

CRONDALL PARISH COUNCIL

THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CRONDALL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 16th MARCH 2009 AT 7.30 PM. IN CRONDALL CHURCH ROOMS

Present: Cllrs: Argent, Behagg (*joined the meeting at 7.45 pm*), Bredin, Dorn, Hebbroon (Vice Chairman), Payne, Shelford (Chairman), Vincent, Wilkinson, G. Baker (Clerk)

Also in attendance: County Cllr. Glen; District Cllr. Bennison.

Apologies: Cllrs Dobby, Passmore, Sisk

275/98 Apologies for their absence had been received from the above Councillors.

276/09 The minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2009 were approved as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

277/09 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No matters were raised from the previous minutes.

278/09 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, AND THE CLERK

The Chairman advised that Mr & Mrs Brown (residents from Ewshot) had raised a question regarding problems in obtaining places for local children at Secondary Schools in the Hart District. Although this had not been raised in time to go on the agenda they would like to speak on this during the Public Participation session. The PC would then take this forward to the next meeting. Cllr Vincent advised that time was pressing and the PC might not have time to leave a decision until the next meeting.

279/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Payne declared an interest in the planning application for Freshfields at item 282/09 a) as she knew the applicant; she would not vote on that item. Also Cllr Payne declared an interest on the PC Web Site item at 282/09 h) as JPW Advertising was her husbands company. Cllr Vincent advised that she had an interest in the Secondary School item to be discussed in the Public Participation session as her son would also be requiring a place at a secondary school.

280/09 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Brown agreed to speak on the Secondary School placement situation. As a summary, parents of children in Year 6 had applied for their catchment school, but all were rejected. There were too many children in the Hart District, owing to the number of houses being built, to go to the catchment Secondary Schools. They had been offered alternative places in Aldershot but parents were not accepting these places; they were putting in appeals and putting their childrens' names on waiting lists for their preferred catchment schools. Mr. & Mrs. Brown were asking the Parish Council (PC) to assist by supporting them in this matter. An additional important issue was that this would be more of a problem in the coming years, as Crondall was one of the furthest from the catchment schools and would therefore always be pushed out of the local schools. The Chairman would like to be able to get together as much information as possible and then the PC would decide what effective action it could take; whether we write to significant people already canvassed by parents or extend this. Mrs Brown would like the PC to raise the profile of the issue. Cllr Argent asked for suggestions of possible solutions to the problem. Mrs Brown said more temporary classrooms and extra staff could be provided to enable more local children to attend their catchment school.

Cllr Hebbroon suggested the PC should contact the County Council to see what was being done about the longer term situation as they should be looking at creating a greater availability of places. Cllr Hebbroon reminded Councillors that the next PC meeting was three weeks from tonight and therefore beyond the appeal date. Cllr Vincent was already on a working group with some parents and the school; she suggested co-option of one or two Councillors on to this group.

Cllr Dorn noted that County Cllr Glen had attended the meeting tonight and asked if he would outline what had been achieved so far.

Cllr Glen had attended a meeting at Crondall School on the previous Friday; he also informed the meeting that there had been a Council Cabinet meeting taking place today (16th) at which he raised the profile of the problem. Cllrs Kirk (who has portfolio responsibility for schools on Hampshire CC) and Thornber were aware of the problem; Cllr Glen had recommended that Cllr Kirk attend a meeting with the Governors of the School, Megan Robertson (Head Teacher) and parents to listen to the issues the parents had; if the PC could attend to offer its support to parents that would be beneficial. This meeting would take place on Thursday, 19th March. The fact that Crondall was furthest away was a very important factor. He has a meeting with Cllr Kirk on 23rd March to talk about the issues raised by parents. After that he would suggest Cllr Kirk visit the school to speak to Megan Robertson. The Chairman thanked Cllr Glen.

Cllr Vincent would attend the meeting with the parents and would represent PC support; it was agreed that Cllr Dorn would draft a letter which could be sent out by 19th March

281/09 DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT.

Cllr Bennison apologised for arriving late. Reference the DSWG (Democratis Structures Working Group) meeting regarding the splitting Crondall Parish into the Parish Councils of Ewshot and Crondall a report had been sent to the working group on 4th March with a recommendation for the split to go ahead. This would now go to full Council at the end of this month. Cllr Bennison had also been contacted by Anna Longley (HCC), who was dealing with the church path maintenance funding asking him to confirm this was going ahead and whether he approved. He had sent an e-mail to Anna Longley confirming everything in order but she was away until 16th March.

