



## CRANTON PARISH COUNCIL

### GENERAL PURPOSES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the **General Purposes and Environment Committee** held **remotely** on **14 December 2020** at 7.00 pm.

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

**In attendance:** Ward Councillor R Gaffney (Cranton & Whiston)  
Vitti Osborne (The Clerk)  
Geoff Conway (Census Engagement Manager Knowsley Borough)  
Julia Pullan (Resident)  
Vincent Dooley-Law (Vice-Chairman, Cranton Gala Committee)

#### **34. APOLOGIES**

All members were present

#### **35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

It was reported that no declarations of Interest were received.

#### **36. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

**It was resolved** to accept the minutes of the General Purposes and Environment Committee meeting held on 2/11/2020 as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **37. CENSUS 2021**

The next census would take place on the 21/3/21. Mr Geoff Conway of the Office of National Statistics (ONS) is seconded to Knowsley Borough as Census Engagement Manager. He explained his role and the purposes of the census. The target is to achieve a 75% online return rate. Arrangements are in place to ensure everyone can complete their form, whether online, on paper or even by phone. In partnership with Knowsley Council, Mr Conway offers help and advice to engage with hard-to-reach sectors.

A Councillor handbook would be provided which also explains how they can help spread the word in their council and community. Census temporary jobs are now on offer. Mr Conway would meet with the Parish Council representatives to find out what help he could offer to those in need of help.

The Parish Council supported the census in the interest of Knowsley. It was pointed out that some elderly residents in the village might need help to complete the return. The Parish Council Office is available if needed. Information about the census would be posted on the Parish Council website and local social media, and sent to local groups.

The Chairman thanked Mr Conway for attending the meeting and the information.

#### **38. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Planning Application No. 20/00578/FUL – It was raised that a ‘Pegasus’ crossing was dangerous for the location (between Fox’s Lane and Penny Lane) for it was close to a blind bend and subject to flooding. A serious road crash happened recently. Consideration should be given to use Cranton Road to connect the two places.

### **39. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

Councillor R Gaffney reported on the followings:

**Country Park at the Former Colliery** – The speed on Fox's Bank Lane would be dropped to 30mph. Knowsley Council was aware of speeding and road accident issues.

**Flooding on A5080** – Flooding at Cronton Road/Tue Lane and Cronton Road/Wheatfield Road mainly caused by persistent rain.

**Smiley face speed detection device** – Knowsley Council was in the process of acquiring new devices and one was designated for Smithy Lane.

**Fly-tipping** – Had thanked Paul Christopher of Knowsley Council on behalf of the Parish Council for his speedy response to fly-tipping.

**Tue Lane resurfacing** – Finished.

**Repainting the climbing frame on the Pasture** – Awaiting response from Knowsley Council.

**Holy Family car park** – A new vehicle access to Hall Lane in a one-way system.

It was commented that flooding on Cronton Road was more prominent in recent years and the cause of flooding should be investigated. Councillor R Gaffney would follow this up.

Flooding at Cronton Road/Wheatfield was a long term problem. More access points to the drainage were suggested as previous remedial measures did not resolve the problem.

It was raised that the Parish Council had not been informed of the planning decision for the Holy Family car park resurfacing application. It caused traffic chaos on Hall Lane when the work commenced. Councillor R Gaffney would follow-up the road closure issue.

### **40. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**(a) APP. NO: 20/00648/FUL**

APP. TYPE Full Application

LOCATION: 13 Smithy Close Cronton WA8 5BT

PROPOSAL: ERECTION OF SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION REAR DORMER EXTENSION AND GABLE EXTENSION

