

CRONDALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held Monday 30th May 2022

PRESENT

Councillor R Freeman-Griffiths – Chairman
Councillors D Argent, R Fitzhugh, and G Smith

APOLOGIES:

Councillors N Lambert and S Worthington
Councillor C Dorn, J Hale and J Kennett - Hart DC

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor J Glen – Hampshire County Council
Messrs J Freeman-Griffiths and S Shepherd - Speedwatch
A Angove - Parish Clerk

10 members of the public joined the meeting.

The meeting commenced at 7.37 pm and ended at 8.50 pm.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the councillors and members of the public to the first annual parish meeting since 2019 due to the recent Covid pandemic and shutdown of face-to-face meetings. He outlined the plan for the evening and introduced councillors individually.

PM 1/22 Minutes of 15th April 2019 Annual Parish Meeting

It was noted that due to the Covid pandemic and recent elections, the make-up of the parish council had changed significantly but the minutes having been circulated in draft form at the time with no comments made were proposed for acceptance as an accurate record by Cllr Freeman-Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Fitzhugh and **AGREED** unanimously. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

PM 2/22 Matters arising from the Minutes of 15th April 2019 meeting.

There were no matters arising.

PM 3/22 Chairman's Report

Cllr Freeman-Griffiths provided an overview of the current parish council team, explaining that since the 2021 elections that has been quite a lot of movement with three councillors having resigned due to work commitments and relocation. Currently, there remains one vacancy, which it is hoped will be filled via co-option in June. Once the parish council is back at full strength, roles and responsibilities will be re-visited and published.

Cllr Freeman-Griffiths outlined the support offered by the parish council during the pandemic, including the move to online meetings, amnesty on payments for clubs and societies who use the facilities, providing an active part of the Crondall Community Support Group and the management of the Hook Meadow play area as restrictions were relaxed by ensuring it was a covid-safe environment and compliant with all legislation.

Cllr Freeman-Griffiths provided an overview of key initiatives, projects and challenges during the recent financial year including the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan, ongoing refurbishment of

Hook Meadow play area, and the purchase of a number of benches, including picnic and a Jubilee commemorative bench, for Hook Meadow. Following an extensive review of car parking issues along Croft Lane an agreement with the school and the Village Hall has been reached to provide car parking, in particular during the peak summer season. A £1,000 contribution has been made to both Crondall Events and the Pill Box renovation; a community led initiative. The Parish Council were also instrumental in the setting up of the well-attended Community Safety Meeting, which in turn fed into the Community Facilities & Activities Survey.

Looking ahead, Cllr Freeman-Griffiths confirmed that following direct feedback from the survey, the parish council are looking to install a youth shelter in Hook Meadow with the aim of off-setting the cost against the money from S106 Agreement with Cala Homes. Additional projects will include the resurfacing of the tennis court, introduction of an on-line booking system, completion of the playground upgrades and the more “user friendly” website.

Finally, Cllr Freeman-Griffiths provided an update on the conservation area review, confirming that consultation with parishioners will take place before the updated Conservation Area Appraisal is sent to HDC for their consideration and adoption.

A number of questions were raised, specifically the interaction between Article 4 and the proposed Conservation Area Appraisal. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths confirmed that the documentation would be digital and user friendly, as well as providing information about the conservation area, would provide an interactive format for users to identify how it affects them and what needs to be considered, particularly when submitting a planning application.

This forms just one part of the appraisal with the second being an overall review of the boundary itself and whether there is a requirement to amend it.

It was questioned whether creating parking by removing the hedge along Croft Lane/Hook Meadow had been considered by the parish council. Mr O'Connor, a member of the public and previously the councillor tasked with the parking review, confirmed a number of options had been submitted to HDC in the form of a preapp with all raising significant concerns. As a result, the option of financing the resurfacing of the Village Hall car park plus the agreement with the school, had been agreed, without the detrimental impact to the landscape and fauna of the village and considerable cost involved in creating new parking areas.

PM 4/22 Finance Report

Cllr Argent gave his report for the year 2021/22. Overall Council expenditure was £88,891 with total income being £95,012 a breakdown of which and information is detailed in the attached presentation.

Cllr Argent confirmed that the precept for the coming year was unchanged from 2021/22.

