

CRONDALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held Monday 24th April 2023

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

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and ended at 9.20 pm.

Members of the public – 2

209/23 Declarations of Interest

Two declarations of interest were made:

- Cllr O'Connor declared a pecuniary interest in Planning Application 23/00621/Hou (Beech House) and confirmed that she would temporarily leave the meeting when the application is discussed;
- Cllr Freeman-Griffiths confirmed that whilst he provided councillors with an overview of the facts relating to 23/00823/FUL (Land at Ormersfield Farm) he would be unable to make a recommendation or take part in the vote due to a professional relationship with the applicant.

No further declarations were made.

210/23 Minutes of 20th March 2023 Council Meeting

Minutes of the Council meeting were proposed for acceptance as an accurate record by Cllr Freeman-Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Taylor and **AGREED** unanimously.

190/23 Matters Arising

The Clerk confirmed that there were no matters arising from the previous Minutes not otherwise on the Agenda.

211/23 Announcements from the Chairman, Clerk and Members questions received in advance

The Clerk reminded councillors that when an email is marked as high importance or requiring a response by return, could they please do so as the requirement to chase responses is causing needless delays.

212/23 County & District Councillor's Reports

Cllr Dorn provided a verbal update:

- With the elections on 4th May and the corresponding restriction to activities, it has been relatively quiet recently. There are four candidates standing for the role of District Councillor – LibDem, Green and Labour plus Cllr Dorn for the Conservatives;

- Parishioners are encouraged to keep reporting potholes. HCC are responding but prioritising the worst examples with potholes around South Warnborough being particularly bad;
- Battery Storage Farms – concerns around the risk of fires are being raised with various suggestions being forwarded for inclusion in future applications including water bunds around the infrastructure.

Councillors expressed concern that there is seemingly no national standard for the development and in particular fire safety for battery storage farms. Cllr Dorn will be highlighting the issue with the local MP and encouraged the parish council to continue highlighting the issue in their planning response to these applications.

It was confirmed that following HDC's initial response to the Oak Park PreApp, there has been no further activity.

Cllr Freeman-Griffiths provided a brief verbal update on behalf of Cllr Glen who was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting:

- Bowling Alley Liaison Panel – the recent meeting was very positive, with a number of points being progressed. Pressure is being put on HDC to engage with the process, particularly important in light of continuing issues with planning;
- The recent report on potholes, completed by Cllr Taylor has been forwarded to Hampshire Highways;
- A donation of £500.00 from the HCC devolved budget has been agreed towards the Crondall Coronation celebrations.

The reports, in addition to Cllr Glen's circulated written reports, were NOTED.

(Mr Crowther joined the meeting)

213/23 Representations by the public

Mr Simon Crowther, Chairman of the Village Hall, provided councillors with a brief verbal update and demonstration of the completed work to the Village Hall, in particular the sound and light system. Councillors thanked Mr Crowther for the information and look forward to the start of film nights in the Hall.

(Mr Crowther and Cllr Dorn left the meeting)

214/23 Planning Applications

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

23/00424/LBC 23/00423/HOU	Garretts Farm Pankridge Street Crondall GU10 5QU	Lowering of kitchen floor and external ground level.
Recommendation: No Objection subject to HDC Heritage Officer being satisfied no loss of historical features and methodology is in keeping with heritage asset. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths proposed as listed. Seconded by Cllr Argent and AGREED unanimously.		
23/00642/HOU	Willow Mead Pankridge Street Crondall GU10 5QU	Erection of single storey rear extensions.
Recommendation: No Objection , subject to the following conditions: • Prior approval of external materials Cllr Freeman-Griffiths proposed as listed. Seconded by Cllr O'Connor and AGREED unanimously.		

