

CRANAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 23rd February 2021 from a virtual meeting held on Zoom @ 7.30 pm.

Part 1

Present

Councillor R Hocknell (RJH)

Councillor R Hurst (RH)

Councillor S Lavin (SL)

Councillor G Morgan (GM) – Chairman

Councillor A Woodfine - Jones (AWJ)

Councillor L Gilbert (LG) (Cheshire East Ward Cllr) left at 8.35 pm.

Ms J Mason – Clerk

Declaration of Interest

Cllr A Woodfine Jones – 21/0402C, Cllr S Lavin – ‘safe route to schools’ as she was a Governor at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School, Cllr G Morgan – Sibelco.

Public Forum

There were ten members of the public present.

Three members wished to express their concern about the speed of traffic on Northwich Road and New Platt Lane. School children walked to the bus stop and they felt it was unsafe as there was no pavement and no refuge to step back from the larger traffic. The dark nights and no streetlights made walking along the road even more dangerous. There were also breaches from the Sibelco traffic leaving the Rudheath site. It was noted there had been several emails from residents’ in relation to this issue.

The Clerk explained the actions the Parish Council had taken over the past 18 months. Cllr LG intervened to say that it was not always the correct process to reduce the speed limit and enforcement was the best route. Cllr A Kolker had taken the issue of a reduced speed limit to different highway portfolio holders and none had agreed it fitted the Speed Management Strategy CE highways followed.

Two residents (one was a Parish Councillor) from Twemlow were present to express their concerns about Twemlow Parish Council joining Cranage Parish Council to complete the Neighbourhood Plan. They felt their Parish Council had not followed due procedure when agreeing to join Cranage Parish Council. The fact that they were within the two-mile exclusion zone was in their opinion enough protection from development.

Apologies

Cllr D Pochin – no apologies received; Cllr D Bennett due to no internet connection.

18/21 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2021 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

19/21 Highways

Pavement works along the A50.

The works were due to start this week.

Northwich Road

The Clerk reported that the Police Chief Crime Commissioner had responded to the letter dated 17th December and he had agreed to look at the figures on Northwich Road and get back to us to hopefully instruct some speed monitoring.

After the explanation of actions taken by the Parish Council taken in the public forum time two of the residents had agreed to lobby the people who were concerned about the speed of the traffic and form a petition of objection.

It was agreed the Clerk would circulate the letter already sent and the Speed Management Strategy.

CCTV request from a resident on Twemlow Lane

The Chairman and the Clerk had met with Mr Paul Reeves Flood Risk Manager for Cheshire East to discuss the issue. The meeting also included his colleague who had visited site with the owner of Rose Cottage. CE clearly stated it was a neighbour's dispute and not something the PC would become involved in as the owners of Oak Cottage could dispute access.

Fly tipping on Goostrey Lane.

Actioned

A50 blocked gully – 3418618

Sink Hole on A50 – the Clerk would report.

20/21 Cheshire East

Cllr LG reported that there had been a budget meeting and it had been agreed the Council Tax would rise by 4.99% in the main due to the social service budget. The budget for Highways had been reduced by £4m which was a reduction of 23% which would be extremely hard not to manage a decline.

There was a suggestion that the Ward Cllrs would hold a budget of £4k for their Wards as an individual as opposed to the Local Area Highways budget.

On the following Friday there was a meeting on the Community Governance review and if members wished to read the agenda pack with suggestions it was available on the website.

There was a suggestion that Cranage would increase to 9 Cllrs from 7 Cllrs. This would go out again for a public consultation.

If himself and Cllr A Kolker supported, the safe route to schools from Cranage to Holmes Chapel they both wanted to ensure that this would not affect the school bus route. He had made enquires but nothing was forth coming at this stage.

