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**A meeting of Cropthorne Parish Council held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007 in the Village School 7:30pm and continued on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007 in the Village Hall 7:30pm.**

**1. APOLOGIES – 03/12/07**

Present – C Whittington (Chair)

R Annis (V/Chair)

J Meredith

A Hughes

T Meikle

J King

WDC Cllr McDonald

Clerk RJ Coles

2 Parishioners

Apologies were received from Cllr West and WCC Cllr Eyre.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Personal and Prejudicial – Church Wall – J Meredith

Personal and Prejudicial – Village Hall – J King

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes for the meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> November 2007 were proposed by Chair Whittington, seconded by Cllr Meredith and agreed by the meeting that they be accepted and signed by the Chair.

**4. FLOODING – JULY 2007 - AFTERMATH**

This item was adjourned until the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

**5. POLICING** - Nothing was raised under this item.

**6. CHARITIES** - Nothing was raised under this item.

**The meeting continued as 2 Parishioners present covered their items elsewhere in the meeting.**

**7. MATTERS ARISING**

- a) Village Hall Playground Finances – A written response highlighting general agreement but noting the risk involved is expected in due course.
- b) Church Wall Grant request – The council was informed that the committee for raising funds covered five parishes and that Cropthorne had received its recent share to cover the tower and would struggle to get much covered for a year or two, leaving the wall in an even poorer state if delayed further. This item is further covered later in 11d below.
- c) Heathworks visibility concerns – The clerk was asked to invite the relevant enforcement officer to the next meeting to cover the fence line, current works/related planning consents, status of site (see planning section) and to consider complaints regarding noise and unsocial hours.
- d) Flood damage inventory – Reports from V/chair Annis, David Williams and Geoff Shaw have been forwarded to Paul Cooper.

**8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S / DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

WDC Cllr McDonald reported that the next step in the new waste collection strategy was an exceptions policy. 55% of parishes had responded to flood data request with Cropthorne's filed by Cllr Meikle this week. These are important in driving future actions and frameworks. £150,000 grant (£250-300 per affected) has been allocated for self help schemes against future flooding (drains, airbricks, sand bags, sealants etc). £80,000 grant towards helping sports club alleviate future problems (raised electrics etc).

The Regional Spatial Strategy response was important and Cllr Hughes agreed to fill it in for the parish council and circulate for comments and clerk to file.

## 9. PARISH PLAN

Cllr Meikle reported that the first draft was in existence and will be cleaned up for circulation to councillors before the January meeting. The issue arose on how to make best use of the 1400 comments received which do not lend themselves so easily to quantitative analysis. Cllr King is in discussions with Community First (Karen Humphries) to see if additional funding of about £600 could be claimed to formally document these comments. Following the draft, a vision and action plan will be created for consultation with parishioners at a village hall open day.

## 10. PLANNING

- b) **W/06/01527/PN – Mr P Strickland, Heath Works – Construction of a new manufacturing unit with offices** – An objection concerning noise, traffic and visual amenity was filed. It was indicated that a decision was deferred pending clarification on how the site has gone from a single company to a business park over time.
- c) **W/06/00141/PN/APPEAL – Mr & Mrs Strickland, East Riding House, Bricklehampton Lane, Bricklehampton – Variation of condition 5 of permission W/96/00161 & condition 2 of permission W/98/00243 to delete class E from the wording of the condition** – A response in favour of keeping to the original restrictions was refilled.
- d) **W/06/02052/CU/APPEAL – Mr & Mrs I Pomeroy, Land at Church Leys – Proposed siting of mobile home, parking and turning area to establish an organic unit.** The original objections were refilled with the Appeal's Inspectorate.
- e) **W/07/01290/LB – Mr & Mrs Harris, The Granary, Main Street – Replacement of rotten timbers in southwest gable and renewal of infill panels** - No objection has been filed. Permission has been granted.
- f) **W/07/02165/LB & W/07/02164/PP – Mr P Gough, Avondale House, Kennel Bank – Amendments to roof lights and window openings of previously approved extension reference W/04/0006 (RETROSPECTIVE)** – No objection has been filed, decision is awaited.
- g) **W/07/02193/OU – Mr A C Moran, Ferndown, Main Rd – Stationing of mobile home as ancillary accommodation for Ferndown** – An objection has been filed supporting the original decision and that personal circumstances should not be allowed to override. A decision is awaited.
- h) **W/07/02619/PP – Mr D J Brookes, 34 Rogers Hill, Worcester – re 2 Croft Cottages, Blacksmiths Lane – Proposed two storey and single extensions to rear** – Chair Whittington proposed, seconded by Cllr King and agreed by the meeting that the clerk should file an objection with regards to out of keeping with the other 7 cottages (4 semis), excessive development affecting neighbouring properties access to light and views, thereby having a material effect. It was also noted that the plans did not appear to keep to the external material finishes of brick downstairs and white upstairs.

Two late planning applications will be reviewed on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007 part of this meeting.

## 11. FINANCE/PRECEPTING

- a) The latest Budget/Bank Schedule 03/12/07 was proposed for approval by Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr Meikle, and agreed by the meeting for signature by Chair.
- b) Payments
 

		£	
457	WDC	Rural Rate Relief New Inn	215.12
458	Clerk – RJC	Nov Sal, All, & Exp (WCC to r/f)	148.43
- c) The clerk indicated that there were two late repayments outstanding that WCC had agreed to clear ASAP. Otherwise the lengthsman was in place and going well. However some jobs were delayed until traffic volumes in the village returned to normal after the reopening of the B4084.
- e) The meeting considered the Finance Groups recommendations presented by Cllr Hughes. This left three issues to be considered, namely Church Wall, Sheppey Juniors Football Club and the Precept which were covered as follows: -

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(Cllr Meredith left the meeting for this discussion and voting). Chair proposed, seconded by V/chair Annis and agreed by the meeting that £1000 be awarded to the Church to help them show local commitment in raising the rest of the necessary funds towards the repairs to the wall.