PC Nick Sexton (Odiham) is holding some burglary prevention meetings – one in Ewshot 16th April 7.30 - 9.00 p.m. (this would be a Neighbourhood Watch Meeting as well) and then on 21st April in New Life Church 11.00 am.

Cllr Bennison had received some Planning decisions: Townsend Cottages application for two cottages to be made into one cottage: this was granted under delegated power; Kildara – application for building of one house and industrial units: this was decided under delegated powers and the industrial units went through en bloc; Crondall Lodge application - this was granted but went to Committee.

Hart District Council tax would increase by 4.8%

The Chairman noted that the Crondall Council tax would be going up by 4.2% even though the precept was static. He had received an e-mail from the Hart DC Finance Officer which was unclear and although he had tried to contact him there had been no response; but he would keep trying.

282/09 AGENDA ITEMS:

- a) Review of Planning Application Freshfield, Church Lane, Ewshot, REF:09/00346/FUL (Handley)
This had been included on the agenda due to the short response time required.

Cllr Vincent explained the location and proposal. It was explained that access to Freshfield would be from St Mary's Cottage. It is proposed to build a first floor extension over the existing garage. Cllr Shelford explained that the whole site is below the level of the lane and well back from Church Lane. The locations

of the windows in the extension were of concern but there had been no objections from neighbouring residents. Cllr Payne advised that the building was far enough away and in summer the existing trees would hide the windows.

Recommendation: Approval

Recommendation: Seconded by Cllr Shelford; 1 abstention; 8 in favour.

- b) Setting up of a P.O. Box address for Parish Council/Clerk in accordance with NALC Recommendations

Cllr Shelford provided background on this. Use of P.O. Box would offer security for the Clerks home address; also an address for PC wherever the Clerk lived, It was also possible to have a domain name for a P.O. Box address. The service included delivery from the P.O. Box to the Clerks address and also, in the absence of the Clerk, post may be held at the sorting office for no extra charge. Cllr Shelford recommended that the PC proceed with purchase of a P.O. Box at a cost of £120.35 per annum.

Recommendation: To purchase a P.O. Box at £120.35 per annum.

Recommendation: Seconded Cllr Wilkinson; agreed unanimously.

- c) S137 donation to Young Musician of the Year 2009

Decision had been deferred from a previous meeting until now. The PC had £200 left in funds allocated to S137 donations.

As the actual event had been held in March it was decided it was too late to make a donation for the event.

Recommendation: As the event was finished and budget was tight PC should not to make donation on this occasion. and the PC should also make a list of potential items for donations in the next year.

Recommendation: 8 in favour 1 abstention

- d) Response to Cllr. Gotel's (Chairman of Hart District Council) Questionnaire

The Chairman explained that Cllr Gotel would not now be attending the PC meeting on 20th April but would like the PC Councillors to make individual responses to his questionnaire. It would be up to the individual Councillors to complete questionnaire and the Chairman asked that they be returned to the Clerk in time for return by Cllr Gotel's meeting on 20th April.

- e) Annual Assembly Preparation

Cllr Shelford advised that PC Bowman would be unable to attend the Annual Assembly on 11th May and that PS David Wheatstone had been asked to attend. The Chairman explained the format of the Annual Assembly which would be a presentation by the individual Committee Chairmen of their particular Committees' progress throughout the year. That is then followed by a question and answer session. A glass of wine would be provided for residents. It was agreed that we shall need the Village Hall for the meeting and would ask John Brown (Groundsman) to help set up the room. If PS Wheatstone cannot attend there is no reserve speaker at present. Cllr Shelford thought we should have a presentation by the Anti Social Behaviour Working Group (ASBWG) leading into the Police presentation. Cllr. Argent suggested Megan Robertson (Head Teacher. Crondall School) could be asked to speak about the lack of Secondary School places and capacity in her own school.

- f) Proposal to establish a permanent Finance sub-committee

A paper had been circulated on this. This would monitor the state of the PC finances on a three monthly cycle and looking at internal processes and means of obtaining funding.

This could be started up at the Annual Meeting on 18th May when new Committees are set up.

Recommendation: To establish a permanent Finance sub-committee; Cllr Behagg seconded all in favour.

g) Response to consultation on Hart Local Strategic Partnership

The Chairman had circulated a draft response on this for consideration. Cllr Dorn also suggested that we invite Hart DC to come and explain this to us. The Chairman agreed that when we have a meeting with a short agenda then this would be a good idea. It was proposed that the Chairman would add a sentence to his draft letter asking that Hart DC attend a meeting to explain.