Cllr L Gilbert left 8.35pm

21/21 Cycleway / footpath to Holmes Chapel from Cranage

Cllr SL and the Clerk had met with Cllr S Ackers Smith and HC Partnership had also attended to discuss implementing a safe route from Cranage to Holmes Chapel. It seems there was many issues with signage and footpaths in Holmes Chapel which were more prevalent than issues in Cranage. There were financial benefits for funding if both parishes joined forces with a safe route.

22/21 Neighbourhood Plan

There seemed to be a dispute in Twemlow in relation to completing a Neighbourhood Plan with Cranage. The Twemlow PC Clerk had communicated the decision would be revisited at their meeting on 9th March. It was agreed that CPC would await their decision until after this date.

To date the Clerk reported they had been over 90 responses and 10 offers of support to date from the first newsletter which was excellent news.

Terms of Reference

This would be deferred until the next meeting.

Grant Funding Application

The deadline had been missed on the application 31st January 2021 so it would be resubmitted after March.

Cllr R Hocknell left at 8.40pm

23/21 Land ownership Needham estate

The Chairman had written to the land asset register and there had been no reply. The map had been extremely helpful from Cllr RH.

24/21 Picnic tables

Cllr AJW had placed it on the local Facebook page as a resident and gave feedback. The Clerk had received some feedback if the siting of the picnic tables were pursued it would encourage anti-social behaviour.

The objections were noted but the PC wanted to provide something for the whole community and the situation will be reviewed.

It was agreed the decision would still be upheld.

25/21 Planning Applications

- 21/04020C 12 Lawrence Close, Cranage CW4 8FA – ground floor extension to existing detached garage to dwelling.

Resolved No Objection

20/0449E Glebe Farm – the owner had refused to meet with the Chairman to discuss the sandbags. It was agreed to contact the Cheshire East Flood Risk Manager.

26/21 Internal Auditor

Resolved J D H Services would be appointed as the Internal Auditor for 2020/21

27/21 Budget 2020/21

The budget had been circulated from the Clerk. It was reviewed by members.

Resolved the budget spend to date was accepted by full Council.

28/21 Rospa Safety Check

Resolved the Clerk was given authority to instruct Rospa to carry out the safety checks on the play areas and the Adult fitness area.

29/21 Footpaths and Tree Report

Agricultural access on Needham estate

The original complainant had contacted the Clerk again concerned about the access of farm traffic through the estate after reading the minutes. He was thinking of arranging a petition. Cllr AWJ had met with the resident to discuss. The PC agreed they could not prevent the farmer gaining access to his field from the estate as it was pre-existing before the estate was built and the water work access was not suitable for large farm traffic for various reasons.

It was agreed to speak with the farmer again to ask if the farm traffic would travel at a reasonable speed and avoid the section where the road is narrower the use the main strip and not turn left and use the narrow point. The Clerk register the tree pruning requirement with CE and pursue its fulfilment with Cheshire East to avoid damage.

Footpath Claim – Carver Ave/Byley Lane/Crescent Avenue Ref FPS/R0660/14A/2

Still awaiting a date as the lockdown back log had not been cleared yet.

Footpath from Needham estate play areas to the estate roundabout

Cllr AWG asked if the footpaths could be swept at the same time as the footpath clearance along the A50.

Resolved the Clerk would instruct J Harding's to sweep the footpaths on Needham estate.

30/21 Accounts

It was noted the balance of account = Leek United £31,016.27 + Natwest £32,116.86 = £63,133.13.

Payments

- *Online payment* - £984.00 Crewe Colour Printers (inc £141.00 Twemlow PC)
- *Online payment* - £35.00 ICO

Receipts

- NIL

Resolved the above payments are approved and signed for as a true and accurate record.

Bank Reconciliation

This had been checked and accepted by Cllr RH.

31/21 Chairman and Members Report

Cllr RH gave an update on the adult fitness equipment.

32/21 Clerks Report

Training 2021

The Clerk asked if members would engage in some training for 2021. The list would be circulated.

33/21 The next meeting would be on the 23rd of March 2021.

Meeting closed at 10.00pm

It was noted this would be held on Zoom