

CRANAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Part 1

Present

Councillor R Hurst (RH)

Councillor S Lavin (SL)

Councillor G Morgan (GM) – Chairman

Councillor D Pochin (DP)

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 – Needham Estate, Cllr S Lavin – ‘safe route to schools’ as she was a Governor at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School and Cllr G Morgan – Sibelco.

Public Forum

There were twenty-one members of the public present.

Many residents had attended who resided on the Needham estate to ask for a change of opinion from the Parish Council to support their concerns about a local farmer accessing his land with agricultural machinery through their estate. They felt it was inappropriate and unsafe to bring the large agricultural machinery on narrow roads where there were pedestrians and children. They also felt the farmer was not always considerate with his speed when moving vehicles as he had expressed in recent communication. The spokesperson explained the residents had completed a petition with 152 signatures to request the situation was reviewed and the farmer took his access to the field from the water works access or Byley Lane. The farmer had communicated neither of these accesses were suitable, but they felt they were viable.

There were examples of unsafe travel on the estate where children played/cycled. They were dismayed with the Parish Council not supporting them after reading the January minutes and asked them to reconsider.

One member thought a risk assessment should be carried out on the farmer’s travel route. Other comments about the removal of the wooden posts from near the footpath by the gateway in 2019 thought this proved no access was allowed.

The Chairman explained the PC have no powers in influencing this decision and believed the farmer had a right of access through the estate as his land had been farmed before the estate had been built.

Members of the public thought it would be irresponsible for the Council not to support them as they had formed the petition and the Council were, their elected members.

The Chairman explained this would be discussed in the meeting and she would allow further comments.

The ex-Chairman of Lach Dennis Parish Council had recently moved to Cranage and wished to explain her dismay of the speed of traffic along the A50 and the standard of the road. She had reported these issues to CE Highways. She volunteered some avenues her Parish Council had followed to reduce speed of traffic, e.g. speed awareness cameras and training of residents to carry out speed awareness and use speed cameras. She also knew one of the candidates who was standing for the position of Police Crime Commissioner. He felt there was funding available for cameras, and she volunteered her support.

The Chairman thanked her for her contribution and accepted her offer of support.

At the last meeting, the Parish Council had encouraged Northwich Road to form a residents committee to try and influence the decision of CE Highways that there was a huge issue with speed and volume of traffic on Northwich Road. The Parish Council had tried many options but with no results. The spokesman summarised the petition the had organised and they had gained over 100 signatures.

Apologies

Cllr R Hocknell – a prior meeting engagement.

34/21 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2021 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

35/21 Northwich Road

The PC members were impressed by the overwhelming support the residents had organised between themselves to show their concerns about the speed of traffic on Northwich Road. The Chairman proposed the residents needed a point of contact on the Council to communicate with and formalise a plan of action to follow.

Resolved Cllr D Pochin would act as the representative of the Parish Council for the Northwich Road & New Platt Lane Residents Action Group. It was noted there was a handover from Cllr DB.

36/21 Cheshire East

Cllr LG reported the library in Holmes Chapel were conducting a service called reading with friends for the socially isolated which involved a weekly chat about a book in the library.

CE had reported there was now a 6.4-year housing supply available, and the target was 5 years, which was positive news.

The Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre was due to open on the 12th April so long as the relaxing of restrictions continues and there are no updates.

Cllr LG explained the PC he had supported the residents on Needham estate with submitting the petition to CE.

37/21 Highways

The Chairman allowed more comments from the public forum time on this issue.

Cllr DB said he had heard in the public forum time that the PC had intentionally communicated an incorrect Zoom invitation which was ludicrous. It was a mistake and not intentional. Too many people had watched the previous activities in other PC life and this procedure was not followed in Cranage PC.

Cllr AWJ disputed the spokesman comments on dates as he knew access had been used for 8 years as he could recall from living on the estate.

Cllr L Gilbert left the meeting at 8.35pm

To acknowledge the email from the resident on the farm traffic travelling through Needham estate

The Chairman felt after listening to the residents from Needham estate and the farmer's position that there was no action the Parish Council could take in relation to the right of access the farmer had to enter his field from Needham Estate.

Cllr SL proposed "the Parish Council supported the residents of Needham estate to submit their petition to CE Highways to see if any further actions could be taken about the farmers access into the estate following comments from the public forum time".

This proposal was seconded by Cllr RH.

Resolved the Parish Council supported the residents of Needham Estate to submit their petition to CE Highways to enquire if any actions could be taken about the farmers access into the estate.

The chairman wished it to be noted she disagreed with the resolution.

Footpath siding out along A50.

The footpaths had been sided out along the A50 and there had been several emails of thanks from the public. The Clerk had received one complaint about it being sided out too far and showed the tarmac edge which was uneven and dangerous, the contractor had been out and relayed turf and resolved the issue.

Cllr RH thought the siding out had now shown up more issues in some areas as more pavement was now visible and it was showing uneven tarmac which was dangerous for walkers.

