MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF CRONDALL PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE CRONDALL CHURCH ROOMS ON MONDAY, 16th November 2026 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT Councillor G Smith – Chairman
Councillors D Argent, C Howlett-Molloy and G O'Connor

IN ATTENDANCE Cllr C Dorn – Hampshire County Council (HCC) and Hart District Council (HDC)
A Angove (Parish Clerk) plus two members of the public[left the meeting after item 98/27b]
and Mr S Crowther, Village Hall Chairman[left after item 95/27]

90/27 Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllrs Baldry, Gregory and Worthington plus Cllrs Hale and Highley (HDC).

91/27 Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation relating to any item on the agenda.
No declarations of interest were received.

92/27 Announcements from the Chairman, Clerk and Members questions received in advance
The Clerk confirmed that, following discussion at the previous meeting, Cllr Baldry had agreed to take on the role of Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee.

93/27 Approval of Minutes
RESOLVED: The minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 26th October 2026 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the meeting Chair. Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr O'Connor and AGREED (unanimous).

94/27 Meeting Action Points
Noted, as presented with the agenda.

95/27 Public Session
Councillors received an update from Mr Simon Crowther (SC) regarding the Village Hall. SC confirmed that he intends to step down from his Village Hall responsibilities and will not seek re-election at the April 2027 AGM. As a result, the Village Hall is urgently seeking volunteers, particularly to take on the roles of Chairman and Treasurer, both of which are currently held by SC. Without suitable volunteers, the future of the Village Hall is at considerable risk.

Prior to the meeting, SC had circulated information on the Village Hall's finances and general background. It was noted that the Hall is financially secure, with approximately 70% of its income generated through bookings from outside the parish.

Councillors asked how widely the situation had been publicised and what efforts had been made to recruit volunteers. SC confirmed that appeals had been made through several channels, including the Crondall Society AGM, the Parish Council's Annual Meeting and advertisements in the parish magazine. Despite these efforts, no volunteers had come forward to date.

No immediate action was agreed, and the councillor will continue to monitor the situation.

96/27 Representations by the Public
The Clerk confirmed that all representations received relating to the Local Plan and proposed warehouse development would be addressed under the relevant agenda items. No further representations had been received.

97/27 Reports from other councils

The Clerk noted that due to meeting being held earlier in the month than usual, Cllr Dorn's report was likely to be published in the next few days and would be circulated to all then.

98/27 Planning

a. **Land at Lodge Farm (26/01844/OUT)**

In line with the Parish Council's position on the previous pre-application submissions, the Clerk had prepared a draft letter setting out the proposed objection to the outline planning application. Cllr O'Connor proposed that the letter be submitted as presented, subject to a final review to remove any unnecessary repetition. This was seconded by Cllr Argent and **AGREED unanimously**.

b. Hart Local Plan Consultation

Councillors noted the three briefing documents circulated prior to the meeting, namely the briefing on the Local Plan process, the recommended response to the consultation and the recommended response to the proposed site allocations within the parish.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should support a shorter plan period. Whilst the proposed development of new settlements in otherwise unsustainable countryside locations was not considered ideal, councillors acknowledged that their creation could help to alleviate some of the development pressure on existing villages.

It was further agreed that the Parish Council's response to the proposed site allocations should highlight the potential impact of additional development on Crondall's already overstretched infrastructure.

Cllr O'Connor proposed that the recommendations as outlined be the Clerk in the documentation be agreed. Seconded by Cllr Argent and AGREED unanimously. Additionally, Cllr Argent recommended that the parish council respond to the site allocation as recommended. Seconded by Cllr Howlett-Molloy and AGREED unanimously. The Clerk to submit a response on behalf of the Parish Council and publish the outcome for parishioners' information.

99/27 Budget & Precept 2027/28

The Clerk outlined the current financial position, noting that several major projects for which funding had been allocated in the current year had not progressed as anticipated. Unless significant progress was made, the likely recommendation would be to carry forward the allocated funds to support these projects as they progress during the next financial year, whilst keeping the precept increase to a minimum.

The Clerk reminded councillors that the precept must be finalised at the January meeting and that any proposed additions or amendments to the budget should be submitted for consideration at the December meeting.

