

2009/01

**Annual meeting of Cropthorne Parish Council held on Monday 12th May 2008 in the Village School 7:30pm.**

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

V/chair Annis proposed, seconded by Cllr Hughes, and agreed by the meeting that Chair Whittington continue in his capacity of Chair for another year.

**2. RECEIVE CHAIR'S ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Chair Whittington accepted the office of Chair for another year but warned the meeting that he was still resolved to move abroad as soon as circumstances allowed and his succession should be considered by all.

**3. APOLOGIES**

Present were	Chair C Whittington	WCC Cllr E Eyre
	V/chair R Annis	WDC Cllr McDonald
	Cllr A Hughes	
	Cllr T Meikle	Parishioners - 4
	Cllr M West	Clerk R J Coles
	Cllr J King	PC Stuart Toms
	Cllr J Meredith	CSO Dave James

No apologies were received.

**4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR, PLANNING COMMITTEE, FINANCE GROUP, RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER, INTERNAL AUDITOR AND VILLAGE HALL REPRESENTATIVES.**

Cllr Hughes proposed, seconded by Cllr Meredith, and the meeting agreed that V/chair Annis continue as V/Chair for another year. V/chair Annis accepted.

Chair Whittington proposed and the meeting agreed that the full council be represented on any planning committee meetings.

Chair Whittington proposed, seconded by V/chair Annis, and the meeting agreed that Cllrs Hughes, Meikle and Meridith be on the Finance Group with Chair participation at precept/budget time.

Chair Whittington proposed, seconded by Cllr Hughes, and the meeting agreed that the clerk, Mr R J Coles, continue as Responsible Finance Officer as per his employment contract.

Chair Whittington proposed, seconded by Cllr Meredith, and the meeting agreed that Mr Roy Welch continue as internal auditor through to end of 2008/09 audit cycle. Mr Welch had indicated his acceptance via the Chair previously.

Cllr Meikle proposed, seconded by Cllr Hughes, and the meeting agreed that Cllr King continues as the representative of the Parish Council on the C&CVHMC despite problems with the Standard Board issues which are being reviewed.

Chair Whittington proposed and the meeting agreed that the clerk remain the main point of contact with the police until possible alternatives were investigated in conjunction with the new (returning) beat officer.

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Personal & prejudicial – Village Hall specific finances – Cllr King.

**6. CONSIDER GRANTS AND RESERVES**

Grants budgeted for 2008/09 includes £750 for Sheppey mowing and £900 for playground actual expenditures.

The Council's balances and reserves at the end of 2007/08 were: -

Long Term Reserves	£ 500	10% of precept/regular spend
	£1000	one election
	£6000	legal ability to act quickly – total £7500
Commitments	£3500	Village Hall refurbishment
	£1000	Church Wall
	£1000	Sheppey Juniors
	£ 310	2 off dog bins
	£1050	Flood grants to pass on

Leaving Free balances of £2259.78.

**7. CONSIDER RENEWAL OF INSURANCE FROM 01.06.08 AND AUTHORISE PAYMENT.**

Chair Whittington proposed, seconded by Cllr Hughes, and the meeting agreed that the Parish Council be covered by and renewal paid on the existing insurance policy.

**8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Whittington proposed, seconded by Cllr Hughes, and the meeting agreed that the minutes for the meetings of 4<sup>th</sup> February 2008 and 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008 be accepted and signed by the chair.

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

- a) Ditches – Mr Peter Honeybourne and other interested parties were asked to write to Environmental Agency (Anthony Perry, Development – Tewkesbury)/WDC (Steve Jordan – Environmental Services)/WCC (Highways)/FPC (Clerk) indicating landowner's (Mr Taylor) agreement to straighten the brook to bypass the oxbow undermining the road and causing flooding concerns. Barbara Allen was also asked to write to WDC/FPC with indications of what work is required and can be done at what cost to her 'rear bank' damaged in the floods. The Parish Council indicated that it was prepared to use its £1050 grants available to help with these two items if all other sources fail.
- b) Highway surfaces are due an inspection by Paul Cooper and Nils Wilkes in the very near future.
- c) Verges – repeated damage on the B4084 near the New Inn is to be investigated by the clerk.
- d) Other damages – as c) including Main Street culvert tidy up appear to be moving slowly.
- e) WDC grants of £1,050 will be allocated after d) has been completed.

**10. POLICING**

PC Stuart Toms announced his return to the area and introduced CSO Dave James who would be a link in the community based out of Evesham to help with quality of life issues. In general WDC crime was trending downwards but with increase vehicle crimes. Crothorne had 13 crimes in 2007/08 (one house burglary, 3 non dwelling, 2 vehicle, one violent and 6 other minor theft/damage). Wick had 11, Pinvin 52, Wyre Piddle 14, Fladbury 19 and Charlton 23.

Parishioners present requested help with 'oil tank siphoning security' and potential speeding in Brook Lane which would be difficult to action because of a '250 yard inside limit exclusion zone' advised by the government.

