

CRONDALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held Monday 26th July 2021

PRESENT	Councillor R Freeman-Griffiths – Acting Chairman Councillors D Argent, W Douglas, N Lambert, J Taylor and S Worthington
IN ATTENDANCE:	Councillor Dorn – Hart DC A Angove – Parish Clerk
APOLOGIES:	Councillors M Roberts and R Fitzhugh Councillors Crookes, Kennett - Hart DC Councillor Glen – Hampshire County Council

One member of the public attended the meeting.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and ended at 9.05 pm.

40/22 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

41/22 To approve and adopt the Minutes of 21st June 2021

Cllr Lambert's observation that he had objected rather than abstained to the planning application 21/01305/HOU (The Poplars) was accepted and the minutes duly amended. The amended Minutes of the Council meeting were proposed for acceptance as an accurate record by Cllr Freeman-Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Douglas and AGREED unanimously.

With the bulk of the meeting pack being distributed to all councillors five days before the meeting, the Clerk requested that, if possible, any comments or amendments to the minutes be submitted prior to the meeting to allow time for consideration.

42/22 Matters Arising from the previous Minutes

- Update on Hart District Council Planning performance – due to work constraints, Cllr Freeman-Griffiths had unfortunately been unable to prepare the agreed letter to HDC. He confirmed that this would be actioned before the next meeting and all councillors would be copied in.

43/22 Announcements from the Chairman, Clerk and Members questions received in advance

There were no announcements.

44/22 District Councillors Report – Cllr Dorn

- There is growing concern about the performance of the Development Control function within Hart and serious questions were raised at Overview & Scrutiny last week. The service is struggling with staff retention and some sickness. Many of the recommendations from the peer review (~2 years ago) have not yet been properly implemented. If residents are experiencing extended responses, Cllr Dorn would encourage them to chase Hart, but please do copy him into such messages, so that the situation can be monitored and appropriate requests made.

- Several of Hart's refuse collection staff have been "pinged" causing disruption to the service. Green bin collection has been suspended until 7th Aug, with possible further extension. Extra (open) bags can be put out next to licenced bins and they will consider extensions to the subscription. Pleased to see a householder was fined by Hart for fly tipping.
- Questions remain about the state of Hart's finances and how costs are being allocated at the end of the year. Some of this relates directly to Shapley Heath and the allocation of costs around that project.
- The Community Safety newsletter from Hart has some very useful guides and articles.
- Flooding: Thames Water have replied saying that they are taking a business case through their internal processes to "line" some of the sewers in Crondall. This is good news and should reduce ground water ingress. Cllr Dorn will communicate when (more) road works are planned.
- The Great Big Green Week is scheduled for 16th-21st September. A range of events are being planned. Sadly, Hart's Climate Change WG has not made much progress since the Climate Emergency was declared. There has been no progress on the Civic Quarter WG, a point raised at O&S last week by Cllr Dorn.
- Bowling Alley (east) will be closed from 2nd Aug (until September 2022) as part of the A287/Redfields Lane roundabout work. Councillors will have received the letter, and copy has been posted on the Crondall Noticeboard Facebook page. During the roadworks, there will be a 30mph zone along A287.
- Berkeley Homes have launched a consultation on Grove Farm, Hitches Lane essentially to increase the development numbers <https://berkeley-grovetfarm.virtualexhibition.info/splashlive.html>.
- INSPIRE Business Awards 2021, north Hampshire's largest and most prestigious business awards, are now open for entries until 10th September. The awards celebrate the success and achievement of all types of businesses across north Hampshire. www.inspirebusinessawards.co.uk

45/22 Representations by the public

Cllr Freeman-Griffiths outlined the details of a recent correspondence he received from a resident of Redlands Lane questioning the signage to the Haycroft development (Broden Stables) which they felt was directing visitors down Redlands Lane. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths had responded explaining that whilst there was signage, other routes, including via the village were also signposted and as such, Redlands Lane is a public highway and there is nothing in the planning which restricts this.

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had distributed a correspondence received from a former councillor requesting that the £120 permit fee for the erection of graveyard headstone be waived as a "gift" and in recognition of his past service on the Parish Council. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths opened the conversation explaining that he had every sympathy with the individual, but it is important that councillors both past and present do not receive benefit from their position. It was generally agreed that whilst the decision might seem callous, there would be no public benefit to agreeing to waive the fee. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths proposed that the request be declined for these reasons. Cllr Lambert seconded and AGREED unanimously. The Clerk confirmed that she would write to the member of public explaining the Council decision.

46/22 Planning Applications

Cllr Lambert proposed that the Parish Council agree the recommendations as outlined in the Planning Report as one. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths explained that he felt it was important to briefly go through each application. There was no seconder. Applications were, therefore, considered in line with the previously circulated Planning Report and presented by Cllr Freeman-Griffiths.