Cllr Hughes proposed, seconded by Cllr Meredith and agreed by the meeting that £1000 be reserved for the Sheppey Juniors Football Club towards the cost of providing moveable goalposts subject to SJFC raising the balance of funds towards these items.

Chair Whittington proposed, seconded by V/chair Annis and agreed by the meeting that the precept be reduced by £50 to £4850. Cllr Hughes indicated that this was probably as tight as it could get.

## 12. PARISH COUNCIL RULES OF OPERATING

Adopting the Local Authorities Model Code of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils 2007, put back until the January meeting.

## 13. CORRESPONDENCE

### 14<sup>th</sup> November 2007

1	SWJCS	Issues & Options Paper (Nov 07)
2	CPRE	AGM 16/11/07
3	C&C	Direct Nov 07
4	WDC	Notification & Consultation – SPD/SA Biodiversity
5	CPRE	Voice Autumn 07
6	CALC	Wychavon Area Meeting 06/12/07
7	WDC	Community Strategy

## 14. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

a) Chair Whittington proposed, seconded by Cllr Hughes and agreed by the meeting that the clerk write to the WCC Highways project head requesting that an access gate be included to the unregistered land behind the fencing proposed between the northeast of the culvert (Horne's land) and The Conifers (V/chair Annis' land)

## 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Cropthorne Parish Council is on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Any items for inclusion on the agenda and proposed corrections to the minutes must be with the Clerk by Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

**Chair proposed and the meeting agreed that this meeting be adjourned until 7:30pm, Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at the Village Hall when the subject of the July 2007 floods and their aftermath will be discussed with WCC officers present if necessary together with any other suitable noted business carried forward.**

The Chair closed this part of the meeting at 9:55pm.

## 16. APOLOGIES – 10/12/07

Present – C Whittington (Chair)	
R Annis (V/Chair)	WCC Cllr Eyre
J Meredith	WDC Cllr McDonald
J King	Clerk RJ Coles
M West	16 Parishioners

Apologies were received from Cllr Hughes and Meikle.

## 17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none.

**18. FLOODING – JULY 2007 - AFTERMATH**

Recent traffic enforcement was not helped by the requirements that a police officer had to follow any potential transgressors entering and exiting the 7.5 tonne three villages zone and even if done so only a £30 non-endorsable ticket could have been issued. Foreign drivers presented a reasonable amount of sympathy and UK law, unlike much of the continent, did not allow pay on the spot. Use of interpreters would have been prohibitively expensive and for very little gain. PC Julie de Paris indicated that some attempt would be made to monitor the situation now things had returned to normal and asked for any logged incidents from parishioners be passed to the clerk for onward consideration of future actions. The clerk was asked to email Paul Cooper (WCC highways) requesting monitoring cables be used on both the B4084 and Main St to cover speeds, time of day, vehicle types etc with a copy to WCC Cllr Eyre. A request for the speed van to return was made.

Post opening recovery of the area would cover roads, ditches and verges. The clerk was asked to email Paul Cooper to ensure that ditch damage in Field Barn Lane covered that from the Caravan Park round and through the S-bend to Corfield's. It would be a short period before all could see what would be done. The main concerns were the verges and whether they would just be smoothed out or properly reinstated with additional soil.

A grant of £1000 from WDC had been applied for and could at least cover sandbags if deemed necessary or for some small reseeded planting in due course. Affected properties identified to WDC would also receive a small grant of c.£150 and invites to a self help flooding exhibition in January. WCC Cllr Eyre indicated additional grants were available from WCC with regards to restoring the biodiversity in the areas affected.

Residents between the B4084 culvert and the river/Main Street were still concerned over any changes to the pattern and size of flooding that may occur. WDC Cllr McDonald was asked to specifically note this request when his Flood Task Group considered the Crophorne issue, data for which has been submitted by Cllr Meikle.

Chair Whittington proposed, seconded by Cllr Meredith and agreed by both councillors and parishioners that the clerk should write to John Hobbs, Head of Environmental Services, copy to Peter Jago, Projects Manager, thanking them for their efforts and also passing on these thanks to Laser etc for the past five months.

**No parishioners requested closure so the meeting continued.**

**19. PLANNING**

- i) **AB/07/02594/AB – Mr T Tidmarsh, Holmfield, Eckington – re Corehill Farm, Blacksmiths Lane – Proposed Farm Track** – Chair Whittington proposed and agreed by the meeting that as the information was not available Chair/clerk delegation with any relevant comments received would be invoked. WDC reply required within 21 days from 28/11/07 (i.e. 19/12/07)
- j) **W/07/02707/LB & 02708/PP – Mr & Mrs Black, Ashley Cottage, Main St – Replacement of former conservatory with garden room to south side of cottage** - Chair Whittington proposed and agreed by the meeting that as the information was not available Chair/clerk delegation with any relevant comments received would be invoked. WDC reply required within 21 days from 29/11/07 (i.e. 20/12/07)

**20. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION** – There were non-raised.

**21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Reconfirmation**

The next meeting of Crophorne Parish Council is on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Any items for inclusion on the agenda and proposed corrections to the minutes must be with the Clerk by Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9:15pm.

**Signed .....**(Chair)

**Date .....**