

2009/22

Meeting of Cropthorne Parish Council held on Monday 1st December 2008 in the Village School 7:30pm.

1. APOLOGIES

Present were	Chair C Whittington	
	V/chair Annis	
	Cllr A Hughes	WCC Cllr Eyre
	Cllr T Meikle	Parishioners - 3
	Cllr M West	Clerk R J Coles
	Cllr J Meredith	

Apologies were received from WDC Cllr McDonald & Cllr King.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Whittington proposed, seconded by Cllr Hughes, and the meeting agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 3rd November 2008 be accepted and signed by the Chair.

4. FLOODING – JULY 2007 – AFTERMATH

- a) Ditches – none
- b) Highway surfaces - none
- c) Verges – none
- d) Other damages – none
- e) WDC grants of £1,050 are to be revisited at the January meeting.

5. POLICING – Bus Shelter has been patched up and the police made aware of the wanton vandalism.

6. CHARITIES - nothing

7. VILLAGE HALL - nothing

The meeting closed to allow parishioners to address councillors.

8. MATTERS ARISING

- a) Neighbourhood Watch signage – The clerk reported that West Mercia Police would be approached for resigning including the recent award of two smart water signs following recent resident uptake.

9. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Cllr Hughes reported back on his fact-finding meeting with WDC Affordable Housing Officer Kate Stephenson. The WDC exercise indicating 14 units was reconciled with the Pplan 4 units as being over a 5-6 year time span versus a more immediate requirement. In July before a new system of housing requirements was put in place, there were 126 on the housing list with a possible interest in Cropthorne, under the new system this reduced closer to 8 and with other adjustments 6/7. At the moment any affordable housing is likely to take place outside the development boundary which would require 100% of units to be affordable, potential dropping of this boundary under the SWJSS would open up a free for all. Although there are favoured housing associations these are not exclusive and are often for operational efficiency by location. WDC proposed that the next stage should be a walkabout with the housing, development, planning officers, parish council and Community First. All councillors were asked to be prepared to discuss this development at the January meeting. Cllr Meikle indicated that he was still awaiting a response to his query with a rural charity that promotes affordable housing, including development and onward selling to an established housing association.

10. LENGTHSMAN – Clerk reported that the Lengthsman was currently unavailable.

2009/23

11. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S / DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

WCC Cllr Eyre gave the clerk a report for circulation to councillors particularly indicating WCC standing in the national league tables.

12. PARISH PLAN – Cllr Meikle requested that this item be carried forward to January meeting.

13. PLANNING

- a) **W/08/02763/PP – Mr & Mrs P Marsh, Hillside, Neigh Lane – Construct double domestic garage and change of use from conservation orchard to domestic garden.** – A no objection response was filed and a decision is awaited,
- b) **W/08/02919/PP – Mr Taylor, 3 Sunnyside, Main Rd – Two-storey extension.** – There appears to be no objections to this application from councillors but it was noted that there was some concern over the positioning aspects with a neighbour. WDC reply required within 21 days from 13/11/08 (i.e. 04/12/08)
- c) **W/08/02932/LB & W/08/02931/PP – Mr & Mrs W Zu Wied, Crophorne House, Main St Replacement conservatory, addition of a garage and various alterations.** – There appears to be no objections from councillors but it was noted that there was some concerns over the entrance gates/walls being proposed. WDC reply required within 21 days from 20/11/08 (i.e. 11/12/08)
- d) **W/08/03066/LB – Mr T Hardy, Brook Farm House, Brook Lane Replacement windows to front elevation.** - WDC reply required within 21 days from 27/11/08 (i.e. 18/12/08)

14. FINANCE/PRECEPTING

- a) Cllr Meikle proposed, seconded by Cllr Hughes, that the Bank/Balance Schedules for 01/12/08 be accepted and signed by chair.
- b) Payments approved from above

			£
490	23	Clerk Sal/Bpay/All Nov	143.84
- c) Parishioners and staff left the room while Council discussed matters relating to staffing.
- e) Following another meeting of the Finance Group it was agreed that after setting aside the full amounts requested and reconfirmed by the Village Hall £3500, Church Wardens £1000 and all agreed outstanding expenditure for 2008/09 there were unencumbered balances of £9500 expected at the end of the current fiscal year 2008/09 on 31st March 2009. The final budgeted net costs for 2009/10 are agreed at £5097.

Currently the Parish Council has allocated and set aside £7500 of this £9500 as recommended Reserves covering day-to-day contingencies, election expenses, legal ability to act and all other risks.

It was agreed to handle only the Reserves issue at the current meeting and that the Precept would be set in January. After discussions Cllr Hughes proposed, seconded by Chair Whittington and agreed by the meeting that the general reserves would be decreased by £2500 to £5000. This results in free balances expected to be £4500 when considering the precept. The information presented in January will show the effect on the precept by varying the return of the free balances over a 1-4 year period.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

22nd November 2008

- 1 WsoE Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership – Sept 08
- 2 WDC 'No Excuses' waste disposal warning
- 3 WDC A-Z of services
- 4 WDC Wychavon mag Sept 08
- 5 WDC Shaping the future
- 6 WDC Parish Matters Oct 08

2009/24

9	C&LG	Consultation – code of conduct local authority members and employees
10	CPRE	Countryside Voice – Aut 08
11	WCC	Wracs warden – countryside volunteers
12	C&C	Direct Nov 08
13	Comm1st	Newsline Nov 08
14	CPRE	Stop & Drop – Bill Bryson national litter campaign
15	WM	Blueprint planning aid Aut 08
16	WDC McD	Nov 3 rd handout
17	PHS	Pershore High School newsletter Oct/Nov 08

Plus any other information received after 24th November 2008.

16. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

a) The clerk indicated that the Parish Council was required to adopt a new Freedom of Information scheme from 01/01/09. It was agreed that a pack would be circulated prior to the next meeting.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Cropthorne Parish Council (Precepting) is on Monday 5th January 2009 at the Village School. Any items for inclusion on the agenda and proposed corrections to the minutes must be with the Clerk by Sunday 28th December 2008.

Chair closed the meeting at 09:20pm.

Signed(Chair)

Date