23/00621/HOU	Beech House Dippenhall Street Crondall GU10 5N	Erection of detached double garage.
Recommendation: No Objection Cllr Freeman-Griffiths proposed as listed. Seconded by Cllr Williams and AGREED (in favour 6 : abstained 1) <i>(As agreed, Cllr O'Connor temporarily left the meeting, rejoining after the vote).</i>		
23/00823/FUL	Land At Ormersfield Farm Crondall Road Crookham Village	Installation of a battery energy storage system with associated infrastructure and works including access to the public highway.
Due to a declared non-pecuniary interest in the application, Cllr Freeman-Griffiths provided an overview of the application but did not provide a recommendation. Cllr Argent opened the discussion, suggesting that whilst the impact of the proposed infrastructure upon the village is not significant, the concerns around fire and in particular unplanned atmospheric emissions, are of enough concern to warrant comment. Following a short discussion, Cllr Argent proposed that the parish council OBJECT to the planning application on the grounds that, whilst supportive of the principle of the development, these concerns should be addressed, specifically, whilst reference is made to fire within the documentation, there is no reference (or sight) of a Battery Fire Safety Management Plan included in the application. Seconded by Cllr Taylor and AGREED (in favour 4 : against 2 : abstained 1)		

215/23 To AGREE the content and format of the Annual Parish Meeting – Monday, 15th May 2023

Having provided a written outline, the Clerk gave a brief verbal overview. It was agreed that the proposed format with fewer slides and presenters plus the kick-off of the Conservation Area consultation go ahead. The Clerk will organise light snacks and soft drinks with Cllr Worthington agreeing to source alcoholic drinks, if possible through the village shop. It was agreed that the APM would be held in the Village Hall at 7.00 pm for refreshments and informal discussions for a 7.30 pm start.

216/23 To CONSIDER roles and project allocation in preparation for the May AGM

The Clerk explained that with parish council Roles & Responsibilities for the next financial year, due to be confirmed at the May AGM, a report, outlining proposed projects and changes had been distributed to all councillors prior to the meeting. Following a brief discussion where it was agreed, amongst others, that the Wilson Plant Liaison panel and Pill Box Community Project should be added to the list of liaison responsibilities, the list was agreed in principle and will be voted upon at the May AGM.

217/23 To CONFIRM any conflict of interest with the SAAA appointed external auditor, BDO LLP

The Parish Council having agreed to continue with the SAAA appointed external auditor (BDO LLP) at the August 2023 meeting (68/23), the Clerk requested that any conflict of interest with BDO LLP be declared. No declaration having been received both at the meeting and in response to the Clerk's written request, the report was NOTED.

218/23 Ratification of payments

The circulated list of 19 items including Payroll, valued at £10,271.81 was proposed by Cllr Freeman-Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Taylor, and **AGREED** unanimously.

219/23 To CONSIDER and AGREE a list of items for spending

No items for spending were put forward for consideration at the meeting.

220/23 To NOTE the Income and Expenditure report and Balance Sheet to 31st March 2023

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

221/23 To NOTE the independent examination of the Bank Reconciliation for March 2023

The Clerk confirmed that she had undertaken an independent examination of the Bank Reconciliation for March 2023. No questions were raised. Council NOTED the Clerk's report.

REPORTS

222/23 Clerk's Report

A full written report having been distributed prior to the meeting, no questions were raised, and the report was NOTED.

223/23 Conservation Area Review

Cllr O'Connor provided a verbal update on progress, confirming that a meeting was planned to discuss the details of the presentation for the APM, with a few specifics about responsibility for links to the consultation material to be agreed with HDC. The report was NOTED.

224/23 Roads & Traffic

A copy of Cllr Taylor's most recent report on the roads and in particular potholes, was circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. It was confirmed that the report had been forwarded to Cllr Glen and in turn, HCC Highways. Cllr Taylor to update the parish council once responses have been received.

225/23 Hook Meadow Pill Box Project

Following a brief verbal update by Cllr Worthington, it was agreed that in view of concerns about the stability of the pill box since it has been partially unearthed, it would be necessary for a structural survey and risk report to be completed before the proposed "Big Dig" community event can safely take place as planned on 8th May. Cllr Freeman-Griffiths proposed that the work be suspended until this been completed due to potential invalidation of the parish council Public Liability Insurance and danger to the public. Seconded by Cllr Worthington and AGREED unanimously.

Cllr Worthington committed to contacting Mr Assael to outline initial concerns with the Clerk tasked with ongoing liaison.

226/23 Correspondence

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

227/23 Any Other Business

Cllr Worthington requested that the Clerk, when ordering refuse bags for the litter picking group, add an additional pack for him to replace those used for litter picking.

No other business was raised.

Signed as a true record dated 22nd May 2023