A member of the public questioned whether it was standard for parish councils to retain “money in the the bank”? Cllr Argent confirmed that allocations is made for projects and whilst at this stage there is more than normal, the planned projects would bring the numbers back down to average.

It was also queried, bearing in mind the cost of street lighting, whether cost savings had been investigated. Cllr Argent confirmed that while the parish council own the streetlights, they are managed by HCC under a 25-year PFI. LEDs have already been installed and the lights are dimmed after midnight. The only option still available would be to switch them off entirely but the cost savings vs issues this may create would need to be investigated.

PM 5/22 Planning Report

Cllr Freeman-Griffiths, the parish council Planning Lead, provided an overview of the role of the parish council planning, stressing that while the council has a statutory right to be consulted on planning applications within and adjacent to the Parish boundary, they do not have the power to grant or refuse permission. This is the responsibility of HDC. Opinions submitted to HDC must be based on whether a proposal accords with Planning Policy.

The majority of applications are for extensions or alterations but applications of note in 2021/22 include the Redfields Plant Centre on Bowling Alley and 28 St Cross Road. Further information, including a breakdown of number of applications considered are detailed in the attached presentation.

A member of the public enquired whether a log of new approved buildings was being maintained against the numbers identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. It was confirmed that whilst overall numbers are noted, they are not being specifically tracked but the point was noted. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths confirmed that as part of the ongoing push to increase transparency and availability of information, it was planned for the monthly planning report to be uploaded onto the website.

PM 6/22 Further Reports

Clerk's Report – the Clerk outlined her role and reported business as usual, despite the challenges of the lockdown. These have been unprecedented times for all during the lockdown and as restrictions were eased, hand sanitation units have been introduced at the play area with regular sanitation of the equipment and risk reports being undertaken. The year has seen the introduction of new Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Burial Ground Regulations.

Estates Report – Cllr Fitzhugh reported that the main focus has been on Hook Meadow and in particular the playground, which has seen considerable wear and tear due to significantly higher usage. The dilapidated wooden fencing is to be replaced with metal fencing and new surfacing was installed throughout the playground. Further details can be found in the attached presentation.

A member of the public raised an issue with access between Hook Meadow and the neighbouring field being misused. It was acknowledged that this formed part of the ongoing issues with antisocial behaviour and that it had been agreed that the parish council Groundsman and Mr Butler look at restricting encroachment by moving logs across the “weakened” gaps in the hedge.

Additionally, a question about the costs associated with the playground refurbishment was raised.

Highways, Traffic and FACC – Cllr Freeman-Griffiths forwarded Cllr Lambert's apologies who was unfortunately unable to join the meeting and provide an update due to ill health. The Clerk provided a brief verbal update, confirming that potholes continue to be an issue but are being regularly reported to HCC. Additionally, the Clerk continues to work with all parties on the ongoing issues on Redlands Lane during the Cala Homes development.

Speedwatch – Scott Shepherd and Jonny Freeman-Griffiths of the Community Speedwatch team provided an overview of the initiative which is manned by volunteers and undertakes speed watch sessions at location approved by Hampshire Constabulary on Croft Lane, Dippenhall Street, Pankridge Street and Well Road. The parish council funded purchase of two SIDs was confirmed, and the meeting was introduced to the two new “cut-out speed detector cops” which have been purchased to provide an additional deterrent. Overall statistics can be found in the attached presentation.

A question was raised about how many sites have been identified for the new SIDs and whether there are any restrictions. It was confirmed that they can be placed in other places than currently but there is a requirement to register.

The Chairman, on behalf of the parish council, thanked both Mr Shepherd and Mr Freeman-Griffiths and the whole Speedwatch team for their work, time, and the significant contribution the initiative makes to the village.

PM 7/22 Questions

A member of the public expressed concern about the proposed change to the licence at the winery, enquiring what the parish council's opinion was of it. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths confirmed that the parish council is aware of the application but have not considered it formally yet. The parish council is conscious of the balance between the potential increase in noise and traffic and the benefits of a community amenity and supporting business.

No further questions were raised. The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and invited them to stay and chat to councillors over a drink and nibbles.

Signed as a true record 15th May 2023

Annex A – Crondall Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting Presentation 2022