

## A meeting of Cropthorne Parish Council held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007 in the Village School 7:30pm

### 1. APOLOGIES

Present – C Whittington (Chair)	WCC Cllr Eyre
R Annis (V/Chair)	WDC Cllr McDonald
A Hughes	Clerk RJ Coles
T Meikle	16 Parishioners (Flood)
J Meredith	WCC Peter Jago (Projects)
	WCC David Lavender (Highways)
	Police Sgt Phil Stayte
	Police Off Julie de Paris

Apologies were received from Cllrs West and King.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Personal and Prejudicial – 1541 Planning – A Hughes  
Personal and Prejudicial – 1922 Planning – T Meikle  
Personal and Prejudicial – Church Wall – J Meredith

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2007 were proposed by Chair Whittington, seconded by V/chair Annis and agreed by the meeting that they be accepted and signed by the Chair.

### 4. FLOODING – JULY 2007 - AFTERMATH

Sgt Stayte reported that police presence had taken place on numerous occasions from as early as 7am, as late as 11pm, during school opening/closing and peak rush hours. Police had been present at some of these times everyday in person also with visits from the technology car, speed gun and CCTV van. The police can only enforce the normal 7.5 tonne access, 30mph speeding and normal traffic offences. A problem lay in the fact that apart from a 10-metre closure of Middle Lane, near Main Street that was legally enforceable all the other Highways signs were advisory and not backed up with the necessary legals and acceptable signages as prescribed in law. Average speeds were 22mph and a few motorists were in slight excess and verbally warned. Reports of very high speeds were endemic in every village in Worcestershire but unless specifically caught in the act were difficult to deal with. Cllr Annis requested that the 'closed' part of the B4084 between Haselor Lane and Field Barn Lane be policed as there were motorists racing along this stretch sometimes on the wrong side after the barriers, Sgt Stayte agreed to consider what could be done. Chair thanked the police for their efforts in such difficult times although issues still remained.

Chair also wished to thank Severn Trent specifically for their ability to repair the water main over the canyon within 24 hours thereby keeping water supplied to the village.

The continued state of all signage from the M5 to Evesham is now being inspected regularly following a request from the clerk after constant damage and unofficial removals had taken place. Concerns were also expressed that some of the reflective signing was the wrong way around. At least one large tractor was the subject of follow up investigations for moving signs. Over £4,000 has been spent to date on related specific signs.

As expected the closure of Middle Lane was well received but the expected moving of the problem to Field Barn Lane (North) and Blacksmiths Lane had taken place. After extensive discussions it was agreed to look at placing two large concrete barriers in Blacksmiths Lane to provide extra safety for children on the Sheppey to slow and inconvenience drivers. The Clerk was requested to confirm this in writing to all parties concerned. Additionally extra drains required on the Pershore side of the canyon will require additional lengthening of the traffic lights there and will slow flows down even more, hopefully deterring more drivers. All works on the A44 have been suspended to help the area although a recent project already underway had to be completed.

It is hoped that things will continue to ease the pressure on Cropthorne until the project end in late November.

Peter Jago confirmed that as of now the project was reasonably definable after a series of unknowns kept cropping up which were only to be expected given that this project is one of disaster recovery with no data available prior to starting work. The last obstacle should be the signing of legal documents by neighbouring landowners for the enhanced headwalls. All materials and additional works (new drains both sides, larger headwalls, road pilings, safer working etc) had been identified and scheduled and the end of November was a firm date for completion.

Cllr Meikle expressed concern over promises to consult affected neighbours had not taken place, WCC Cllr Eyre indicated a lot had taken place but not necessarily with all. Peter Jago replied that he would try to address but the prime objective was to open the road. This led to concerns over 'downstream' affects of the new culvert and could something be done whilst all the equipment and labour was on site. David Lavender said he would try to progress with the WDC Working Group as it made sense but only if it could be proved that the work was effective and not a knee-jerk reaction. The Working Group would be approached by WDC Cllr McDonald to see what information was already available and what additionally was required as opposed to just repeating all the many rounds of information gathering that had already taken place.

All were invited to attend the next meeting when hopefully the end of the project was in sight.

**5. POLICING**

No additional matters were raised.

**6. CHARITIES**

No applications were noted.

