



CRANAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 30 November 2021 at Devere Cranage Estate, at 7.30 pm.

Part 1

Present

Councillor R Hocknell

Councillor R Hurst

Councillor S Lavin

Councillor G Morgan (Chair)

Councillor A Woodfine - Jones

Councillor A Kolker (Cheshire East Ward Cllr)

Mrs S McKay – Clerk

1 member 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 Morgan – as a close neighbour of the Sibelco Rudheath Lodge Site.

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

Item 152/21 – Highways, as an acquaintance of a resident on Leese Crossroads.

146/21 Apologies

RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllr Morrey (health) and Cllr Pochin (personal)

147/21 Public Forum

The resident expressed an interest to hear the outcome of any debate regarding tree trimming on Needham Drive – item 152/21. It was stated that the request of residents not to severely cut the trees back has been noted by the parish council.

148/21 Minutes

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2021 as a true and accurate record.

149/21 Planning

The Council considered the planning application detailed below and **RESOLVED** to comment as follows. An extension to the deadline for comments for this application has been approved:

- **21/5258C** HARLEY HOUSE, 20 NORTHWICH ROAD, CRANAGE CW4 8HL
New Dwelling - (Resubmission of 18/5291C (Resubmission of application 18/3070C:
Construction of new detached house))

NO OBJECTION

- Glebe Farm – no further communication has been received, although Ward Cllr Gilbert is pursuing planning enforcement for the retrospective application.
RESOLVED for the Clerk to write again to the planning department at Cheshire East Council (CEC), asking for their proposed timeline for the application submission and what enforcement action is planned if said application is not received by this deadline.

150/21 Ward Member Report

RESOLVED to suspend the Standing Orders to receive a report from Ward Councillor Kolker. He reported

- Further to ongoing service issues across the borough with Royal Mail, CEC have resolved to write to Royal Mail requesting that they state their response to the situation, which is now recognised as a threat to local businesses who rely on the service.
- The new CEC Speed Management Strategy document is due to be released for consultation very soon, and a response to the consultation was recommended.
- Cllr Kolker answered members questions relating to planning.

Cllr Kolker was thanked for the update.

151/21 Cheshire Fire Consultation

The consultation was noted by the Council who **RESOLVED** not to submit a response.

152/21 Highways

1. A50: Resurfacing work has taken place, with potholes being repaired on the stretch of road to the north of the parish. However, the problems with noise and vibration to houses on the A50 in the vicinity of Northwich Road junction have not been solved.

RESOLVED for the clerk to continue to pursue for improvement with our highways officer.

2. Other highways Issues

2a. Cutback of trees on Needham Drive: CEC will not cut back the trees as they are in good health, despite the stated ensuing difficulties of access caused by the overgrowth.

RESOLVED that

- I. Cllr Kolker will lobby for the trimming work via the member enquiry service.
- II. The Clerk will obtain quotes for tree trimming work and bring to the next meeting of the Council.

2b. Condition of road surface over M6 on Northwich Road – it was noted that Cllr Gilbert is actively pursuing this on our behalf via the member enquiry service at CEC, further to it again being highlighted to the Council at the neighbourhood plan open weekend.

2c. Other Issues - Cllr Woodfine-Jones raised concern about the signage at Leese Crossroad, (Middlewich Road / Byley Lane junction) where another accident has recently occurred. The Council expressed their concern for the safety of the children who wait at this junction for the school bus service.

RESOLVED

- I. to request improvement to the signage and reinstatement of the white lining at this crossroad by CEC Highways.
- II. to ask for a review of the school bus stop location at this crossroad.

153/21 Footpath and Tree Report

1. Mr Sheldon was unable to attend the meeting, having sent apologies. Cllr Hurst requested improvements on FP15, on the low wooden bridge by the Vicarage, to prevent further slips.
2. The cost to widen the footpath on the A50 from the Cranage boundary to the junction with New Platt Lane was noted by the Council.
3. Update on outstanding issues:
 - To note that the hedge on A50 by Carver Avenue has now been cut back.
 - Cllr Hocknell to try to contact the owner of Swan Farm to get the hedge cut back on this stretch of the A50.
 - Sandbags by Glebe Farm causing a slip hazard – CEC have scheduled work to be carried out as soon as possible.
 - FP2 and FP3 – CEC PROW have replaced missing waymarkers.
 - FP3 by Glebe Farm; it was agreed by the council that the condition of this footpath is adequate.

RESOLVED

- I. To accept these reports.
- II. That the Clerk will seek a contribution to footpath widening work (point 2) from Allostock Parish Council, and to determine if the cost of traffic management can be shared with Holmes Chapel Parish Council.

