

CRONDALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held Monday 26th September 2022

PRESENT

Councillor G Smith - Chairman

Councillors D Argent, R Fitzhugh, N Lambert, G O'Connor, I Taylor
and S Worthington

APOLOGIES:

Councillor R Freeman-Griffiths

Councillors C Dorn, J Kennett, and J Hale - Hart DC

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor J Glen – Hampshire County Council

A Angove - Parish Clerk

Four members of the public attended the meeting.

The meeting commenced at 7.35 pm and ended at 8.56pm.

76/23 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared.

77/23 Minutes of 22nd August Council Meeting

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

78/23 Announcements from the Chairman, Clerk and Members questions received in advance

79/23 County Councillors Report

A copy of Cllr Glen's written report having been distributed to all councillors; Cllr Glen provided a verbal update.

The Wilson Plant Regulatory Committee is likely to be taking place on 19th October, although no formal confirmation has been received. Over and above the delay being caused by an awaited Environmental report, questions are also being raised about whether there was ever a right to seek planning on the site in the first place.

Cllr Glen having recently completed a physical review of the roads in and around Crondall with a representative from HCC had identified a number of potholes, as well as the lines outside the village shop needing attention. There has been a lot of communication about Redlands Lane, not just the general state of the road and footpath but also the way that it is used, particularly by large lorries and vehicles travelling a speed. Cllr Glen advised that the Parish Council take the lead in identifying what needs to be done and understanding parishioners' worries as HCC are not in a financial position to do anything. The Clerk clarified that as part of the Haycroft development, a photographic condition report had been completed at the outset, with a view to providing a comparator at the end. Cala Homes would be required to make good any damage and deterioration of the road. Additionally, it was clarified that requests have been made in the past to investigate changing the speed limit on the road and restricting the type of vehicles allowed access but whilst the Parish Council are able to apply pressure, it does not have the power to take any action

Cllr Glen asked a member of the public, Mr Hall, who was present at the meeting, to outline the details of a separate issue that had been brought to his attention. Mr Hall confirmed he had written to Cllr Glen providing photographic evidence of dead trees along Croft Lane (adjacent to Old Parsonage Meadow) which in his view were not only restricting views along the road but were also a potential danger to some of the buildings including the school. Cllr Glen confirmed he would pursue the matter with the relevant body at HCC.

Cllr Taylor requested whether there is an official channel for raising issues with the standard of repairs to the road and was directed to forward this information to Steve Pellatt at HCC Highways.

Cllr Smith thanked Cllr Glen for his update.

80/23 Representations by the public

The Clerk confirmed she had received three representations from the public, two of which related to the same topic. Mr Crowther had requested to address the meeting on behalf of the Village Hall trustees about the trees by the Village Hall and also on the topic of antisocial behaviour. Both topics being covered in the Clerk's Report Cllr Smith proposed they be discussed at this point. Seconded by Cllr Taylor and AGREED (in favour 6 : against 1).

Trees – a written report having been distributed prior to the meeting; the Clerk provided a brief overview of the issue. A request has been received from Mr Crowther on behalf of the Village Hall trustees to have the trees along the car park cut so that they no longer create problems with leaves in the gutter. The Clerk has met with tree surgeons to discuss what can and cannot be done and Mr Crowther has joined such meetings.

The Clerk confirmed the general consensus that the crowns of the trees do need to be raised, as they are too low and are encroaching the car park. Quotes having been received; the Clerk requested that the parish council approve the most competitive.

The Village Hall have asked that the parish council consider various possible solutions, chief among these being the removal of the nearest tree to the Village Hall. Having met with the tree surgeons, Mr Crowther is aware that the advice is that these trees do not lend themselves to being pollarded. They are likely at maximum height and are unlikely to encroach more. The tree surgeons have advised that, in their opinion, the removal of one tree will have little impact on the number of leaves on the building. The Clerk has been advised that it is likely that Conservation Area consent will be required for any work which may require an impact assessment on ecology and impact on views, given the Conservation Area and the Church. The Clerk has enquired whether the Village Hall trust have considered putting wire netting around the gutters to help protect them from leaves and twigs.