**It was resolved** the Parish Council has no observations to make on this application.

**(b) APP. NO: 20/00578/FUL**

CASE OFFICER: Clare Appleyard

APPLICANT: The Land Trust

APP. TYPE Full Application

LOCATION: Former Site Of Cronton Colliery Cronton Road Cronton

PROPOSAL: CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW COUNTRY PARK COMPRISING OF THE CREATION OF SCULPTURED LANDSCAPE, HABITAT/WETLAND HABITAT CREATION, ASSOCIATED WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, ENGINEERING/EARTHWORKS INCLUDING CHANGES TO SITE LEVELS TOGETHER WITH THE ERECTION OF A SINGLE STOREY VISITOR CENTRE INCLUDING RECEPTION, CAFÉ, EDUCATION SPACE, RANGER OFFICES AND AN OUTDOOR TERRACE AREA; ERECTION OF OUTDOOR CLASSROOM CANOPY; SKY ROOM; PROVISION OF COLLIERY AND MINERAL LINE SUSTRANS ROUTES, NEW PATHS INCLUDING SUSTRANS ROUTE NORTH OF THE M62 BRIDGE UP TO WINDY ARBOR ROAD AND PROVISION OF NEW CAR PARK. VEHICULAR ACCESS TO BE TAKEN FROM CRONTON ROAD VIA ACCESS ROAD TO NEIGHBOURING EMPLOYMENT SITE/COUNTRY PARK CAR PARK WITH NEW FOOTBRIDGE OVER EMPLOYMENT SITE/CAR PARK ACCESS ROAD AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FROM CRONTON ROAD AND FOX'S BANK LANE.

After discussion, **it was resolved** that the following comments be submitted:

In principle, Cronton Parish Council supports the proposal with the observations given below.

As the proposed new Country Park is part of the development on the former site of Cronton Colliery and both the commercial and country park developments share the main access on Cronton Road, previous comments on APP. NO. 20/00494/HYB are also considered relevant to this planning proposal (APP. NO. 20/00578/FUL). They are as follows:

- Traffic - The Parish Council is concerned that the proposal with one point of entry and exit will result in increased LGV and HGV traffic passing through Cronton Village particularly from M62 junction 7. Direct entry to the site from the M62 would alleviate this problem.
- Lighting - The Parish Council believe lighting should be designed to reduce light pollution particularly taking into account the negative impact lighting pollution will have on the activities of Liverpool Astronomical Society at Pex Hill.
- Park Security - The Parish Council is concerned that the plans for the proposed park do not include any measures in terms of security and measures to prevent anti-social activity which could spread to Cronton via the proposed cycle route.

Additional comments:

- pedestrian and cycle access on Fox's Bank Lane – The Parish Council finds that a 'Pegasus' crossing is unsafe for the location taking into consideration a nearby dangerous bend evidenced by a recent road accident that has caused serious damages to the stonewall (two photos are attached). So for the safety of the Park users, the 'Pegasus' crossing should be replaced by a footbridge.
- Construction traffic – The Parish Council is concerned about the potential construction traffic impact on Cronton Village, we therefore would request that all construction traffic should be diverted to Tarbock Island.

#### **41. THE PASTURE DRAINAGE**

The field on the Pasture is waterlogged most of the time and was considered not fit for the purpose. Site meetings had been held with Knowsley officers Philip Hurst and Steve Jones to look at the problem. It was suggested raising the issue with the project contractor. Regarding the walking path, it received positive support from Philip Hurst. Members requested support from Ward Councillors. Councillor R Gaffney would follow this up.

#### **42. NEW WEBSITE**

After 2 successful training sessions, the third and last one would take place on Friday 18/12/20. The website would be ready to go live in the New Year which might still need a few touch-ups.

#### **43. VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY ISSUES**

- (a) Pasture wild flower area renovation – The invasive woody plants were difficult to be removed and probably it would not be done before the next reseeding. Steve Jones of Knowsley Council would follow-up this up.
- (b) Smiley face speed detection device – In progress.
- (c) Footpath between Penny Lane and Fox's Bank Lane – No feedback.

- (d) Parking issue outside Dandelion Tavern – Extending the double yellow to Sanbec Gardens could only be considered by Knowsley Council in the next financial year. Councillor R Gaffney would follow-up this proposal. For the time being, Knowsley Council Civil Enforcement Officers could be requested to patrol the area. The Parish Council would look into the problem raised by V Dooley-Law regarding parked vehicles obstructing the pavement between 3.00 pm and 5.00 pm.
- (e) Fence gap at Pex Hill – The fence gap had been repaired.
- (f) Gap at the back of the Pasture – Steve Jones of Knowsley Council agreed to repair it.
- (g) Painting of the smoke damaged climbing frame – Steve Jones would do the painting when the weather improves. Councillor R Gaffney would follow this up.
- (h) Overgrown hedges/vegetation on Cronton Road (the roundabout outside Cronton Nurseries to Tue Lane) - needed to be cut back. Councillor T Byron to follow this up.

**44. CRANTON NEWSLETTER**

A winter newsletter would be published before Christmas.

**The meeting closed at 8.37 pm**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date 18 January 2021