



CRANAGE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 27th July 2021
at Cranage Hall Hotel, 7.30 pm.**

Part 1

Present

Councillor R Hocknell

Councillor R Hurst

Councillor S Lavin

Councillor M Morrey

Councillor A Woodfine - Jones

Councillor L Gilbert (Cheshire East Ward Cllr)

Mrs S McKay – Clerk

3 members of the public.

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hurst – Cranage Village Hall, as being on the management board.

Cllr Lavin – Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School, as a governor.

Cllr Woodfine-Jones – Cranage Estate resident's group, as a member.

94/21 Chair for this meeting

In the absence of Cllr Morgan, it was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Hurst as Chair for this meeting.

95/21 Apologies

The Council **RESOLVED** to receive apologies from Cllr G Morgan (health) and Cllr D Pochin (personal)

96/21 Co-option

RESOLVED to note the applications to join the council from Mr Mark Morrey and Mr Callum Darbyshire.

RESOLVED to suspend standing orders to allow the applicants to address the council. The Council heard from both applicants. The meeting returned to standing orders. The Council voted and **RESOLVED** to co-opt Mr Mark Morrey onto Cranage Parish Council.

97/21 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Mr Morrey signed the declaration of acceptance of office and took his place on the Council.

98/21 Public Forum

1 member of the public spoke regarding the ongoing problems caused by excessive noise from empty heavy goods vehicles travelling north on the A50 in the vicinity of the Northwich Road junction, caused by a sunken manhole cover and other undulations in the road surface. The increasing noise, which was initially logged with Cheshire East Highways (CECH) in September 2020 is becoming intolerable and there is a lack of engagement from CECH. The resident requested help from the Parish Council to highlight the issue with the local authority.

The 2nd member of the public spoke to clarify that flooding on Twemlow Lane noted in the previous meeting was from Manor View equestrian centre, not the Birtles Riding School at Birtles Cottage. This was noted by the Council.

99/21 Minutes

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2021 as a true and accurate record.

100/21 Planning

The Council considered the planning applications detailed below and **RESOLVED** to submit the following responses:

- **21/3271C**

Ashlings, 61, NORTHWICH ROAD, CRANAGE, WA16 9LE. Residential outbuilding conversion to annexe for guest accommodation.

To note the Clerk used delegated authority to submit "No Comment" for this application, due to the deadline for comments.

- **21/3724C**

BRIARWOOD, GOOSTREY LANE, CRANAGE, CW4 8HE. Proposed single storey extension to rear and side of property. Replacement roof to existing garage.

NO OBJECTION

- **21/3789C**

Merriewood, 58 Northwich Road, CRANAGE WA16 9LD. Variation of Condition 2 on approval 19/5335C for proposed single dwelling

For the Clerk to seek clarity on the documents submitted to the portal.

To use delegated authority to submit a response as necessary further to clarification.

- **21/3430T**

Maple House, 16, NEEDHAM DRIVE, CRANAGE, CW4 8FB.
Works to tree - Fell Dead Maple Tree

NO COMMENT

- Glebe Farm, Knutsford Road, Cranage CW4 8EF

There has been no further communication from Cheshire East Council (CEC), with the planning application still awaited. The Clerk to pursue.

101/21 Ward Member Report

RESOLVED to suspend the Standing Orders to receive a report from Ward Councillor Gilbert.

He reported:

- On the outcome of recent work by the Boundary Commission, which may result in the Dane Valley Ward being moved to the Tatton constituency from Congleton to balance voter numbers in each area.
- The cemetery provision in Sandbach will not be extended when it has reached capacity (est 8 years time) resulting in the next closest cemetery being in Crewe or Macclesfield.
- To clarify that remedial works to existing road conditions cannot be included in a planning allowance.
- To highlight the decreasing budget at CECH for maintenance work and recommending that the resident affected by noise on the A50 seeks help from the Environmental Health Department.

Cllr Gilbert responded to questions relating to Glebe Farm and the Needham Drive amenity land.

Cllr Gilbert was thanked for the update.

102/21 Needham Drive Amenity Land

Cllr Jones presented possibilities for improvements to the land off Needham Drive, further to the recent traveller encampment. It was noted that the transit site planned for Cledford Lane is now being progressed again after having stalled for some years due to escalating costs. There is no timescale as yet for completion of this project.

RESOLVED to seek to create a wildflower meadow on the site, with cut pathways and to include an access barrier at the entrance to the site. A plan for this scheme, with costings if possible, will be brought to a future meeting of the Council.

Ward Councillor Gilbert left the meeting at 8:30pm, having submitted apologies for the remainder of the meeting.

103/21 Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

Cllrs Lavin and Jones, with the Clerk, updated the council on progress with the NP project. The grant application has been successful, with the council being awarded a grant of £6023 for the project. The draft policies received from Ms Hughes (Cheshire Community Action) were reviewed by the Council.

RESOLVED

- I. That a timescale for project continuation will to be brought to the next Council meeting.
- II. That a draft article advertising a public event for the NP will be brought to next meeting for approval.
- III. To approve spending £1433 on the natural environment report by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust
- IV. To approve ongoing spending in accordance with supplied quotations from CCA to progress the plan production.
- V. To note support for a rural economy policy, which will support diversification from agriculture whilst embracing the proximity of residential dwellings to agricultural activity.