Mr Crowther addressed the meeting requesting that the nearest tree be removed altogether, adding that in his experience wire netting causes as many problems as it prevents. In addition, due to the design of the extended building, there is a large four-foot gulley, which is difficult to keep clear without being covered.

Cllr Argent pointed out that the majority of properties, large or small, in the village will have leaves in their gutters and it is part of the general upkeep to regularly clear them. Cllr Worthington, whilst sympathetic, felt to cut a healthy tree down for what is essentially a maintenance issue, was not desirable. As an aside, Mr Crowther suggested the Parish Council pay for this ongoing maintenance.

Cllr Lambert proposed that the tree nearest the Village Hall have the branches on the building side removed. There was no seconder.

Cllr Argent proposed that the Parish Council agree with the Clerk's recommendation that the crown of the trees be raised and that no other action be taken. Seconded by Cllr Fitzhugh and AGREED (in favour 5 : against 2).

Mr Crowther enquired whether his understanding was correct, that where branches overhang the Village Hall boundary, that is outside CPC land, he is within his rights to lop them. Cllr Taylor suggested that this is the case, but the Clerk cautioned that, relevant Conservation Area restrictions apply regardless of boundary considerations.

Anti-social Behaviour and Vandalism – the Clerk confirmed a number of complaints have been received from residents about a group of youths riding their motorbikes around the churchyard, Village Hall car park and Hook Meadow plus threatening behaviour when asked to stop and generally making a nuisance and noise.

Mr Crowther briefly addressed the meeting, outlining a recent incident where he felt personal threatened.

The Clerk confirmed, that having reached out to the PCSO it is clear that residents are still not reporting incidents through the proper channels, with only one report having been received over the last few months. Cllr Lambert disputed that the police are unaware of the issue, as he has personally spoken to them on a number of occasions. The Clerk clarified that she has also, but it is still essential that reports are made via the proper channels. Donna Jones, Hampshire PCC has put Anti-Social Behaviour firmly within her policing and crime plan but currently, all formal statistics would imply that Crondall does not have a problem. Whilst the Clerk plans to attend a future conference about supporting the community, unless parishioners report incidents when they occur, the police will not be in a position to understand the issues and target their response accordingly. The Clerk confirmed that a further communication outlining the proper channels, and how essential it is to use them, would be distributed through the normal communication channels.

Cllr Lambert enquired why the proposed youth shelter had not yet been purchased. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had agreed to the purchase of a youth shelter but had also agreed that a bid to access the Haycroft S106 money to pay for it, be made, and for that bid to succeed, before making any purchase. The paperwork has been submitted as discussed at the August meeting, but the HDC response has been delayed by the recent death of Queen Elizabeth II, the mourning period for which prevented some meetings taking place and by HDC not being able to locate the details of the money. The Clerk has sent through the documentation (HDC documentation) again and continues to chase. Cllr Taylor expressed frustration at the speed of the response, which was echoed by the Clerk. Cllr Argent clarified, that whilst the Parish Council's finances are healthy, the increase in costs is being felt by all (the increase in diesel costs being just one) and with the S106 very severely restricted to where and when it can be utilised, the Parish Council had made this decision to ensure the parish could benefit from it. He emphasised that the delay is not the result of any lack of effort by the Clerk. Cllr Lambert proposed that the topic be included on next month's Agenda to discuss proceeding even if HDC have not responded. Seconded by Cllr Taylor and AGREED unanimously.

The Clerk updated the meeting on recent communications received from residents neighbouring Hook Meadow ahead, revisit the design to the more open-sided option mooted by the Clerk. The Clerk has responded explaining that much thought and resident feedback has gone into this decision and that whilst CPC are sympathetic to the issues that neighbours of Hook Meadow are experiencing, it is a public space and by providing older teenagers with a protected area to congregate, it is hoped that some of the issues will be alleviated.