100/27 REPORTS

100/27a Project Updates:

i. **Traffic Calming Measures** – in the absence of the sponsoring councillor, Cllr Taylor, the item was carried forward.

ii. **Youth Facilities Survey** – The report was NOTED. The Clerk to check that the questionnaire complies with relevant legislation and requirements relating to surveys aimed at young people. The final wording is to be agreed between the Clerk and Cllr Howlett-Molloy, with approval sought at the December meeting.

iii. **Summer Activity Days** – The Clerk's update was NOTED. It was agreed to hold three activity sessions in conjunction with Fleet Phoenix on Hook Meadow for primary school-aged children, on 26th July, 9th August and 23rd August 2027, each running from 3.00pm to 4.30pm. Cllr Smith proposed that the dates and times be approved, seconded by Cllr Argent and AGREED unanimously. Subject to the success of the events, the Clerk to explore the possibility of extending the programme to include secondary school-aged children in 2028.

iv. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Progress on the Neighbourhood Plan has been limited due to the current focus on the Local Plan consultation. The item was therefore carried forward to the December meeting.

v. **Clerk's Report** – Councillors considered a complaint from a parishioner regarding noise from dogs during Saturday morning flyball training sessions at Farnham Road Recreation Field. As no other complaints had been received to date, it was agreed that the Clerk should continue to liaise with the flyball team and ask them to take steps to minimise noise levels. The Clerk's report was NOTED.

100/27b Meeting Reports

Cllr Howlett-Molloy provided a verbal update on her recent attendance at the Fleet Phoenix Youth Achievement Awards and recommended that councillors consider making a donation in the future to the organisation in recognition of its work with young people.

100/27c Councillor Verbal Updates

None

101/27 Community Emergency Plan

Having reviewed the example template circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting, councillors felt that much of the content fell outside the Parish Council's remit. It was therefore agreed that a leaflet containing key information and practical guidance should be produced, made available on the Parish Council website and in hard copy at the Village Shop, Church Rooms and Surgery, subject to their agreement.

102/27 FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

102/27a Charitable donation

A request by SCARF Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley for a donation of £410.00 was proposed by Cllr O'Connor. Seconded by Cllr Howlett-Molloy and AGREED (in favour 2: against 1: abstained 1).

102/27b Charges & Fees

The Clerk recommended that the existing fees and charges be maintained at their current levels for the next 12-month period, with no increase proposed. Cllr Smith proposed. Seconded by Cllr Argent and AGREED (unanimous).

102/27c Ratification of payments (Appendix A)

The circulated list of 13 items including Payroll, valued at £6,464.61, was proposed by Cllr Argent, seconded by Cllr O'Connor and AGREED (unanimous).

102/27d Items for Spending (Appendix A)

Proposed by Cllr O'Connor. Seconded by Cllr Howlett-Molloy and AGREED (unanimous).

102/27e Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet to 31st October 2026

The Council NOTED the report.

102/27f Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk confirmed that an independent examination of the Bank Reconciliation for the month of October 2026 had been undertaken, with no discrepancies identified. No questions were raised. Council NOTED the Clerk's report.

103/27 Correspondence

It was confirmed that all correspondence had been circulated to councillors.

104/27 Any other Business

Cllr O'Connor raised concerns regarding ongoing complaints from residents about activities at and around Wilson Plant. The Clerk agreed to include the matter on the December meeting agenda to allow for further discussion.

105/27 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.

There being no further public business the meeting closed at 9.14pm and the Clerk left the meeting.

Signed as a true record …… dated 14th December 2026

Crondall Parish Council — 16th November 2026

Payment Ratifications — Appendix A

	Supplier/Payee		Payee	Inv/Account. Ref.	Inv/DD. Date	Description	£ Gross	NB
	Lloyds Bank		Supplier	499411510	12/10/26	Bank Charges: 10/09/26 – 09/10/26	4.25	*1*
	Chambers		Supplier	P875506	31/10/26	Dumpy Bin Hire: October 2026	83.08	
	Larkstel		Supplier	2445	30/09/26	Bin Collection: October 2026	314.20	
	Octopus Business Energy		Supplier	2B9A-0025	02/11/26	Electricity: Tractor Shed: September '26	6.10	*1*
	Octopus Business Energy		Supplier	KI..ED7&3B8-0025	02/11/26	Electricity: Pavilion: October '26	107.09	*1*
	DGCS		Supplier	DS25892	28/10/26	Security services: October 2026	576.00	
	Staples		*Cllr Argent*	N/A	04/10/26	5 reams 80gsm A4 paper (shared with Clerk)	11.06	
	Sage		Supplier	02743678	04/11/26	Payroll: 04/11/26 – 03/12/26	16.80	*1*
	JRB		Supplier	30310	28/10/26	9,600 'Dog Gloves' (4.05p each!)	388.56	
	Wickes		*Groundsman*	N/A	07/10/26	Postcrete	15.00	
	Expenses		*Cllr H-M*	n/a	17/10/26	Mileage (8.2 miles @ £0.55pm) & parking	6.01	
	Hanna Instruments		*Mrs A Shaw*	SAL168551	25/08/26	Water testing equipment	65.92	
	Payroll: November 2026		Staff salaries, PAYE, NICs				**4,871.54**	*2*
	TOTAL						**6,465.61**	

NB1: D/D

NB2: Draft only

Purchase/Expenditure Authorisation Requests

	Item	Proposed **maximum** ££ (excl. VAT)	NB
	SCARF Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley	£410.00	
	TOTAL		