

CRONDALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held Monday 21st February 2022

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

Four members of the public attended the meeting, including Messrs Assael and Crowther who had registered to address the meeting and Mr Gray who was attending on behalf of All Saints Church and in relation to Agenda item 8a. *The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and ended at 9.30 pm.*

171/22 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

172/22 To approve and adopt the Minutes of 20th January 2022

The Minutes of the Council meeting were proposed for acceptance as an accurate record by Cllr Freeman-Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Fitzhugh and AGREED (in favour 5 : abstention 1)

173/22 Matters Arising from the previous Minutes

- Speedwatch (142/22) – The Clerk confirmed that the two devices had been delivered and the charge included in Payments.
- Estate Improvements (143/22) – PlaySmart UK had requested full payment upfront for the proposed resurfacing of the play area which is counter to their quote which implied a deposit of 50% would be required. It has proved difficult to speak directly with the company, but they have now confirmed that they will get back to the Clerk in the next few days to confirm the payment structure and work timescales.
- Farnham Road Recreation Ground (144/22) – the new gate was scheduled to be installed on 21st February but installation had unfortunately been delayed.

174/22 Announcements from the Chairman, Clerk and Members questions received in advance

The Clerk confirmed that two members of the public had requested to address the meeting directly on separate topics, namely Mr Assael, on the subject of refurbishment of the Hook Meadow pill box, and Mr Crowther on behalf of the Village Hall Committee a follow-up from the recent Community Safety Meeting with Safer Hart and the local police.

There were no further announcements made.

175/22 County and District Councillors' Reports

In the absence of both County Councillors and District Councillors, the Clerk drew the Parish Council's attention to the previously circulated County Councillor's report.

176/22 Representations by the public

- Hook Meadow Pill Box refurbishment project – A copy of the background report and costings having been distributed to all Councillors prior to the meeting, Mr Assael provided a brief presentation on the background to the project and outlined his proposal going forward, including a potential financial contribution by the Parish Council. There followed a wide-ranging discussion covering examples of where this has been done before, cost of and logistics of clearing the pill box and relocating soil, on going security of the refurbished pill box and public support. The Chairman thanked Mr Assael for his report and confirmed, on behalf of the Parish Council, that they are broadly in favour of the proposed project and look forward to receiving further details which would in all likelihood include a formal request for financial support.
- Village Hall Committee proposal in light of recent Community Safety Meeting – Mr Crowther provided a verbal outline of a decision reached by the Village Hall Committee following the recent Community Safety Meeting. It was felt by the Committee that the issues with antisocial behaviour and vandalism being experienced in the village are probably more prevalent in the winter months. To that end, the Committee would like to make their meeting room available as a youth meeting centre for the next three months. This would be without cost and would need to be reviewed at the end of this period. Whilst this offer was welcomed by the Parish Council, it was unclear what was being asked of the Parish Council going forward. It was agreed that neither the Parish Council nor the Village Hall Committee were qualified or in a position to run any youth group but that the Parish Council could aid the successful utilisation by communicating the requirement for people to get in touch with Mr Crowther with a view to help supervise such a group. Mr Crowther agreed to provide the Clerk with the details.

177/22 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Commemoration

- All Saints Church tree planting initiative – a brief document outlining the initiative having been circulated to the Parish Council prior to the meeting, Mr Gray provided a supporting verbal overview. The church is looking to plant 70 trees within the village, 7 of which will be in the churchyard itself and are speaking to various groups and parties, including the school and Scouts. There is a diverse range of trees available, and the church are looking for them to be sponsored. Following a short discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Freeman-Griffiths that the Parish Council support the proposal but with the amounts of trees, type and where to be agreed with the Groundsman. Seconded by Cllr Worthington and AGREED unanimously.
- Parish Council's commemoration – the Clerk had previously circulated a report with competitive quotes for two picnic benches to be purchased and installed in Hook Meadow. In addition, the Clerk had identified a wooden bench specifically designed to commemorate the Jubilee. Following a short discussion, Cllr Freeman-Griffiths proposed that two picnic benches plus the separate jubilee bench be purchased, subject to the Clerk running a final financial check with the Financial Lead. Seconded by Cllr Worthington and AGREED unanimously.