(Cllr Glen left the meeting)

81/23 Planning Applications

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

22/01859/FUL	Marsh Farm Bowling Alley Crondall GU10 5RJ	Demolition of existing buildings and erection of four 3 bedroom and five 4-bedroom dwellings with associated works including relocated access to the public highway.
Recommendation: Objection on the basis that housing mix is not in accordance with Neighbourhood Plan Policy 2c CRON 22 Marsh Farm. Cllr Lambert proposed as listed. Seconded by Cllr Argent and AGREED unanimously.		
22/02016/LBC 22/02015/HOU	Garretts Farm Pankridge Street Crondall GU10 5QU	Erection of a single storey rear extension.
Recommendation: No Objection subject to conditions covering: • Approval of a construction traffic management plan to ensure no disruption to Pankridge Street; • Approval of materials. It was noted by Cllr Lambert that no disruption to Pankridge Street would be impossible but by requesting it as a condition, some thought may be given to at least alleviating any impact. Cllr Smith proposed as listed. Seconded by Cllr Taylor and AGREED unanimously.		
22/02070/AMCON	Finns Industrial Park Bowenhurst Lane Crondall GU10 5HP	Variation of Condition 2 attached to Planning Permission 20/00621/FUL dated 24/12/2020 to allow a substitution of plans and reports relating to the surface water flooding.
Recommendation: No Objection subject to HDC's Drainage Officer and Environmental Health officer being satisfied. Following a short discussion about the size of the proposed tank, particularly in view of comments raised by near neighbours, Cllr Argent proposed as listed. Seconded by Cllr Fitzhugh and AGREED (in favour 6 : against 1).		
22/02077/HOU	20 Glebe Road Crondall GU10 5PJ	Erection of a two-storey side extension, single storey front and rear extensions following demolition of existing conservatory, change to ground levels and blocking up window to ground floor side.
Recommendation: No Objection		

Cllr O'Connor noted that CPC had originally objected on the grounds that the size of the extension was excessive for the site and in turn created issues with inadequate provision for off-site street parking. HDC having rejected the application (on the issue of bats only) had, however, noted:

- Considered the design and appearance acceptable;
- Considered that the proposal would provide parking in accordance with policy;
- On residential amenity, considered no impact.

No significant change having been made to the proposal other than the issue surround bats, Cllr Argent proposed that CPC **object** on the same grounds as previously. Seconded by Cllr O'Connor and AGREED (in favour 4 : against 2 : abstained 1).

22/02042/FUL	Land At Travers Farm Well Road Crondall GU10 5HJ	Erection of 3 timber car ports and conversion of garage at plot 1 into habitable accommodation.
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Recommendation: **No Objection**

Questions were raised about the history of this development and in particular the perceived permission by stealth, which in turn was essentially moving the development away from the initially agreed parameters.

On this basis, Cllr Taylor proposed that CPC **object**. Seconded by Cllr O'Connor and AGREED (in favour 5 : against 2).

22/02114/HOU	The Hart Cottage Pankridge Street Crondall GU10 5QT	Replacement of single glazed timber framed windows and doors with double glazed timber framed units.
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Recommendation: **No Objection**

No questions were raised. Cllrs Smith proposed as listed. Seconded by Cllr Worthington and AGREED unanimously.

22/02128/HOU	Willow Mead Pankridge Street Crondall GU10 5QU	Erection of a single storey rear extension.
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Recommendation: **No Objection**

Cllr Smith proposed as listed. Seconded by Cllr Taylor and AGREED (in favour 6 : abstained 1).

(Cllr Lambert and four members of the public left the meeting).

