

CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING



Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING** held on **17 February 2020** 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 G Pentin

In attendance: Keith Moyles – Highways and Transportation (KMBC)
Vitti Osborne (The Clerk)
5 Members of the public

121. APOLOGIES

It was resolved that apologies for absence from Councillors D Rostance and D Thomas be accepted.

122. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was reported that no declarations of interest were received.

123. MINUTES

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6 January 2020 as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

124. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

School Traffic - The Chairman welcomed Keith Moyles of Knowsley Council to the meeting to discuss school traffic issues. School traffic congestion was an ongoing issue in the village. Road safety, traffic obstruction, damages to pavements were concerns. It was responded that school traffic was a borough wide issue. To cover all areas with limited resources, a flexible approach to the problem was needed. For the time being arrangement would be made to deploy more Enforcement Officers to Cronton. Information collected could be used to evaluate the situation and to develop a model scheme for affected areas in Cronton. Working with the schools and the Police, and engaging parents for their co-operation were also suggested. Parking issue on the pavement outside Dandelion on Cronton Road was also raised. The return of the smiley face speed detection equipment was being looked into by Knowsley Council. Members thanked Keith Moyles for attending the meeting and his assistance.

Proposed removal of the bus shelter on Cronton Road – Awaiting decision from Merseytravel.

Progress on joint operation between neighbouring Police Forces to tackle anti-social behaviour on the Pasture – Police Forces in Merseyside and Cheshire were aware of the situation and were working on it.

125. CRONTON GALA COMMITTEE

Representatives of the Gala Committee reported that a Committee of 4 members had been set up and they continued recruiting more volunteers. Financial information taken from the previous committee was presented to the Council. Members of the reformed Committee were enthusiastic in making it a success for the village. The Council supported the Committee and would be represented at its meetings.

Approval had also been given to hold the Easter Egg Hunt on Friday 10/4/20 and the Gala on Saturday 4/7/20 on the Pasture. Hiring details were to be finalised.

126. COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

- (a) General Purposes and Environment Committee meeting held on 20 January 2020
- (b) Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 20 January 2020

127. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

It was reported that a highway improvement scheme would be implemented on the roundabout outside Cronton Garden Centre to improve safety.

An update on the proposed developments at Cronton Colliery was given.

128. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

- (a) **Policing** – An incident at Sandy Lane was attended by the Police.
- (b) **Healthwatch activities in Cronton** – No report
- (c) **Transportation in Cronton** – The new bus services replacing Halton Transport provided the same level of service but the bus ticket machine currently did not accept bus passes.
- (d) **Environment** – Ditches in Hall Lane had been cleaned by Knowsley Council. A surveillance camera to monitor fly-tipping in Tue Lane had been installed.

129. PLANNING APPLICATION

APP. NO: 19/00496/FUL

LOCATION: Cronton Water Booster Station Alder Lane Cronton

PROPOSAL: CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ACCESS JUNCTION TO ALDER LANE INCLUDING VEHICULAR TURNING POINT TOGETHER WITH THE ERECTION OF FENCING, PEDESTRIAN ACCESS GATE AND VEHICULAR ACCESS GATE TO SITE PERIMETER

DECISION Granted

APP. NO: 19/00627/FUL

LOCATION: Lower House Farmhouse Prescott Road Cronton

PROPOSAL: DEMOLITION OF GARAGE AND ERECTION OF TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION

DECISION Granted

It was resolved that the above planning decisions be noted.

APP. NO: 20/00003/CLD

APP. TYPE Certificate of Lawful Use/ Dev. Proposed

LOCATION: 13 Iver Close Cronton WA8 5DL

PROPOSAL: CERTIFICATE OF LAWFULNESS FOR ERECTION OF SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION

It was resolved that the Council has no observations to make on the above planning application.

130. BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT

- (a) After discussion, **it was resolved** to vire from the General Reserves to the following budgets:

- NI Employer's contribution £10.08
- Stationery £21.55
- Affiliation £18.31
- Christmas £82.52

- Total from General Reserve = £132.46

(b) **It was resolved** that the Budgetary Control Report as at 17 February 2020 shown in Appendix A be received and approved.

131. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

It was resolved that receipts and payments as listed in the attached Appendix B be noted and approved.

132. BANK RECONCILIATION

It was resolved that the Bank Reconciliation as at 31 December 2019 be approved and accepted by the Council.

133. PRECEPT 2019/20

(a) Two quotations for a photocopier had been received from BM Digital (Knowsley) - hiring and Vickers Business System Ltd (Cheshire) - purchase. After comparing the cost and the proximity of the service providers, an all-inclusive hiring contract for 5 years best met the requirements of the Council.

It was resolved that the quotation (£78 per quarter + VAT) from BM Digital in Knowsley be accepted. Arrangement would be made for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to sign the 5-year hiring contract.

(b) A substantial amount of reserve was used last year to maintain the precept at the same level. Based on discussions at previous meetings, it was recommended that in order to meet inflation and the photocopier hiring charges, it was necessary to increase the precept by 2% in 2020/21.

It was resolved that the precept for 2020/21 be set at £22,326 being an increase of 2% over 2019/20.

134. STANDING ORDERS AND DIRECT DEBIT ANNUAL REVIEW

(a) **It was resolved** that standing orders for the monthly payments of the Clerk's salary and the office cleaner's charges for 2020/21 be approved.

(b) **It was resolved** that direct debit payments for WaterPlus and British Gas for 2020/21 be approved.

135. RISK ASSESSMENT ANNUAL REVIEW

Members received for consideration a Report on Risk Assessment and Management.

It was resolved that the Risk Assessment and Management Report dated 17/2/20 be accepted and approved.

136. EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL AND INTERNAL AUDIT 2019/20 ANNUAL REVIEW

The Council reviewed the effectiveness of the system of Internal Control and Internal Audit based on 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.

137. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS ANNUAL REVIEW

The Council reviewed the Financial Regulations adopted on 25/11/13 and last reviewed on 18/2/19.

It was resolved that the Financial Regulations are up-to-date and be accepted and approved.

138. INTERNAL AUDIT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members received for consideration the Internal Audit Terms of Reference.

It was resolved that the Internal Audit Terms of Reference are up-to-date and be accepted and approved.

139. VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY ISSUES

- (a) Parking at the exit of The Roundabout/Hall Lane – Knowsley Council’s proposal was noted.
- (b) Parking at Iver Close – Dealt with at Public Participation.
- (c) Parking on the pavement in Smithy Close – Being looked at.
- (d) Smiley face speed detection device – Dealt with at Public Participation.
- (e) Speed gun training – Names of volunteers had been submitted to the Police.
- (f) Halsnead Garden Village (Fox’s Bank Lane/Cronton Road proposed junction improvement) - Knowsley Council clarified that a roundabout would be the most effective way of maintaining traffic flow on all roads.
- (g) Rat issue – United Utilities partly funded the sewer baiting programme but the baiting would be carried out by local authorities.

140. CRANTON NEWS

The spring newsletter was in progress.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Signed _____ Signed _____ Date 22 June 2020