

CRONDALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held Monday 16th January 2023

PRESENT	Councillor G Smith - Chairman Councillors D Argent, N Lambert, G O'Connor, I Taylor, F Williams, and S Worthington
APOLOGIES:	Councillors R Freeman-Griffiths Councillor J Glen – Hampshire County Council Councillors C Dorn, J Kennett, and J Hale - Hart DC
IN ATTENDANCE	A Angove - Parish Clerk

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and ended at 8.33 pm.

150/23 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

151/23 Minutes of 12th December 2022 Council Meeting

The Minutes of the Council meeting were proposed for acceptance as an accurate record by Cllr Argent, seconded by Cllr Taylor and **AGREED** (in favour 6 : abstained 1).

152/23 Minutes of 12th December 2022 In-Committee Council Meeting

The Minutes of the Council meeting were proposed for acceptance as an accurate record by Cllr Argent, seconded by Cllr O'Connor and **AGREED** (in favour 6 : abstained 1).

153/23 Matters Arising

- Public Liability Insurance for litter pickers – the Clerk confirmed that the parish council's insurance did cover this activity but that it would be necessary to carry out a risk assessment. The Clerk agreed to create a template and liaise with Mr Reeve.
- Youth Shelter – having liaised with the contractor, the Clerk confirmed that should the youth shelter location prove to be problematic it could be relocated with the current quote for the work involved being £1,886.66 + VAT. Cllr Lambert once again voiced his opinion that the shelter should be sited along Croft Lane, but it was pointed out that, whilst there is no guarantee that the shelter would be a success, all informed advice had been to site it by the MUGA. Current estimated installation date is 30th January.

154/23 Announcements from the Chairman, Clerk and Members questions received in advance

- Crondall Cricket Club Annual Review – as authorised by the Parish Council in their December meeting, the Clerk confirmed she had completed positive discussions with the Crondall Cricket Club. An increase in fees to £1,000 per annum was agreed. In addition, the cricket club has agreed to relinquish part of the caged storage area, provided allowance remains for the large roller to be stored plus miscellaneous items such as paint. Cllr Smith proposed that the new fees be adopted. Seconded by Cllr Worthington and **AGREED** (in favour 6 : against 1).

- Oak Park Golf Course pre-app – the Clerk confirmed that 360 Oak Ltd have submitted a pre-app for the golf course, which will be included on February's agenda. In the meantime, a copy of the link to the documentation would be forwarded to all councillors.

155/23 County & District Councillor's Reports

Cllr Glen's monthly report had been distributed to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk confirmed that it was likely that Cllr Dorn would provide his own written report; in which case a copy would be forwarded. No questions were raised.

156/23 Representations by the public

The Clerk confirmed that no representations had been received from the public.

157/23 Planning Applications

Applications were considered in line with the previously circulated Planning Report and presented by the Clerk.

22/02938/HOU	Croft View Croft Lane Crondall GU10 5QG	Erection of a single storey rear extension, first floor side extension including raising the ridge by 1.3m, relocation of front entrance and replacement windows and doors.
Recommendation: <u>No Objection</u>		
23/00027/HOU	Muscari Heath Lane Ewshot GU10 5AW	Replacement of annexe following fire damage.
Recommendation: <u>No Objection</u>		

With no members of the public present, and no correspondence relating to these planning applications having been received, Cllr Argent proposed as listed. Seconded by Cllr Lambert and AGREED (in favour 6 : 1 abstention).

22/03045/FUL	Finns Industrial Park Bowenhurst Lane Crondall GU10 5HP	Construction of a warehouse building for general industrial use (Land Use Class B2) with a mezzanine level for office, with associated roof rainwater storage tank and parking.
Recommendation: <u>No Objection</u> subject to Hart DC's drainage officer being satisfied with the proposal. Cllr Lambert proposed as listed. Seconded by Cllr Argent and AGREED unanimously.		

158/23 Draft Budget and Precept 2023/24

The Clerk provided a brief synopsis for the request for a Special Resolution. In December, based on a Tax Base figure provided by HDC which was substantially higher than for 2022/23, the Parish Council had been able to substantially increase its Precept figure for 2023/24, without generating any increase in Crondall's 'Band D' Council Tax Charge. Subsequent to that decision, HDC discovered a significant error in their calculations and issued a revised Tax Base figure for Crondall which showed only a minor (3.7%), instead of a substantial (22%), increase over 2022/23. It is, therefore, necessary to pass a Special Resolution to rescind the December Precept decision and replace it with a different agreed Precept for 2023/24 based on the amended Tax Base figure

Cllr Smith proposed that the Special Resolution to revisit the December decision be agreed. Seconded by Cllr Taylor and AGREED unanimously.