Cllr Vincent seconded; all in favour.

h) Setting up of a PC website - preliminary report

Cllr Shelford provided a brief explanation of the situation so far. He had carried out research on this and provided a report with notes and proposals from different directions. The PC was looking for an idea of which direction it wished to go and the Chairman would like some help from Councillors who have more knowledge about web sites to form a working group.

Cllr Vincent asked who would have the web site when the Parishes split. Cllr Shelford advised that it would be a Crondall Parish Council web site. After discussions it was proposed that the PC go for option 4 (see report at Appendix 1)

Recommendation: To proceed with Option 4

Recommendation: Seconded Cllr Behagg; 8 in favour; 1 abstention.

283/09 PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS:

- a) Grounds Committee – minutes of the meeting 2nd March 2009 (Appendix 2) had been circulated. Cllr Hebborn provided an update on current projects.
- i. Work to trees on western boundary of churchyard had been completed
 - ii. Pavilion refurbishment was in progress. The roof still had some of the roofing felt tiles lifting in a number of places and needed attention. The painters had identified a problem with the soffits round the edge of the roof, caused by the absence of gutters; this could be ameliorated by painting the soffits. Cllr Behagg had given the go ahead for this to be done, although the quote, at £275, was just over the delegated limit of £250.
 - iii. There was a need to update the draft agreement for the lease of the Pavilion to the football club.
 - iv. Hedge trimmer replacement – a new, lighter model was required since the present trimmer was exceedingly difficult to use effectively – if any money available in the budget next year 2009/10 then the committee would like to replace.
 - v. Burial grounds and paths update: Anna Longley (HCC) had been in contact with last minutes questions, all now in progress.
 - vi. Salt bins were not needed at this stage and anyway HCC had limitations in what they would provide. Cllr Vincent asked about areas needing salt bins such as Badger Way exit onto Beacon Hill? Cllr Bredin explained that the existing bins were purely for safety purposes. If all the locations such as Badger Way were provided in addition, he had calculated that 23 would be needed which would cost £6000 approx. It was suggested that we ask HCC to provide salt bins in some areas.
 - vii. Suitable replacement Torro mower – because of the budget we will need to hire a replacement or purchase a cheaper replacement which would only last couple years.

viii. Cllr Dorn asked what had happened about the poor condition of the Play Area Hook Meadow following his report. Swings seats were to be replaced and the meadow had been cut.

b) Traffic and Lighting Committee

- i. Minutes of the meeting of 2nd March 2009 (Appendix 3) had been circulated.
- ii. Installation of 30 mph sign in Ewshot should have started today – no sign of this.
- iii. SID Signage to be reviewed after year.
- iv. Croft lane – to be progressed with Donald Richards
- v. The response from Hampshire Highways on various issues such as the 30mph speed limit in Well Road had been poor.
- vi. Street Lighting Maintenance options - Street Lighting PFI via HCC. Cllr Argent had asked questions on this and had response. He would now produce a report on the situation...
- vii. Cllrs Argent and Wilkinson had a meeting in November regarding the HGV traffic. Cllr Dorn would look into vehicle activated signs.

c) Memorial Applications and Burials

The Clerk reported that there had been purchase of a plot and a request for the interment of ashes on a date to be notified.

d) FINANCE REPORT - to include agreement on Invoices to be paid.

Budget 2009/10 version 5 now included a budget figure for the Call and Go Community Transport service and for the PCC Youth worker contributions. The Chairman advised that when the PC had discussed the Call and Go Community Bus service it was not, in fact, being asked for a full years funding , although it had agreed to commit to a full year. Therefore we needed to allow a margin on this expenditure. When the new system takes over we may need to allocate the extra funds.

The Budget and Five Year Spending forecast needed to be finally approved as well as the Finance report for March.

The Chairman Proposed acceptance of the budget 2009/10 as agreed at previous meeting. Acceptance Seconded by Cllr. Wilkinson; unanimously agreed.

Finance report March 2009 (Appendix 4) - Cllr Shelford Proposed acceptance; Cllr Vincent seconded; all in favour.

284/09 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no requests for items of Correspondence to be discussed.

285/09 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Clerk asked the PC if it would like to subscribe to NALC Publication Council Review @ £13.50 per subscription. It was agreed that this publication was not required.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....