron needed councillors to provide evidence of this. Cllr O'Connor also confirmed that there had been correspondence relating to the footpath at Clifton Barns, noting that there is a disparity between the actual footpath and the footpath that is mapped. Cllr O'Connor confirmed that he would raise this with Cllr Hebbron.

The Council **NOTED** the report.

196/21 Correspondence

It was confirmed that all email correspondence had been circulated to councillors. The Clerk added that a copy of Clerks and Councils Direct was available should councillors wish to read it.

The Clerk confirmed that she had received a large number of communications over the preceding weekend and on the day of the meeting, pertaining to a recent planning appeal. Due to their nature and complexity the Clerk confirmed that more time would be needed to prepare appropriate responses and that at this stage, no further discussion would be held. The Clerk confirmed that a copy of the correspondence in question, and any draft responses, would be sent to all councillors and if necessary, an Extraordinary in-committee CPC meeting convened.

Cllr Lambert asked whether any Councillor, or this Parish Council, “would be at risk from action by the Standards Board, if any of these accusations prove to be true”. Cllr Argent stated that the Clerk had not mentioned the word “accusations”. Cllr Lambert claimed that he had relevant documents in front of him, and that these had been sent to him by the Clerk. The Clerk confirmed that the documents in question had not been distributed by her and asked Cllr Lambert to confirm how he had come by them. Cllr Lambert said he would check.

Cllr Roberts confirmed that all the documents in question would be packaged up and sent to Councillors, and an Extraordinary meeting called to discuss and prepare a response. The Clerk confirmed that the meeting may need to be held In-Committee as there may be legal aspects to be addressed. Cllr Roberts stated that he would confirm in due course.

197/21 Any Other Business

Cllr Lambert updated the meeting on recent acts of vandalism at the Village Hall, where security lights had been smashed.

Signed as a true record dated 22nd March 2021