21/01482/FUL	Clifton Barn Croft Lane	Erection of a supported canopy to the rear of the existing Winery.
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	Crondall GU10 5QF	
Recommendation: <u>No Objection</u> subject to any planning permission including conditions: • requiring materials and colour to match existing; • requiring its use to be ancillary to the main building and only used for agricultural purposes. It was confirmed that the canopy would shield lorries from the weather when loading and unloading and be constructed from the same material as the main building with no sides. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths proposed as listed. Seconded by Cllr Worthington and AGREED unanimously.		
21/01608/HOU	South Dean Dippenhall Street Crondall GU10 5NY	Retention of a timber clad garden room.
Recommendation: <u>No Objection</u>. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths confirmed that to date no neighbour objections had been submitted. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths proposed as listed. Seconded by Cllr Douglas and AGREED unanimously.		
21/01736/HOU	9 Chaundlers Croft Crondall GU10 5PH	Erection of a two-storey side extension.
Recommendation: <u>No Objection</u> subject to the permission containing conditions regarding approval of materials by Hart DC. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths proposed as listed. Seconded by Cllr Worthington and AGREED unanimously.		
21/01943/PRIOR	Furney Copse Farm Crondall Road Crookham Village Fleet GU51 5SZ	Erection of an agricultural storage building.
Recommendation: <u>No objection</u> (as proposal appears on papers to fall within the GPDO) subject to: • Hart DC checking that all of the conditions in A.1 are not breached (if they are, then Prior Approval must be refused and a full planning application requested); • Hart DC requesting for approval as part of the Prior Approval: ▪ Design; ▪ If any lighting proposed, approval of lighting plan to ensure sensitive lighting installed. It was acknowledged that there was a risk that this application would form the basis for future on site housing application. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths proposed as listed. Seconded by Cllr Lambert and AGREED unanimously.		
20/02740/FUL	Blue Bell Lodge Rye Common Lane Crondall GU10 5DE	Temporary change of use of land to allow the retention of a shed, kennels, and storage containers for a period of 18 months.
Recommendation: <u>No objection</u> subject to Hart DC being satisfied as to the legal reasons for non-compliance with the planning permission.		

There were no questions. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths proposed as listed. Seconded by Cllr Lambert and AGREED unanimously.

47/22 To discuss and AGREE the format and details of the Annual Parish Meeting 2021 in light of delays caused by COVID restrictions

The Clerk provided an overview of the situation explaining that in normal “non-Covid” times, the APM is held before 1st June each year. Unfortunately, due to the lifting of the temporary measures allowing online and hybrid meetings, many Parish Councils have taken the view not to hold the APM citing fears about the rise in Covid cases.

Councillors stressed the importance of holding an APM but also agreed that in the current climate, it was difficult to guarantee that even if a date was agreed, all councillors would be available to attend. Whilst uploading a presentation, providing all parishioners with data and information would be beneficial, Councillors also felt strongly that it was important to collate questions and respond to them in a public forum. To this end, the Clerk suggested that the PC prepare a document outlining all the highlights of the year which would be posted both on the PC website and Facebook page. Parishioners would be invited to submit questions which in turn would be responded to in the form of a Newsletter distributed to all. It was agreed that this was not a perfect solution but in view of the current climate, addressed most factors. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths proposed as outlined. Seconded by Cllr Lambert and AGREED unanimously.

PROJECTS:-

48/ 22 Conservation Area – Cllr Freeman-Griffiths outlined progress to date, explaining that he and the Clerk had met with Alan Baxter Associates the previous week to review ABA’s open space assessment document. It was noted that ABA had commented on the narrowness of the current Crondall Conservation area and that this may be something to review. ABA are currently liaising with HDC and will be reporting back to Cllr Freeman-Griffiths soon. In turn, Cllr Freeman-Griffiths hoped to be in a position to present the draft proposal to the Parish Council and eventually to the village for consultation.

49/22 Hook Meadow Play area – in Cllr Fitzhugh’s absence, the Clerk provided a verbal update. A number of meetings have been arranged with various providers and specifically a meeting with Eibe with a view to understanding what the warranty will cover and how any mechanical elements such as chain links can be fixed. Cllr Fitzhugh hoped to be in a position to provide a detailed report soon.

50/22 Hook Meadow outdoor gym – Cllr Lambert asked that a copy of the original proposal be forwarded to all new councillors to bring them fully up-to-date. Questions remain about where on Hook Meadow the gym should be situated and what the most suitable ground cover should be. Cllr Argent pointed out that at this point we were still waiting for three quotes/proposals, which it was assumed would also include advice for where the gym should be situated and a cost/benefit analysis of surfaces. It was, however, agreed that the most logical place to position the outdoor gym would be by the tennis court near the entrance gate from Croft Lane. Cllr Lambert agreed to proceed with the actions as outlined in the original report, specifically to obtain three comparator quotes from different suppliers.

FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT:-

51/22 Ratification of payments

The circulated list of 11 items including Payroll valued at £3,681.78 was proposed by Cllr Argent, seconded by Cllr Douglas and **AGREED** unanimously.

52/22 To Consider and Agree a list of items for spending requests

There were no spending requests for consideration.