Resolved the Clerk would report to CE Highways.

A50 Blocked gully- 3418618

Cllr AWJ would check if this has been actioned.

Glebe Farm pedestrian access

The Clerk reported that Mr Lee Glover had now left and had been replaced by Ms Libby Bowers and there had been a conversation in relation to Glebe Farm. The sandbags had been removed but placed back again by the owner of Glebe Farm. Further communication had been issued that more actions would be taken by CE Highways to remove the sandbags.

To note meeting with neighbouring parishes on highways on 24th March

The Clerk and the members aware of the meeting with H/Chapel, Brereton, Twemlow and Goostrey.

A50 by Foxfield Court and the Northwich Road junction

Following comments in emails and in the public forum time the Clerk was asked to arrange a site visit with CE Highways.

38/21 Annual Parish Meeting on 27th April 2021

The format of the Parish Council was discussed between the members. It was agreed that the meeting would still take place on Zoom. The Annual Parish Newsletter would need to be delivered to invite the public in April and the following topics were agreed to be written by members.

- Cllr G Morgan – Chairman's Report
- Cllr D Pochin – Northwich Road/ New Platt Lane traffic volume and speed
- Cllr A Woodfine – Jones – Needham estate
- Cllr S Lavin – Neighbourhood Plan
- Cllr R Hurst – Litter collections

Resolved the Clerk would organise a presentation from Ms L Hughes from Cheshire Community Action on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Resolved the cost of £73.00 would be accepted from CCA.

It was agreed the Clerk would ask the Village Hall if they would like to give a small presentation.

39/21 Neighbourhood Plan

Twemlow Parish Council had withdrawn from joining Cranage Parish Council to jointly complete a Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted the Terms of Reference would be deleted.

There had been over 155 responses received back from the residents of Cranage which was amazing. The Clerk had now sent the replies to CCA for analysis, and she was hopeful that this would be ready for the Annual Parish Meeting.

There had been several offers of support to help complete the NP and the Clerk suggested a meeting would be helpful. Cllr SL suggested an initial email of communication was sent and then a meeting in May arranged.

40/21 Land ownership Needham estate

Deferred

41/21 Planning Applications

- 21/1245C Heyhead Farm, Twemlow Lane, Cranage CW4 8EX – proposed two storey rear extension to current planning approval 20/2618C.
Resolved No Objection
- 21/1415C Land off Kings Lane, Cranage – proposed telecommunications installation. Proposed 25 m high FLI slimline lattice tower on 5.6 x 5.6 x 1.2m deep concrete base

with 6 no antenna. Apertures t 60/170/300 and 4 no proposed 600 dishes, RRU'S, MHA's active routers and BOB's. to be fixed to support poles below antennas and associated ancillary works.

Resolved No Objection

20/0449E Glebe Farm

Resolved the Clerk would write again to the Chief Executive as there still had been no planning application submitted for the fencing business adjacent to Glebe Farm.

Sibelco

The Chairman unfortunately could not attend the last liaison meeting, but the notes had been circulated. There had been a complaint submitted from a member of the public on the amount of sand reserves being collected as bunds on the side of the quarry. the Chairman agreed to investigate this and report back.

42/21 Footpaths and Tree Report

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

The Clerk had been informed after chasing, that the appeal was now in progress and all witnesses would be written to in due course as the inspector thought this process was better than a virtual meeting.

Cllr AWJ was placed in the meeting room.

Footpath from Needham Estate play areas to the estate roundabout

Resolved the Clerk would instruct J Harding's to clear the footpath through Needham estate.

43/21 Accounts

It was noted the balance of account = Leek United £31,016.27 + Natwest £31,128.86 = £62,145.13.

Payments

- *Online payment* - £7,200.00 J Harding's Ltd
- *Online payment* - £25.00 CHALC (Cllr G Morgan Chairmanship)
- *Online payment* - £50.00 CHALC (Roles & Responsibilities Cllr AWJ and Cllr DP)
- *Online payment* - £482.44 Glasdon UK
- *Online payment* - £118.70 Ms J Mason (expenses Jan to March)
- *Online payment* - £189.60 Crewe Colour Printers (VAT payment missing)

Receipts

- £933.79 HMRC VAT

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

Resolved authority was given to pay the clerks salary at the end of March.

Bank Reconciliation

This had been checked and accepted by Cllr RH.

44/21 Chairman and Members Report

Cllr DP gave feedback on the CHALC speed course held on 16TH March 2021.

Cllr S Lavin noted the comments from Cllr LG on safe routes to school but thought this should not stop the PC pursuing the safe route to school with Cllr SAS – the PC agreed.

45/21 Clerks Report

The Clerk gave feedback on the CE Community Governance review and the effects on CPC.

46/21 The next meeting would be the Annual Parish Meeting on the 26th of April 2021.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

It was noted this would be held on Zoom.