82/23 Meeting dates for the next Calendar Year

The list of proposed dates for 2023 having previously been circulated, the Clerk briefly updated the meeting on the rationale for the dates chosen and requested that councillors decide whether the earlier or later of the dates given for the months of January, February and December be chosen. Having agreed that the earlier dates for January and February and the later in December were the best option, Cllr Argent proposed that these dates be adopted. Seconded by Cllr Worthington and AGREED unanimously.

The Clerk confirmed that the agreed dates would be distributed to all parish councillors and advertised.

83/23 Stand Up for the North Hampshire Downs

The original information on this initiative having been discussed during the October 2022 CPC meeting, the Clerk had distributed the latest update for consideration prior to the meeting. A representative from STaNHd had been invited to attend meetings in the past but no response had been received. Cllr Smith enquired whether councillors wished to continue to support the initiative and whether further information was required at this stage. Following a short discussion, Cllr Smith proposed CPC continue to support the initiative. Seconded by Cllr Taylor and AGREED unanimously.

FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT**84/23 Ratification of payments**

The circulated list of 14 items including Payroll, valued at £9,833.51, was proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Taylor, and **AGREED** unanimously.

85/23 To CONSIDER and AGREE a list of items for spending

The Clerk provided a verbal explanation for the items listed, in particular the significant rise in diesel costs due to the change in legislation and move to white diesel from red. The circulated list of 3 items was proposed by Cllr Argent, seconded by Cllr O'Connor and AGREED unanimously.

86/23 To NOTE the Income and Expenditure report and Balance Sheet to 31st August 2022

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

87/23 To NOTE the independent examination of the Bank Reconciliation for August 2022

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

REPORTS**88/23 Clerk's Report**

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk drew councillors' attention to points over and above those discussed earlier in the meeting:

- Insurance – the Clerk confirmed that the renewal quote of £2,670.71 (an increase of £229.74 from the previous year) had been received.

For the record, the Clerk reiterated the detailed requirements clearly set out in her email of 1st September to all Councillors, listing seven statements which required each Councillor to declare, in the case of each statement, whether it applies to her or him, and the importance of so doing. Due to the sensitivity of the information required, Councillors had been given the option of providing the information to the Clerk or directly to the insurance broker. To date, the Clerk has answered that "to the best of my knowledge" the information provided is correct. Where any such declaration has been disclosed to the Clerk, she has either satisfied herself that it does not jeopardise the Council's insurance in any way or has reported it to the broker. Where Councillors have not disclosed any declaration, whether to the Clerk or to the broker, she has necessarily assumed that they are not failing to disclose anything that might jeopardise the parish council's insurance in any way.

The renewal quote provided is based on this information and the Clerk stressed that any failure by a parish councillor to have provided full and correct information against these seven statements could seriously jeopardise a future insurance claim.

- Football Pavilion – the Clerk sought Council approval to employ a cleaner to clean the pavilion, with a view to continuing this on a semi-regular basis. The Clerk confirmed that the pavilion is being increasingly used and that she is currently in talks with other potential hirees. Councillors confirmed they were happy for the Clerk to proceed.

No further questions were raised. Council **NOTED** the report.

89/23 Roads, Traffic & Footpaths Report

In view of very recent changes, in particular recent correspondence about Redlands Lane, Cllr Taylor confirmed that he would be updating his written report and distributing it later in the week.

Cllr Taylor confirmed that he would be meeting with Mr Colin Hebborn, a previous parish councillor, to discuss footpaths and should be able to report back to the Parish Council more fully after that.

90/23 Correspondence

It was confirmed that all email correspondence has been circulated to Councillors. Any physical correspondence was made available at the meeting.

91/23 Any Other Business

The Clerk and all Councillors present confirmed that they had no further business to raise at this point.

92/22 Move to In-Committee Meeting

Cllr Smith proposed that the main meeting be concluded, prior to the meeting continuing in-Committee to discuss staff matters. Cllr Smith, therefore, moved that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as applied by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, Members of the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Argent and **AGREED** unanimously.

(The Clerk left the meeting).

Signed as a true record dated 24th October 2022