

CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING



Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on 26 March 2018 at 7.00 pm at the Parish Council Office, 7 Hampton Drive, Cronton.

Present : Councillors W Cook (Chair), D Bray, S Cooper, J Foran, G McGann and D Rostance

In attendance: V Osborne (The Clerk)
4 Members of the public

86. APOLOGIES

It was resolved that apologies for absence from Councillors P M Green and G Pentin be accepted.

87. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A declaration of interest was received from Councillor D Rostance in respect of agenda item 14 – Parks Review (The Pasture from 2019) for he represented the Council on Knowsley Parks and Green Spaces Review Board.

69. MINUTES

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19 February 2018 as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

70. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was raised if the Council had any information about compulsory purchase of the land between Sandy Lane and Rose Farm in Halton.

The 20mph signs on Hall Lane and Penny Lane and the 'No HGV' sign at the Rainhill end of Hall Lane still had not been erected by Knowsley Council.

71. COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was resolved that the unconfirmed minutes of undermentioned Committees be noted:

- (a) General Purposes and Environment Committee meeting held on 5 March 2018
- (b) Finance and Police Committee meeting held on 5 March 2018

72. REPORTS

- (a) **Policing** – The Police enforced speed limit with a speed gun in Smithy Lane. It was useful to raise awareness of speed limit in the village. A request would be made to the Police for similar operation at the weekends. There were no other real Police related issues in the village.
- (b) **Healthwatch activities in Cronton** – Some Healthwatch information for the public.
- (c) **Transportation in Cronton** – No report.
- (d) **Environment** – The recent Clean-Up Day was a success. 13 volunteers turned up, most were from Widnes. 52 bags of refuse were collected. Rubbish dumped at the back of the

shops was a concern. Posting on social media might have positive response. CCTV coverage were also suggested.

It was resolved that the above reports be noted.

73. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

APP. NO: 17/00660/CLU

APP. TYPE Certificate of Lawful Use/Dev. Existing

LOCATION: 103 Hall Lane Cronton WA8 5DQ

PROPOSAL: RETENTION OF CONVERTED GARAGE BEING USED AS STANDALONE HABITABLE BUILDING TO REAR OF EXISTING DWELLING

Decision - Refused

After consideration, **it was resolved** that the planning decision be noted and as the garage is used as a dwelling the Enforcement Officer should to be informed.

74. BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT

It was resolved that the Budgetary Control Report as at 26 March 2018 shown in Appendix A be received and approved.

75. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

(a) **It was resolved** that receipts and payments as listed in the attached Appendix be noted and approved.

(b) **It was resolved** that renewal of LALC subscription be considered at a later meeting.

76. COUNCIL INSURANCE 2018/19

Inspire (insurance broker underwritten by AXA) was recommended by Came & Company (a council insurance broker) to the Council after obtaining 3 quotations on the Council's behalf.

The new premium £1,113.59 (including £50 fee) was 5.33% over 2017/18. The Council had to enter into a 3-year long term agreement with Inspire and the insurer agreed not to apply a rate increase during the period but the sums insured and premium would be adjusted by index linking.

It was raised if extra premium was charged for the additional covers that did not apply to the council.

After discussion, **it was resolved** to accept the quotation from Inspire and to enter into a 3-year long term agreement provided the additional covers are standard covers with no extra premium.

77. STANDING ORDERS AND DIRECT DEBIT REVIEW

It was resolved that current arrangements for bank standing orders and direct debit remain unchanged.

78. RISK ASSESSMENT

Members received for consideration a Report on Risk Assessment and Management (26/3/18).

It was resolved that the Risk Assessment and Management Report dated 26/3/18 be accepted and approved.

79. EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL AND INTERNAL AUDIT 2017/18

The Council reviewed the effectiveness of the system of Internal Control and Internal Audit on the basis of the presented framework.

After careful consideration, **it was resolved** that the Council has a sound system of internal control, its financial and operational management is adequate and effective and is satisfied with the risk management.

80. PARKS REVIEW – THE PASTURE FROM 2019

Formal consultations had been carried out by Knowsley Council on the future of parks and open spaces in the Borough. Senior Knowsley Council Officers attended a Council Meeting to answer questions and give assurance that there would be no changes to the use of the Pasture when the management was taken over by the Charity Trust.

Councillor G McGann raised that if the Charity Trust could not sell some of the sites, it might need to look for other sites for sale. The Pasture could be in the new list of land for sale if the Council signed up with the Trust.

It was responded that on surrendering the lease, the Council would lose the control of the Pasture but the Trust would take over the maintenance. The viability of the Trust depended on the sale of the identified sites and the Pasture was no in the list. Further consultation would take place on the management plans of the Trust. The Council would be bound by the decision if it agreed in-principle to join the Trust.

After discussion, it was moved by Councillor S Cooper, seconded by Councillor J Foran and unanimously RESOLVED

That the Council agrees in-principle to join the Charity Trust and to surrender the lease of the Pasture to Knowsley Council provided that Knowsley Council guarantees to protect the Pasture as open green space in perpetuity.

81. VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY ISSUES

Potholes identified in the recent village walk around had been filled but some major issues remained outstanding that included the refurbishment of the railing at Kenley Avenue.

82. CRONTON NEWS

The spring newsletter would be ready by mid-April 2018.

The meeting closed at 8.17 pm.

Signed _____ Date 14 May 2018