Prior to the meeting Cllr Argent had circulated a report, setting out the background to the new situation together with a financial analysis of a range of possible Crondall 'Band D' council tax amounts for 2023/24 and the associated Precept amounts.

Cllrs considered the options at some length, seeking to balance the conflicting aims of, on the one hand, trying to ensure adequate funds for the Council's activities on the community's behalf, whilst on the other hand conscious of the cost pressures already faced by parishioners. Cllrs were also mindful of the fact that Crondall's Council Tax charge has not increased since 2020/21 (indeed, having fallen slightly in 2022/23) and that the Council itself was also facing significant inflationary cost pressures.

After considerable and detailed discussion around these issues, Cllr Argent proposed that the Council agree a 2023/24 Precept of £88,500 (representing a below-inflation increase of approx. 7.4% over the 2022/23 figure) resulting in a Crondall 'Band D' Council Tax charge for 2023/24 of approx. £99.50 (an increase of approx. 3.8% over the figure for 2022/23). Seconded by Cllr Worthington and AGREED (in favour 7 : against 1).

159/23 Ratification of payments

The circulated list of 13 items including Payroll, valued at £7,792.75, was proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Argent, and **AGREED** unanimously.

160/23 To CONSIDER and AGREE a list of items for spending

There were no items for spending.

161/23 To NOTE the Income and Expenditure report and Balance Sheet to 31st December 2022

No questions were raised, and the Council NOTED the report.

162/23 To NOTE the independent examination of the Bank Reconciliation for December 2022

The Clerk confirmed that she had undertaken an independent examination of the Bank Reconciliation for December 2022. No questions were raised. Council NOTED the Clerk's report.

REPORTS

163/23 Clerk's Report

A full written report having been distributed prior to the meeting, the Clerk confirmed that the work to raise the crown of the trees on Hook Meadow bordering the Village Hall car park had been completed. The Clerk and Groundsman had met with Mr Crowther, the Treasurer of the Village Hall, who expressed dissatisfaction that more branches had not been removed from over the car park. It was, however, explained that as much as was possible had been removed and to remove more from one side of the trees would weaken them, increasing the danger of them falling in high winds. Cllr Lambert added that he would be raising the matter at the next meeting of the Village Hall Committee.

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

164/23 Conservation Area Review

Cllr O'Connor provided a short verbal update, confirming that the consultants, Alan Baxter Associates are liaising with HDC for their feedback. Once this has been received, a meeting with ABA and CPC will be held to agree next steps.

The Clerk confirmed that CPC have accepted an invitation to contribute to the Task & Finish Group - Conservation Area Appraisal Documentation Updating Process.

165/23 Roads, Traffic & Footpaths

Cllr Taylor confirmed that there was no further update on the report. HCC Roads and Highways have assessed the identified issues, responding that in their opinion there are no problems. Cllr Taylor confirmed he would be pursuing the matter.

166/23 Hook Meadow Pill Box Project

Cllr Worthington confirmed that due to adverse weather over the Christmas period, the planned excavation of the entrance had not happened. It is understood that Mr Assael is working with the local Scout groups, to complete this by the end of the month. The remaining excavation, which will involve heavy machinery, can only be carried out when the ground is dry.

The Clerk outlined an idea which had been raised by parishioners, suggesting that instead of excavating the entire pill box, a couple of sides be left with soil and planted with wildflowers. It was agreed that the Clerk would forward the suggestion to Mr Assael for consideration.

167/23 Correspondence

All email correspondence has been circulated to Councillors and any physical correspondence was made available at the meeting.

168/23 Any Other Business

- Cllr Worthington enquired whether it could be arranged for the resultant rubbish from the parishioner litter picking initiatives to be disposed of in the Village Hall or parish council bins. The Clerk agreed to speak to the Groundsman to discuss access as the bins are kept locked.
- Cllr Lambert confirmed that following disruption by protest groups, FACC meeting would now be taking place at HDC offices.
- Cllr Lambert questioned whether, in light of the recent dog attack in Surrey, the parish council should be introducing restrictions, such as only permitting the walking of dogs on leads on Hook Meadow. The need for such restrictions plus the difficulty in enforcing them was discussed but the Clerk agreed to liaise with HDC to understand what is being done within the District.
- Cllr Williams confirmed that he would be attending the Flood Forum on Thursday, 19th January and asked that councillors please forward details of any issues which require highlight to him.
- Cllr Argent commented that the sign on Crondall Lane informing road users heading towards Crondall of the weight limit for vehicles was after the Dora's Green turn-off, whereas it clearly needs to be before that turn-off. Cllr Taylor confirmed he would look into it and if necessary, raise it with HCC Highways.

Signed as a true record dated 20th February 2023