104/21 Footpath and Tree Report

1. The Council accepted the report submitted by Mr Sheldon, detailing pathways and hedges requiring maintenance particularly in the vicinity of the playing fields.

RESOLVED to follow up the recommendations in the report with ANSA and the relevant landowners.

2. Consideration was given to the ongoing maintenance of the footways in the Parish which have been widened in the last financial year.

RESOLVED to approve the use of weedkiller by a “highway approved” supplier on and at the edges of the pathways to maintain the width, to a maximum spend of £250.

3. The Clerk updated on outstanding actions

- CEC have not carried out a safety inspection on the tree canopy on Needham Drive as it did not meet the qualifications for an inspection, although it will continue to be routinely monitored.
- Weeds in the play area will be treated at the same time as the pathways.

4. Other Issues – There has been no further communication regarding the footpath claim for land near Carver Avenue.

The deteriorating condition of the footpath leading to the northern side of the Needham Drive approach road was reported.

RESOLVED to request that redundant wood edging be removed from this pathway as it is a trip hazard.

105/21 Highways

1. Northwich Road - Support for the resident group is ongoing.

2. Sibelco - No further update.

3. Grass Cutting - The Council reviewed the schedule for additional cuts to highway verges, noting the quotation supplied for the entirety of the works.

RESOLVED to approve the additional cuts for this year in line with the existing schedule. The schedule will be reviewed next year in accordance with recommendations from the NP project.

4. Top Up Highways Maintenance Scheme - the information from CEC on the scheme was noted by the Council.

RESOLVED to submit the following comment to ChALC, as per their request:

Cranage Parish Council feel that the introduction of such a scheme is not in line with the constitution of a Parish Council and is unlikely to meet the rising needs for highway maintenance and improvements in the Parish. The Council do not embrace the need for a scheme of this type. The Council also has concerns about the resultant lack of competition to promote affordability of any works.

5. A50 Noise and Vibration

Communications regarding excessive noise on the A50 in the vicinity of the Northwich Road junction were debated by the Council.

RESOLVED for the Clerk to write to Environmental Health services requesting an urgent assessment of the noise which is causing intolerable disturbance to residents in the area.

6. Outstanding Issues:

Left Hand bend signage on Twemlow Lane – this has been assigned to a future year programme of highway improvement works.

Signage on A50 to Goostrey by Big Stone Gardens – dismissed by CEC as no problem identified.

106/21 Cranage Bowling Club

Cllr Jones and the Clerk updated the Council further to the recent landlord check of the facility on 21 July 2021

RESOLVED to note the completion of the landlord check for 2021 with no issues having been found. The Clerk will investigate options to thicken up the hedge at the rear of the site.

3 members of the public left at 9.20pm

107/21 The Paddock (Middlewich Road)

RESOLVED to note the letter from a potential developer and to write in refusal of the offer.

108/21 Annual Internal Audit

The Council reviewed the actions from the internal audit 2020/21.

RESOLVED

- I. **Action 1:** To note that the risk assessment is diarised for review in January each Year.
- II. **Action 2:** For the Clerk to work with the finance member to implement the suggested changes for supplier fraud into the risk management strategy.
- III. **Action 3:** To amend financial regulations to reflect the current annual budget procedure.
- IV. To accept the updated audit report and the proposed actions.

109/21 Finance

RESOLVED to

- I. Note the balance of accounts = Leek United £31,016.27 + Natwest £22,861.01 = £53,877.28
- II. Note and accept the statement of accounts to 30 June 2021 with the budget monitoring report.
- III. Note that the bank reconciliation has been completed.
- IV. Approve and sign the following:

Payments (all to be made online)

- £324 – TCS Management – for year to 5 April 2021.
(Note – The clerk will recharge a third of the net amount, £270, to each of Somerford and Astbury Parish Councils as their portion of the payroll service fee for the former clerk.)

- £50 – ChALC – Chairmanship training (SL, AWJ)
 - £25 – ChALC – Planning training (SL)
- To note:
- £1229.96 – HMRC Clerk & Former Clerk (paid 28.06.21)

RECEIPTS

- £1161.72 – Astbury PC (Former Clerk Salary)
- £1914.43 – Somerford PC (Former Clerk Salary)

110/21 Chairman and Members Report

Cllr Hocknell had received a communication from a resident complaining about the noise from a recent outdoor event at Cranage Hall Hotel. It was observed that notice of the event had been posted and that the event was in support of NHS workers.

A request was made to write to the Minister for disabled people, health and work in protest of the condition of the pathway at Glebe Farm which continues to prevent wheeled access to Cranage from Holmes Chapel.

111/21 Clerks Report

- The Clerk attended the Police Meeting in Holmes Chapel for Dane Valley and Brereton Rural Parishes on 26 July. The ASB and crime data for first 6 months of 2021 was reviewed - notes and the presentations will be circulated to members when available.
- Work is ongoing regarding the feasibility of asset transfer of Cranage playing fields.

112/21 The next meeting will be on 21 September 2021.

Meeting closed at 9.34pm