

Croughton Parish Council

Minutes of Croughton Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 13th December 2021 at 7.30 p.m. in Croughton Village Hall

Present

Councillor Vee Griffiths - Chairman
Councillor Rodger James
Councillor Brian Tomlin
Councillor Steve Caldwell
Councillor Simon Kerby
Councillor Trevor Davies
Councillor Martin Hacon
Councillor Steve Lyons

Absent:

Councillor Bill Morris

AGENDA

Chairman's Announcement:

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014:

- 11min. **To Receive Apologies and Approve the Reasons for Absence:**
Apologies from Cllr Morris were received and approved.
- 21min. **To invite Declarations of Interest:**
2.1 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests - None
2.2 Other/Personal/Non-Statutory Interests - None
2.3 To Receive Requests for Dispensations - None
- 310mins. **Public Participation:** Members of the Public may speak to Agenda items.
3.1 Information from the Base regarding plans for the recently cleared
area.

No members of the public were in attendance.

Representatives from the base sent their apologies as illness had prevented
attendance.
- 41min. **To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 8th November
2021:**

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr Hacon and seconded by Cllr James to
approve the minutes - Approved.
- 55mins. **Matters Arising from item 4 not on the Agenda: For Information:**
5.1 Clerk's Report.

Cllr Griffiths reported;
Allotment invoices have now been issued.
Western Power have been contacted regarding removal of vegetation
overhanging their telegraph pole on the High street.
- 65mins. **Finance Matters:**

6.1 Receipts & payments and balance of bank accounts:
Barclays Bank: Community Account as of 30th November 2021 £41,412.56

6.2 To Ratify and Approve the Payments:

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Total	vat	Note
	EON	Lighting repairs	28.16	4.69	
	Wave	Cemetery water bill	12.47		
	Wave	Allotment Water bill	13.97		
	V. Griffiths	Expenses Vonage	10.85	1.71	

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Caldwell to approve the payments. - Approved.

6.4 To Note Receipts:

Date	Payer	Description	Amount

7

Financial Processes:

7.2 Budget

7.2.2 Final discussions of budget priorities for next financial year.

Significant discussion was held in consideration of the budget priorities in particular the adoption of a 5% inflationary base in recognition of prevailing conditions; significant increases in future energy costs; Clerks salary and training fees.

Cllr Griffiths to report at the next meeting to update the proposed budget ahead of the deadline for submission of the annual Precept demand to WNC.

8

Planning:

8.1 Applications:

8.1.1 No. WNS/2021/1978/FUL

Proposal: Single storey side and rear extensions forming utility room, play room, sun room, pantry and enlarging existing kitchen; First floor alterations to enlarge existing master bedroom and en suite with feature dormers; Conversion of existing upper room to garage to a guest room/study.

Location: 14 High Street Croughton

Resolved: Proposed by Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Kirby - No Objections.

8.1.2 No. WNS/2021/2024/FUL

Proposal: Removal of part rear wall to kitchen for new rear single storey addition to enlarge kitchen and utility space. Removal of 4no garden

storage sheds and construction of new double garage incorporating garden store. New vehicular access to Church Lane with re-used gates set-back
Location: 6 Church Lane

Resolved: It was acknowledged that this is an amended version of a previously approved application on which the Parish Council had commented. **Proposed** by Cllr Hacon and seconded by Cllr Davies - No Objections.

9 Action Plan 2021/2022:

9.1 Councillor, Representative and Wardens:

9.1.1 To receive Reports:

Cllr Kerby reported on his work investigating alternative energy suppliers and a strategy for mitigating rising future energy costs in the Parish. Alternatives including switching supplier; considering the savings available by adopting alternative timed switch on/off overnight; together with continuing the current strategy for upgrading lamps to LED/low energy types. Incremental long term savings may be achieved by considering a move towards timed switching off/on overnight along with the environmental benefits of reduced energy usage and achieving dark skies. It being recognised that community consultation will be beneficial to consider residents' views and concerns. Cllr Kerby to report on the options following further discussions with existing supplier.

9.2 Councillor Actions:

9.2.1 Allotments:

9.2.1.1 Allotment Wall: To receive the report from the firm of surveyors

Cllr. Tomlin reported on the progress in assessing the allotment wall and confirmed that the consultant's report was awaited. A request to investigate the structure of the wall has been received involving an intrusive narrow trial trench to the back of the wall to determine its thickness allowing advice to be given on any remedial action to be taken. Cllr. Tomlin to request a fee quotation from the consultant for this work and report back.

9.2.2 Cemetery

9.4 To agree meeting dates for 2022

Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Hacon and seconded by Cllr Davies to approve the schedule of revised meeting dates presented at the meeting generally being the second Monday each month. - Approved.

102mins.

Training:

10.1 To consider requests

10.1.1 New Clerk's course, February and March, cost £184

Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Hacon and seconded by Cllr Davies. It was noted that this specific cost would be incurred from the current training budget. Further Clerk's training costs will be incurred within the 2022 budget allowances - Approved.

11 **Correspondence:**
11.1 Cycleways - nothing to report
11.2 Rough sleeper survey. - Cllr Griffiths undertook a village survey following the previous meeting and no indication of rough sleepers were found.

11 **Ward Meeting:**
11.1 To finalise items for the ward meeting agenda

A brief discussion was held and items will be published on the agenda in due course.

Items may include: Street lighting and energy costs;
Ecological/environmental initiatives; impacts from the J10 development proposals; Report from the Base;

11.2 To consider whether an alternative venue is required.

Responses to date for attendance from four of the ward parishes;
Awaiting responses from others.

121min. **Motion to Exclude Members of the Public and the Press from the next item on the Agenda:**

No members of the public in attendance.

1310mins **Staffing:**
13.1 To ratify the appointment of the new Clerk

Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Griffiths and seconded by Cllr James. A unanimous vote in favour to ratify the appointment and welcome the new Parish Clerk. - Approved

141min. **Motion to Re-Admit Members of the Public and the Press to the Meeting:**

No members of the public in attendance.

153mins. **Any Other Business: For Information and at the discretion of the Chairman:**

Cllr Tomlin advised the meeting of a recent conversation he had with a resident of Wheelers Rise in connection with parking issues in the cul-de-sac arising from use of the Village Hall and Playing Fields.

The issue being that on public events such as the Croughton Christmas Fair and on football match days, the overspill of on-street parking causes traffic problems for residents.

Whilst the Parish Council has no powers to manage adopted highways or prevent errant parking, it was agreed to contact the managers of the Village Hall to ask them to advise users to aim to use the car park and respectfully avoid on-street and to also consider, subject to agreement, whether the car park behind the Reading Room may be able to offer a better alternative for overspill than parking in the cul-de-sac on street?

161min.

To receive items for the next Parish Council Meeting: - Monday 10th January 2022, provisional.

Presentation by representatives of the Base deferred from this meeting.

Signed: _____ Date: 10th January 2021
Chairman