53/22 To NOTE the Income and Expenditure Report and Balance Sheet to 30th June 2021

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

54/22 To NOTE the independent examination of the Bank Reconciliation for May 2020

The Clerk explained that due to a £50.00 credit to the account which could not be identified, the examination would be carried over to next month. Cllr Argent would be speaking to Lloyds Bank in the hope that they can identify the payee.

55/22 To AGREE the appointment of Mike Platten as Internal Auditor for 2021/22

Up-to-date advice is that the requirement to change internal auditors regularly is not longer needed. Having spoken to other Clerks within the North East Hampshire group, the Clerk proposed that Mike Platten of Farsight Consulting remains the best choice. Cllr Argent therefore proposed that Mike Platten be appointed as internal auditor for 2021/22. Seconded by Cllr Freeman-Griffiths and **AGREED** unanimously.

REPORTS:-

56/22 Clerk's Report

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Three items within the report required councillor input and agreement:

- Bus Stop – further to the initial report on the state of the bus stop, specifically the one near Redlands Lane, the Clerk confirmed that concerns remained about the soundness of the structure. Whilst there is no regular bus service in the village, school children do use the bus shelter in inclement weather. The Clerk asked councillors to decide whether to demolish the bus stop or arrange for it to be repaired. Cllr Lambert proposed that the bus stop be repaired. Seconded by Cllr Argent and **AGREED** (in favour 3 : 2 against : 1 abstention).
- Crandall Trust – the Clerk sought PC agreement for the appointment of Dr Walker as the new trustee and this was **AGREED** unanimously.
- October meeting – the Clerk explained that she would be seeking to move the October CPC meeting a week earlier than planned to avoid a clash with planned annual leave. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths therefore proposed that the October meeting originally scheduled for 25th October be moved to 18th October. Seconded by Cllr Worthington and **AGREED** unanimously.

Cllr Lambert questioned why the new larger signs had not been hung on the school wall. The Clerk confirmed that they had been provided to the school some time ago but that the Parish Council does not have jurisdiction to attach them to school property. It was her understanding that the School's janitor had been tasked with installing the signage.

Cllr Lambert added that a visiting cricket club seemed to be under the impression that they should park in the Village Hall and had claimed to have received a letter from the Clerk confirming this. It was clarified that whilst no such letter existed, the agreement is that cricketers park, if possible, in the school car park but are also permitted to park in the Village Hall car park when it is available. The Clerk confirmed she would liaise with the cricket club to ensure a consistent message.

Councillors enquired what happened to speeders caught by the Speedwatch initiative. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths confirmed that it was his understanding that the data is logged and sent to the Police. A volunteer at the Aldershot Police Station processes letter. After three, the police can take action. Cllr Lambert also enquired about the availability of the original SID and whether it could be used to track the number of cars going through the village. Cllr Argent confirmed that it was his understanding that this would be possible but directed he directed Cllr Lambert to Mr Shepherd and the Speedwatch team. No further questions were raised. Council **NOTED** the report.

57/22 Road and Traffic Report

Cllr Lambert provided a verbal update, specifically to address two issues that had been raised by Cllrs Roberts and Argent respectively prior to the meeting:

- Road markings at junction of Itchel Lane and Penn Croft – it was confirmed that the misleading markings which seem to indicate two sets of give way had been raised with HCC. The issue has been identified by HCC with white aerosol, but no other remedial work has been done. Cllr Lambert confirmed he would continue to liaise with HCC on the matter to ensure that it is dealt with.
- Diversion signs not being removed after roadworks are completed – Cllr Lambert directed councillors to an app which identifies current and future diversion signs. It was explained that this did not in fact deal with the issue of seemingly forgotten signs which are littering the verges and, in some cases, causing confusion. Cllr Lambert agreed to raise this with HCC.

58/22 Correspondence

It was confirmed that all email correspondence has been circulated to councillors.

59/22 Any Other Business

- The Clerk confirmed that the period for public review of the Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance & Accountability Return for year ended 31 March 2021 was over and there had been no requests to view the accounts. The AGAR pack had been submitted within timescales and the Clerk has received confirmation that it has been delivered.
- The Clerk asked for a volunteer to to investigate solutions for the ongoing recording and broadcasting of Parish Council meetings. Cllr Douglas kindly offered to perform this task.
- Cllr Taylor confirmed that she had been liaising with Mr Hebborn with a view to arranging a handover responsibility for parish footpaths.
- Cllr Argent requested that a communication be issued to Parishioners reminding them to remove old posters and advertisements from telegraph poles as they are getting quite cluttered. The Clerk confirmed that she would send a communication via social media.
- Cllr Lambert queried whether whether CPC receives any income from the hire of the tennis courts on Hook Meadow. Cllr Argent confirmed the ongoing agreement between CPC and the local tennis coach for the use of the courts, which remains unchanged. The Clerk confirmed that a review of this agreement is due later this year.
- Cllr Lambert raised an issue of overhanging bushes at the junction of Croft Lane and Dippenhall Street which were affecting driver's visibility. The meeting confirmed that he should contact HCC on this issue.

Signed as a true record dated 23rd August 2021