A possible email alert system and use of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme will be investigated for keeping residents informed. The clerk was asked to ascertain the current status of NW in Crothorne via Mel Hodges.

**11. CHARITIES – nothing raised.**

**The meeting continued as parishioners' present concerns on flooding issues were covered above.**

**12. MATTERS ARISING**

- a) Heathworks visibility concerns – Enforcement has an onsite meeting scheduled for June and a report/feedback is awaited.
- b) Litter Pick - Sheppey Junior Footballers have carried out the offer to complete the WDC/CPC £500 litter pick on Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> 2008 at 2:30pm.

**13. LENGTHSMAN** - The reports for Feb/Mar and April, if available, will be presented.

The report for Feb/Mar had been circulated to all councillors and the next report due would be for Apr/May in due course.

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

WCC Cllr Liz Eyre reported on strong opposition to new eco town at Middle Quinton damaging nearby towns. Government is promoting funding follows priorities via the top tier authorities and 16/19 year old funding is likely to revert to WCC again (£50m). Highways speed limit review well under way in the area. Train issues are being addressed, SWRSS housing numbers are being strongly opposed and 'polyclinic' doctor health services will pit urban dwellers against the rural community especially in a county like Worcestershire.

WDC Cllr Tom McDonald reiterated WDC resolve to keep their cost under control whilst increasing services. A new waste collection system would prevent central government penalties; affordable housing schemes are being driven forward together with safe and sound security scheme for elderly residents. He understood that the Parish Council was very concerned with the inability and cavalier attitude to using affordable local housing to house anybody from anywhere with very little real protection for local people. He agreed to investigate for the next meeting. Flood plans are well advance and in some parishes completed. He was also very concerned with the SWRSS housing numbers having no substantiation behind them.

**15. PARISH PLAN**

Chair Whittington proposed and the meeting agreed that a final, statistically correct copy of the Pplan be circulated to all councillors for final consideration of the actions likely to arise for inclusion in the Village Design Statement part of the exercise for which WCC Cllr Eyre offered a pro forma draft.

**16. PLANNING**

- a) **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 refiled. The appeal was heard at WDC, 16/01/08 at 10am. The appeal was dismissed together with a claim for costs.
- b) **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 refiled with the Appeal's Inspectorate. The appeal took place on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2008 and a decision is awaited. Following feedback from the clerk, it was proposed by Chair Whittington, seconded by Cllr Hughes, and agreed by the meeting that the clerk should register the council's concerns with WDC that the appeal covered an extended business activity which was not shared with the Parish Council as indicated by 'missing information' even on the planning website by the date of the appeal.
- c) **AB/07/02594/AB – Mr T Tidmarsh, Holmfield, Eckington – re Corehill Farm, Blacksmiths Lane – Proposed Farm Track** – No objection was filed but noting some concern over lack of information regarding usage and consultation with neighbours in the affected cul de sac. Permission has been granted.
- d) **W/07/02880/LB & W07/02892/PP – Mr M Robinson, Brook Farm Cottage, Brook Lane – Internal alteration and first floor extension** – No objection was filed and permission has been granted.

- e) **W/07/02882/PP – Mr & Mrs Carroll, Cropthorne Stud, Field Barn Lane – Proposed two storey extension** – An objection was filed regarding any planning applications until previous site conditions regarding making good the entrance were completed. Permission has been granted.
- f) **W/08/00059/CU – Mr P Marsh, Hillside, Neigh Lane – Change of use to garden and erection of outbuilding** – An objection was filed as to the accuracy/quality of the information provided and the complex layout requiring more of the orchard to be used than considered necessary. The application has been withdrawn following officer indication that refusal on size, entrance etc was imminent.
- g) **W/08/00053/OU – Mr J Allen, Bank Top, Baldwins Bank – Erection of a detached dwelling** – The Conservation Officer has ordered the withdrawal (07/02/08) of this application due to conservation area requirements of a specific nature of the dwelling proposed be provided. The applicant has complied.
- h) **W/08/000164/LB & W/08/00163/PP – Mr & Mrs W Zu Weld, Cropthorne House, Main St – Provision of windows to front elevation to allow light to interior of house. Windows to be as existing sash windows. Internal alterations to provide bathrooms and link room.** – No objection was filed. Permission has been granted.
- i) **W/08/00543/PN – David Keen & Son Builders of Pershore, Unit 9, Field Barn Lane – Single storey extension to unit 9 for storage** - No objection was filed. Permission has been granted.
- j) **APPEAL APP/H1840/A/08/2067930/NWF re W/07/02193/OU (WA3417) – Mr A C Moran, Ferndown, Main Rd – Stationing of a mobile home as ancillary accommodation for “Ferndown”** – Original objections have been refilled and a date for the appeal awaited. However notification of withdrawal of this appeal has been received from the inspectorate.
- k) **W/08/00563/PP – B Hathaway, Pool House, Main St – Alterations to provide extended kitchen and sun lounge** – No objection was filed. Permission has been granted.
- l) **W/08/01031/PN – Mr M Coe & Ms E Stoodley, (re The Daves, Middle Lane), 13 Wisteria House, Queens Rd, Evesham – Erection of a two storey dwelling and detached garage** - WDC reply required within 21 days from 08/05/08 (i.e. 29/05/08)

