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A meeting of Cropthorne Parish Council held on Monday 12th November 2007 in the Village School 7:30pm

1. APOLOGIES

Present – C Whittington (Chair)	WCC Cllr Eyre - Cabinet
R Annis (V/Chair)	WCC Cllr Prodger - Cabinet
J Meredith	WDC Cllr McDonald
M West	Clerk RJ Coles
T Meikle	13 Parishioners
	WCC Peter Jago (Projects)
	WCC David Lavender (Special Projects)
	WCC Paul Cooper (Highways Liaison)

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hughes and King.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Personal and Prejudicial – Church Wall – J Meredith

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the meeting of 1st October 2007, suitably amended to cover Cllr Meredith's Church Wall prejudicial interest, were proposed by Chair Whittington, seconded by Cllr Meikle and agreed by the meeting that they be accepted and signed by the Chair.

4. FLOODING – JULY 2007 - AFTERMATH

WCC Peter Jago reported that the B4084 would open 8/9th December with traffic light controls for a further 10 days thereafter in order to finish edges, fencing and safety features. The exact positioning of the lights would be monitored so that Cropthorne traffic would not be overly inconvenienced. WCC Cllr Prodger, Cabinet Environment, informed residents requesting a full opening that the decision to open partially early was to assist the traders of Pershore at their most important period of shopping before Christmas.

WCC David Lavender informed the meeting that a similar culvert at Harvington had taken 3 years of planning and 3.5 months of construction compared to an expected 5 months construction at Cropthorne. This was a tremendous effort especially as there was a month's delay awaiting Environment Agency approval and two weeks delay due to having to pile both sides of the canyon due to slippage affecting Health & Safety. These pilings were braced across the canyon and caused a further delay due to the steel culvert having to be built in the canyon rather than assembled nearby and craned in one piece.

The decision to go with a steel culvert was taken due to early availability of the steel as opposed to a potential 16 to 20-week lead-time for an equivalent concrete construction. The steel had caused a few problems with correct material availability. Both designs have a 120-year life, however the steel used was thicker than necessary due to early ordering and unknowns. The road between the two public houses will be completely re-laid and the standard method of finishing should provide a low noise surface.

5. POLICING

Julie de Paris sent her apologies and reported the following via the clerk - since we last met on the October the 1st, there has only been 2 reported traffic incidents within the Village. Both of these incidents were very minor in nature. There was also one instance of two foreign lorry drivers getting lost, which again was resolved with no issues. (The incident of a car writing off a hedge and being abandoned on Saturday 10th November by the Church/Sheppey is excluded).

"In relation to crime within the village and surrounding area, again good news, from 01/04/07 to 09/11/2007 only 5 recorded crimes as follows: Theft of lead from village hall, Theft from a skip, Unauthorized borrowing of a tractor, No damage entering of a car resulting in theft of 30 pence. Garage break in resulting in theft of power tools.

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There are a couple of other recorded incidents but these relate to personal issues, for obvious reasons details not supplied.

I know the perception can sometimes outweigh the reality and hope the above information will be of help. Although Crothorne has had its cross to bear of late in relation to the road closure it has to be said it is still a fabulous low crime area to live in."

6. CHARITIES

No applications were noted.

**The meeting continued as no Parishioners requested to speak on none agenda items.
(Church wall see 7c, Sheppey Junior Football see item 11c)**

7. MATTERS ARISING

- a) Village Hall Playground Finances – The working group of Chair Whittington, Cllr Hughes and Meikle met with Village Hall Chair King, Treasurer Lindsay Beckman and John Ayliffe and have drafted a letter on how the Parish Council wishes to proceed with future funding. The proposal to send this letter indicating in 2008/09 £900 be paid for playground running costs and £750 for playing field mowing and maintenance was put forward by Cllr Meredith, seconded by Cllr West and agreed to be sent by the Chair.
- b) Alliance and Leicester Community Account – The meeting agreed to leave the major balances with Lloyds/TSB during the current global credit problems.
- c) Church Wall Grant request – A request from the Church Wardens for a £5,000 grant towards the £10,000 required was put back until Peter Harris and Hilary Hall had investigated additional sources, particularly the local landfill and lottery mentioned by WDC Cllr McDonald and a potential Quarry Association indicated by WDC Cllr Eyre who will supply the clerk with additional information.
- d) Heathworks visibility concerns – Enforcement have requested ownership and positioning to be checked.

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

WDC Cllr McDonald indicated that about 50% of Parish Councils had filed initial flood data; Crothorne's was still waiting completion by Cllr Meikle, who had had a poor response from individual householders. A successful proforma presentation was available, if required. The Flood Working Group's use of this data would lead to longer-term action plans. Additionally a £150,000 budget was available for householders to self-help in future floods.

The new waste collection system based on wheelie bins will be implemented in October 2009. South Worcestershire tripartite district council's consultation has started on the Joint Core Strategy covering growth in the area through 2026.

9. PARISH PLAN

Cllr Meikle reported that the analysis of the questionnaires returned was almost complete and it was hoped that an action plan could be circulated to councillors before the next meeting for further discussion at the January meeting. Timing indicates a full open meeting with the villagers next June. Cllr Meikle asked the clerk to provide updated finances of the project and Cllr Meredith was asked to see if additional funding could be obtained as recently indicated by WDC.

10. PLANNING

- a) **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.