154/21 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllrs Lavin and Woodfine-Jones updated the Council following on from the open weekend on 6/7 November 2021. Enough residents attended the event to provide needed feedback and volunteer for the three policy making groups to allow the project to continue. Cllr Woodfine-Jones will draft a work description for each of the groups, to be approved at the next parish council meeting. Meetings of each of the groups will then be initiated. It was noted that feedback will be supplied to the Cheshire Wildlife Trust to allow completion of the commissioned natural environment survey. The Clerk will contact each of the volunteers to thank them for their offer of help and keep them informed about the project.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

155/21 Provision of Fibre Broadband

The possibility to provide more consistent fibre broadband across the parish via a community scheme was considered by the Council, although it was agreed that more data relating to the present extent of coverage in Cranage was needed before a decision can be made.

RESOLVED to bring more information on fibre broadband coverage across Cranage to a future meeting for consideration.

156/21 Quality Council

The expiration of the foundation award in February 2022 was noted by the Council, who also debated the merits of the NALC scheme.

RESOLVED to reapply for the Foundation award, noting the cost of this is £100.

Cllr Kolker left the meeting, at 8:45pm.

157/21 Business Plan

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

158/21 Budget for 2022/23

The prepared draft budget was reviewed by the council, noting the proposed slight increase to the taxbase from Cheshire East Council. Greater clarity within the document was requested. The potential commitment to an average speed camera scheme was also debated by the Council.

RESOLVED

- I. To approve that the annual precept for 2022/23 be set at £20,261, subject to the approval of the taxbase by CEC on 15 December 2021. The charge for a Band D household remains the same at £29.40 per annum.
- II. To approve the budget figures for 2022/23.
- III. To bring a revised format of the budget document to a future meeting of the council with the aim of showing more clarity of revenue and capital spending, and the funds the council holds in reserves.

159/21 Finance

RESOLVED to

- I. Note the balance of accounts = Leek United £31,155.66 + Natwest £32,055.74 = **£63,211.40**
- II. Note that the Leek United bond has matured at a value of £31,155.66 and has been reinvested back into the same bond with confirmation of a further year's investment received.
- III. Note the interest received from the Leek United bond for 2020/21 was £139.39.
- IV. To approve payment of the Clerks salary on 31 December 2021
- V. Approve the following schedule of payments:

PAYMENTS

• £25.00	ChALC	12/10/2021	Training – Cllr Morrey
• £225.00	The Print Room	01/11/2021	Production of display panels for N-Plan
• £90.73	Various	November 2021	Purchase of sundry supplies for N-Plan open weekend
• £42.99	Amazon UK	11/11/2021	Shredder for Cranage PC for use by Clerk
• £36.12	Amazon UK	11/11/2021	Laminator for Cranage PC for use by Clerk
• £9.09	Amazon UK	11/11/2021	100 laminating sheets for Cranage PC.
• £25.00	Holmes Ch Partnership	22/11/2021	Donation of thanks for loan of display boards
• £11.28	Microsoft	November 2021	Office 365 for Business

It was noted that in future local suppliers will be used where possible for procurement of goods for the Council.

160/21 Chairman and Members Report

Cllr Woodfine-Jones reported that the free trees for the bowling club hedge have now been delivered (delayed due to delivery issues) and have been planted to over-winter until the Spring, when the community planting session will be arranged.

161/21 Clerks Report

- I. Meeting dates for 2022 – a change of date for the previously approved March meeting was requested due to a date clash with Holmes Chapel – 29th March instead of 22nd March. Cllr Hurst also recommended bringing forward the May meeting to minimise the gap between

meetings - 17th May instead of 24th May 2022. These revised dates will be circulated to members.

- II. Christmas Market is in Holmes Chapel on Sunday 5 December from 4 – 7pm.
- III. Bowling Club – the clerk has received a request from the club to install a water tank, 5 x 4 ft to the side of the club building, which would feed an irrigation system. This will be used in the summer months during the night on a timer. The club will meet the full cost of the work. The council requested that more information relating to the scheme be brought to the next meeting of the council, and to check if permission is required from CEC for the installation, according to the terms of our lease
- IV. Consultation circulated relating to Cheshire East Council's balanced budget – the proposal is to fix the increase of Council tax at 2.99% for the next four years.

162/21 Move to Part II

RESOLVED to move to Part II to discuss staff matters and The Paddock (Middlewich Road) due to commercial sensitivity.

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media may be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

The member of the public left the meeting.

163/21 The Paddock (Middlewich Road)

Terms of a new tenancy for the land off Middlewich Road were debated by the Council.

RESOLVED

- I. To purchase a generic grazing licence and to delegate authority to the Clerk, with Cllr Morgan, to complete the details for the new tenant. The licence will be approved at the next meeting of the Council.
- II. To lease the land at a sum of £100 per annum.
- III. To finalise the details with the proposed tenant once the lease is approved.

164/21 Staff Matters

The Clerk left the room.

The Council noted the additional hours worked by the Clerk since her appointment in May, due to establishing the role and Neighbourhood Plan work.

RESOLVED

- I. that the clerk will remain on her contracted hours. Hours worked to be reviewed quarterly.
- II. To include in December 2021 salary payment the additional hours worked by the Clerk to 26th November 2021.

The Clerk returned to the room.

165/21 The next meeting will be on 18 January 2022

Meeting closed at 9.25pm