## 17. FINANCE/PRECEPTING

- a) Chair Whittington proposed, seconded by Cllr King, and agreed by the meeting that the end of 2007/08 and the latest Budget/Bank Schedules 05/05/08 be accepted and signed by the chair.
- b) Payments approved from above
- |     |                 |                          | £      |
|-----|-----------------|--------------------------|--------|
| 465 | WDC             | 2x Tower Bins Sheppey    | 575.75 |
| 466 | Clerk – RJC     | Feb/Mar Sal,All          | 280.86 |
| 467 | PG King-Jones   | Lengthsman Fe/Mar        | 130.00 |
| 468 | Worcs CALC      | Subscription             | 211.86 |
| 469 | Mark Harrod Ltd | Sheppey Junior goalposts | 932.95 |
| 470 | Clerk           | Salary & Allowance April | 140.68 |
| 471 | Allianz         | Insurance                | 450.72 |
- c) Cllr Meikle reported that no new suitable banking options had been discovered for the Parish Council and the Finance Group will consider how it should use the current additional Alliance & Leicester facilities by the next meeting.

## 18. CORRESPONDENCE

### 19<sup>th</sup> February 2008

- |   |            |   |
|---|------------|---|
| 1 | CPC letter | FBL reduced usage                       |
| 2 | WCC        | Children & Young People event           |
| 3 | Comm & LG  | Conduct Consultation                    |
| 4 | WMRSS      | Phase 2 revision                        |
| 5 | WCC        | Workwise Scheme                         |
| 6 | WDC        | Grass cutting – Parish open spaces only |
| 7 | LCS        | Training and support (Pat Edwards)      |
| 8 | Audit Comm | Appointment of external auditor         |

## 2009/05

9	Comm 1 <sup>st</sup>	NewsLine Feb 08
10	WCC	Bus Bulletin
11	Worcs Partn	Matters Winter 07
12	LG	Seminar 121/03/08
13	CALC	Mail Jan 08
14	Wych Comm Partn	newsletter
15	WCC	Children & Young People's Plan 2008-2011
16	Comm 1 <sup>st</sup>	Parish Plan newsletter
17	SWJCS	Feedback & next stages
18	WDC	VoE agriculture and distribution policy development panel
19	CPC whub	FBL water seepages

## 29<sup>th</sup> March 2008

1	CYPP	Consultation Feedback 309/01/08
2	Enjoy England	Celebrate St Georges Day
3	Wychavon Sport	2008 Games
4	WDC	Affordable Housing example cards
5	FLOSS	Money 4 Young People
6	CYPP	Consultation
7	WDC	Rural Play Workshop 12/04/08
8	CALC	WDC Standards Committee
9	CALC	Community Plan Core Group
10	C&CVHMC	Minutes 11/02/07
11	Telecare	Future of Worcestershire Telecare
12	WCC	Voluntary and Community Sector Grants
13	C&C	Direct 03/08
14	Mencap	Donation request
15	WCCHub	BL/MS flood damage report
16	CPRE	Fieldwork 03/08
17	T&P	Standards 03/08
18	WCC	FBL Signage initial response
19	Museum	Harlebury Castle
20	WCC	Waste Core Strategy
21	Ian Baldry	Help for Heroes required 18/04/08
22	Parishioner	Affordable Housing query & clerk's response
23	WCC	Field Barn Lane signage solution
24	CALC	Bulletin/Summer & Mail 03/08
25	WMRA	Speaking Out 03/08

## 19. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

- a) Cllr Hughes proposed, seconded by V/chair Annis, and agreed by majority voting of the meeting that Option B be adopted of the following Rural Rate Relief options for The New Inn: -

A – Of benefit, CPC £113.63, WDC £795.45

B – Of benefit, CPC £0.00, WDC £454.54

C – No benefit CPC £0.00, WDC £0.00

The meeting requested the clerk to minute that it was not intended to take this course of action again after business has returned to normal after the flood/road closure disruption.

- b) Clerk's annual appraisal was considered superfluous at the present time in agreement with the clerk.
- c) Between meeting delegated authority was put back until the next meeting.
- d) Cllr King is pursuing the dog-fouling problem on the Sheppey with C&CVHMC/WDC and will update the council at the next meeting.
- e) Cllr Hughes requested that the next meeting consider a '9pm cut off for all future council meetings'.

**2009/06**

**20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Cropthorne Parish Council is on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008 at the Village School. Any items for inclusion on the agenda and proposed corrections to the minutes must be with the Clerk by Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9:50pm.

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

**Date .....**