- b) **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.**
- c) **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.
- d) **W/07/01521/PP – Mr & Mrs C Brooker, Oakfield House, Main St – Extension to the existing patio area –** No objection has been filed. Permission has been granted.
- e) **W/07/01541/PP – Mr Hughes, Riverside Lodge, Neigh Lane - Greenhouse –** No objection has been filed. Permission has been granted.
- f) **W/07/01777/LB & 01776/PP – Mr & Mrs C Black, Ashley Cottage, Main St – Replacement of former conservatory with garden room to south side of cottage.** - No objection has been filed. Permission has been refused.
- g) **W/07/01922/PP – Mr & Mrs P Osborne, Lyde, Blacksmiths Lane – Demolish existing two garages and rebuild one new three bay garage with office/playroom over –** A conditional objection has been filed. Permission has been granted with severe restrictions on the overhead usage of the garages as requested.
- h) **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, decision awaited.
- i) **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) –** The circulation pack indicated that a no objection should be filed, leaving it to the conservation/listed buildings officer(s) to provide protection.
- j) **W/07/02193/OU – Mr A C Moran, Ferndown, Main Rd – Stationing of mobile home as ancillary accommodation for Ferndown –** The circulation pack indicated that that an objection should be filed supporting the original decision and that personal circumstances should not be allowed to override.

11. FINANCE/PRECEPTING

- a) The latest Budget/Bank Schedule 12/11/07 was proposed for approval by Chair Whittington seconded by V/chair Annis and agreed by the meeting for Chair to sign.

- b) Payments

			£
455	Lengthsman	Aug/Sep	125.00
456	Clerk – RJC	Oct Sal, All, Backpay & Exp	171.87

- b) The meeting considered the latest precepting/budgeting information with particular reference to expenditure in 2008/09. The extra £150 for the lengthsman is to be absorbed in the general £1000 maintenance figure; the brook footpath possibility appears blocked by the majority landowner and will be removed. Rural rate relief for the New Inn approved later in this meeting will have to be factored in. The Clerk will work with Cllr Hughes on the revised figures for consideration at the December meeting. The Sheppey Junior football request for funds to cover moveable goalposts £1600(Health & Safety) and rain jackets £2000 by Rob Cowley was directed to WCC Cllr Eyre who is cabinet member with children's responsibilities and has funds available in 2008/09 that could be considered. WDC Cllr McDonald also offered to see what help could be offered from the district council. The Parish Council could consider future requests if matching funds were required as part of a third party offer of funds. It was noted that the Parish Council contributes £750 a year to Sheppey recreational ground maintenance that benefits the junior footballers.

12. PARISH COUNCIL RULES OF OPERATING

Adopting the Local Authorities Model Code of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils 2007, as published by the Standards Board for England was put back to the next meeting due to timing constraints.

13. CORRESPONDENCE**1st October 2007**

1	WDC	West Midlands Planning Aid Service
2	WCC	Bus Bulletin
3	Comm 1 st	Parish Plan newsletter
4	CALC	AGM 4/10/07
5	WDC	Standards meeting 19/9/07
6	CALC	Top 10 risks for local authorities
7	Police	Support re Crophorne Canyon
8	Comm 1 st	AGM 16/10/07
9	WDC	Housing Needs Survey reply (Cllr Hughes raised issue – Clerk to check what data will be released)
10	Watson	Parish Plan – Transport & Highways letter (Cllrs Meredith and Hughes raised issues – WCC are due to carry out traffic calming for local school and all speed limits countywide)
11	WDC	Waste & Recycling Roadshows
12	WDC	Code of Conduct training
13	SworcsCore	Strategy – Issues & Option Paper Consultation
14	Telecare	Annual Report
15	WMRA	Mag Sept 07
16	CALC	Mail mag Sept 07 (Cllr Annis raised Emergency Planning issue - see item 14a)

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1	defra	Ways to tackle climate change
2	Berrow's	Worcester Journal
3	WCC	WMRA Regional Spatial Strategy – 24/01/08
4	SWJCS	Consultation 20/11/08
5	Partnership	Newsletter Autumn 2007
6	WDC	Local Plan thru 2011 (large separate file)

14. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

- a) It was agreed that a Working Group consisting of V/chair Annis, Parishioners Dave Williams and Geoff Shaw would draw up a list of damages caused directly and indirectly by the July flood covering the whole village. Estimates and responsibilities including future prevention (e.g. sandbags) has to given to the clerk so he can file with WDC by 30th November 2007. Longer-term property damage due to traffic vibration would have to be carried out by individual householders using the traditional 12 months surveying, insurance companies and WCC methodology. The Clerk was asked to write to WCC Paul Cooper with the above information in order that as much as possible was put right during the final completion period of traffic controls on the B4084. Also agreed was that Mr Cooper would approach Strickland's on the problem of large lorries leaving their site early in the morning and rat running illegally through Crophorne and Fladbury as reported by a parishioner. The Clerk was also asked to request police enforcement to the 7.5 tonne limit restriction in case behaviours over the past 5 months had given rise to a new set of law breaking carriers and drivers. There still remain some concerns over the level of the brook after the works are completed when compared with pre July 20th 2007.
- b) The meeting considered an application for Rural Rate Relief for the New Inn, Main Rd. The options available were A) 50% paid by Parish Council £215.52 (£105.70 2006/07, £109.42 2007/08) and WDC £1505.37 (£739.86 2006/07, £765.91 2007/08), B) 25% paid by WDC in total with moral support from the Parish Council as the business benefits the local community, or C) 0% as the business is not considered to be a benefit to the local community. Cllr Meikle proposed that option A be adopted by the parish council, seconded by Cllr Meredith and agreed by the meeting.
- c) 2008 provisional meeting dates was circulated to councillors present and will be lodged with the school and absent Cllrs King and Hughes.

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15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Cropthorne Parish Council is on Monday 10th December 2007. Any items for inclusion on the agenda and proposed corrections to the minutes must be with the Clerk by Sunday 2nd December 2007.

The Chair closed the meeting at 10:30pm.

Signed(Chair)

Date