**The meeting continued as no Parishioners requested to speak.**

**7. MATTERS ARISING**

- a) Sheppey/Waste Bins – Cllr Meikle proposed, seconded by Cllr Meredith and agreed by the meeting that two bins be ordered under WDC offer of 2-for-1 for the Sheppey at an expected cost of around £500.
- b) Village Hall Playground Sinking Fund – Chair is still trying to arrange a convenient date to discuss this topic.
- c) Alliance and Leicester Community Account – Chair/Clerk reported that under delegated authority £15,000 had been transferred back to Lloyds/TSB due to unsatisfactory handling of the account and also the bad publicity during the recent financial crisis. It was proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr Meikle and agreed by the meeting that this state of affairs should continue until the next meeting.
- d) Church Wall Grant request – Chair reported that he had contacted Peter Harris and the issue was awaiting their continued approach to share information with the Working Group to progress and recommend action, if any.
- e) Heathworks visibility concerns – Enforcement have been approached, report still awaited.

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

WCC Cllr Eyre reported that the Government has asked the County Council to find £25 million over the next 3 years. During Corporate Planning week 17th - 21st September The Cabinet, Chief officers, The Chief Executive and the Leader identified around £10m cashable efficiency savings, the amount Directorates needed to save by spending less, doing less and the cost of unfunded duties that are to be placed on the County Council by the Government over the next three years - The £25m target was virtually reached. The details will be available to the parish council as the three-year budgeting process goes

through its consultation period. The £6.7 million road damage is likely to prove an additional burden.

The final 3 candidates for the position of Chief Executive were interviewed on 25th and 26<sup>th</sup> and rejected.

The Director of Adult Social has resigned to take up a new venture. WCC Children Services was inspected 17th to 20th. After a demanding week senior officers in CS learnt that a favourable judgement, which still has to go to moderation, was proposed.

WDC Cllr McDonald reported that he had access to £150 kick start grants for parish projects. Flooding grants of £200 per effected household had only been claimed by 600 out of an estimated 1200-1500. Advantage West Midlands has allocated £230,000 to help towns in Wychavon to recover; recent rural and local farming interests had put losses at £70 million. WDC had responded positively in continued disposal of rubbish following the clean ups. The flood-working group will be visiting parishes to collect information for future studies. Support for the Pershore High Street improvements has been supplied also with pressure on WCC to complete ASAP to minimise disruptions. WDC Cllr McDonald urged everyone to visit the meetings to make their views known on the preferred options of the status quo improved to all households or an alternative weekly two-wheeler bin system. Alternatively information and a questionnaire are available on [www.wychavon.gov.uk](http://www.wychavon.gov.uk).

9. **PARISH PLAN** - Cllr Meikle will report to the meeting.

Cllr Meikle reported that John Agg was collating the information to format the results in both bar chart and numerical forms. Cllr Hughes requested that additional information indicating the spread and possible polarisation of views should also be presented. The Parish Plan website would be wound up and the Parish Council's be used to present the results.

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/06/00554/PN/APPEAL – Field Barn Caravan Park – Variation of planning condition (1 of PR617/63) to permit plot 1 to be occupied by full time site manager** – Support for a single caravan only (i.e. Plot 1) dedicated to a full time manager was refiled. Appeal heard 22/08/07 and allowed.
- c) **W/06/01261/PN/APPEAL – Mr Cooper, Field Barn Lane Caravan Park – Erection of timber office building. Variation of condition (1) attached to P.P. PR617/63 to permit site to be open 50 weeks per year.** Support of the timber building and a strong objection to the extension to 50 weeks usage of the site was refiled. Appeal heard 22/08/07 and allowed.
- d) **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.
- e) **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.
- f) **W/07/01193/PP – Mr I P Reynolds, Fir Tree Cottage, Middle Lane – Erection of a single storey garage** – No objection has been filed. Permission has been granted.
- g) **W/07/01521/PP – Mr & Mrs C Brooker, Oakfield House, Main St – Extension to the existing patio area** – No objection has been filed, decision awaited.
- h) **W/07/01541/PP – Mr Hughes, Riverside Lodge, Neigh Lane** – No objection has been filed, decision awaited.
- i) **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, decision awaited.