(Three members of the public left the meeting).

178/22 Crondall Burial Ground Regulations and Fees

A report outlining the proposed changes to the regulations and fees had been distributed prior to the meeting by the Clerk. The current Burial Ground regulations and corresponding fees were last reviewed in June 2016 and 2015 respectively, with the need to review the latter having been identified as an action at the last internal audit. In addition, a spate of recent requests which required Councillor input due to the vagaries within the regulations meant that greater clarity needed to be added. No questions were raised about the proposed regulation changes. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths, therefore

proposed they be adopted with the proposed changes. Seconded by Cllr Taylor and AGREED (in favour 5 : against 1).

Councillors expressed concern about raising charges in the current financial climate. The Clerk explained that councillors could agree no change to the charges but did clarify that there had been no change since 2015 and that over the past two years there had been a financial hit due to some regular fees being waived during the pandemic. Any decision on whether to increase charges and if so, by how much, needed to keep this in mind. In addition, the Clerk required councillor agreement to the proposed amalgamation of charges under one fee. Following a lengthy discussion Cllr Freeman-Griffiths proposed that the fees be increased by 5% (rather than the recommended 10%) and they be amalgamated as laid out in the proposal. Seconded by Cllr Smith and AGREED (in favour 4 : against 2).

PROJECTS:-

179/22 Estate Improvements - Community Facilities and Activities Survey

A paper outlining the proposed survey and corresponding communication plan had been provided prior to the meeting by the Clerk. Cllr Lambert questioned why the Clerk had identified some areas of the village as requiring communication methods over and above the standard, ie noticeboards, website and social media. The Clerk clarified that these areas had higher population density, and this would cover off any parishioners not necessarily following the website and Parish Council Facebook page. To this end posters would be posted around the village and if necessary, a flyer drop. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths proposed the survey proceed as outlined. Seconded by Cllr Taylor and AGREED unanimously.

Cllr Fitzhugh addressed the meeting, outlining his request to purchase live willow (cost of approximately £80.00) with a view to planting a willow tunnel in Hook Meadow. Cllr Fitzhugh proposed as outlined. Seconded by Cllr Smith and AGREED (in favour 5 : against 1). Following a short discussion, however, it was agreed that more planning of the proposed picnic and leisure area around the tennis courts was needed and that the purchase be delayed until the following year.

FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT:-

180/22 Ratification of payments

The circulated list of 9 items including Payroll valued at £10, 318.78 was proposed by Cllr Freeman-Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Fitzhugh, and **AGREED** unanimously.

181/22 To Consider and Agree a list of items for spending requests

The items listed for authorisation, namely the Survey Monkey Plan plus proposed Platinum Jubilee Commemoration benches, having been discussed and agreed earlier were proposed by Cllr Freeman-Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Worthington, and AGREED unanimously.

182/22 To NOTE the Income and Expenditure Report and Balance Sheet to 31st January 2021

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

183/22 To NOTE the independent examination of the Bank Reconciliation January 2021

The Clerk had confirmed in writing prior to the meeting 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:-

184/22 Clerk's Report

A full report had been circulated to all Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk updated the meeting on the outcome of the discussions with the owners of Potters Hatch re ivy on the Hook Meadow side of their wall. Both parties had agreed that it would be dangerous to totally remove the ivy and to that end, the Parish Council would cut it back to remove the weight. The Clerk thanked the Groundsman for his help in both agreeing this and for undertaking the work.

No further questions were raised, and the report was NOTED.

185/22 Correspondence

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

186/22 Any Other Business

Cllr Taylor updated the meeting on the proposed clearing of FP2. Hampshire County Council having confirmed that they are not in a position to undertake the work, have agreed that the Ramblers help out. This would take place on a weekday and Cllr Taylor asked if the Groundsman would please be on hand to remove any detritus.

Cllr Lambert once again raised issues with the trees by the Village Hall car park asking that the Clerk please look into pollarding them and in particular the tree nearest to the Village Hall, as the leaves are causing issues. The Clerk confirmed that it was on her list of actions but added that she would take the recommendation of any tree surgeon on what is feasibly possible without damaging the trees.

Signed as a true record dated 21st March 2022