

CREWE GREEN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Email: crewegreenpc@gmail.com

Minutes of the Meeting of Crewe Green Parish Council held at St Michael's Church, Crewe Green on Monday 21 March 2022 at 7pm

N.B. CGPC remains quorate providing at least one third of all Members are present and not less than 3.

Denise French Locum Clerk

Present

Councillor Deakin (Chair) and Councillors A Lewis and D Lewis.
D French, Locum Clerk

Also Present

Laura Airton, Duchy of Lancaster
3 Members of the Public

Anne Rickard

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, all present paused for a minute's silence in memory of Anne Rickard, long standing resident and former Councillor, who had sadly passed away in January.

74/22 Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Edgar and A Heler.

75/22 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

76/22 Public participation

There were 3 members of the public present.

They raised the following issues:

- Why had the precept risen by 2.5% when the Council had around £9k in reserves? It was noted that the minutes from 13 January 2022 stated a rise in Council Tax of 2.5% but some residents' bills suggested the increase was 7%. The Clerk agreed to contact CEC Cllr Edgar to seek an explanation of the council tax calculation. Members also explained that local councils needed money in reserves in case Cheshire East reduced their services; it was also explained that the increase in electricity meant the Parish Council was paying considerably more for the street lights.
- Why was there a lack of financial information on the agenda including the current bank balance? The Clerk explained that the process of becoming an authorised signatory had been very long but was almost complete; she would then have access to online banking and would be able to include up to date financial information on the agenda.

Laura Airton of the Duchy of Lancaster updated that the fencing posts on the Green were being replaced; the Duchy were contributing to Jubilee celebrations in other Parishes and were happy to make a contribution to Crewe Green PC towards any commemorative items.

77/22 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the Meeting held on 13 January 2022 be approved as a correct record.

78/22 Progress Reports and Updates

All matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting were included as separate items on the agenda.

79/22 Financial Matters

The Council considered:

- An update on mandate changes to online banking – the Clerk updated that the amended signatories had now been approved by the bank and she had passed the identity check process. She had applied for online banking access and once approved she would be able to amend the registered address and start to receive bank statements.
- Schedule of payments and summary of the bank account – the Council considered the list of payments as set out in Appendix 1. The bank account summary showed a balance of £9259.90 at 31 December.
- Revised salary scales - the revised salary scales from the National Association of Local Councils were circulated and were to be implemented from 1 April 2021. The Clerk's salary for March 2022 included backpay from August 2021 when she started her role. The Clerk was confirmed as being on SCP 13 which was now £11.97 per hour (previously £11.76)
- A request from the former clerk regarding the payment made in recognition of additional workload following his retirement – the former clerk had been paid an additional sum in recognition of additional workload but had requested an adjustment to this figure.

Resolved: That:

- (a) the update on progress with the banking mandate be noted;
- (b) the schedule of payments in Appendix 1 be approved;
- (c) the updated salary scales be noted and that the Clerk remains on SCP 13, hourly rate of £11.97; and
- (d) no further payment be made to the former Clerk.

80/22 Community Governance Review and amalgamation with Weston and Basford

Councillor Edgar was unable to attend the meeting but had provided a written update:

The majority vote favoured the new name of the combined Parish to be Weston and Crewe Green; this would be recommended to Cheshire East Council.

There would be 3 Councillors for Crewe Green with Weston having 7 and Wychwood having 4. This was based on the expansion of houses going forward.

The boundary review recommended new boundaries from August 2023:

- The loss of the houses to the west of Sydney Road and the boundary at Aldi would run down the centre of the road
- The retention of houses, schools, businesses and shops off both sides of David Whitby Way
- The loss of half of Wychwood Park from Weston to Hough and Chorlton
- The polling stations would remain the same
- The new build estate at Crewe Green roundabout would generate Community Infrastructure Levy once building began.

Members discussed numbers of Parish Councillors and whether the new Parish Council would be warded; also what would happen to the outstanding balance in the bank account.

Resolved: that:

- (a) the Community Governance Review update be noted; and
- (b) the Clerk will clarify with Councillor Edgar the points made at the meeting regarding whether the new Parish Council will have a separate ward for Crewe Green and what would happen to the remaining bank balance on transition to a new combined Parish Council.

81/22 Street Lighting

Councillor Edgar was progressing with Cheshire East the repairs to the street lights. The Clerk confirmed an increase in the Kwh charge from 12p/Kwh to 47p/Kwh with effect from 1 March.

Resolved: that

- (a) the update be noted; and
- (b) the Clerk contact Scottish Power to inform them that a number of street lights are not working and requesting a reduction in the electricity bill.

82/22 Jubilee

The Council considered the purchase of commemorative items for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which would be celebrated in June.

Laura agreed to investigate whether a tree could be planted on The Green as part of the Queen's Canopy.

Resolved: that 12 x lamp post roundel signs be purchased at a cost of £4.99 each plus postage.

83/22 Community Garden

The Project Manager provided an update on the Community Garden. A bulb/flower planting day was arranged for 23 April at 10am alongside a coffee morning organised by the Church. Leaflets would be delivered locally and the Clerk agreed to put a poster on the website.

The Pay Back group had recently helped with tidying the area.

The damaged fencing was of concern, little of the existing fencing could be salvaged. The Project Manager requested that the Parish Council consider part funding replacement fencing. Councillor D Lewis offered to provide some fencing as a temporary solution in the interim.

The Council had included a sum of money in the budget towards maintenance and Members discussed what tasks this could include. The Project Manager agreed to consider which tasks could be usefully undertaken and report back to the next meeting.

Resolved:

That:

- (a) an item be included on the agenda for the next meeting to consider giving financial support towards replacement fencing at the Community Garden; and
- (b) the maintenance contract be considered further at the next meeting.

84/22 Planning

Planning decisions:

- 21/5965N: Listed building consent - Raking out the existing cement

pointing to all elevations and repointing using NHL 3.5 lime mortar. The cement plinth around the perimeter walls and bay window is also to be hacked off and renewed using lime render of the same colour and design. Location: The Lodge, Slaughter Hill, CREWE, CREWE, CW1 5UP - PENDING

- 21/6101N: Extension and Internal Alterations
ST MICHAELS VICARAGE, NARROW LANE, CREWE, CW1 - PENDING

Planning Withdrawals:

- 21/5770N: To erect orangery at the rear, 2 EAST LODGE, Englesea Court, BARTHOMLEY ROAD, CREWE, CW1 5UH

Planning Applications:

NONE

85/22 Cheshire Growth Village

In the absence of Councillor Edgar there was no update to this meeting.

86/22 Reports from Councillors

Councillor A Lewis was to attend the meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner in April. Councillor D Lewis noted that problems with fly tipping were continuing.

87/22 Clerk's report

The Clerk updated:

- She had continued to progress the bank mandate change with NatWest which was now nearly complete
- She had undertaken another training session on the website and had a further session booked
- Cheshire Association of Local Councils was undertaking a survey on double taxation and she would complete it to show which services were provided by the Parish Council
- She had kept the noticeboard updated
- Correspondence was dealt with in accordance with the schedule, circulated to all Councillors.

Resolved: that the Clerk's report be received and noted.

88/22 Report from Cheshire East Councillor

In the absence of Cllr Edgar there was no report.

89/22 Correspondence

The list of correspondence had been circulated.

Resolved: that the correspondence be noted.

90/22 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council was on Monday 16 May and would be the Annual Meeting.

Members agreed to continue to meet on the 3rd Monday of alternate months and confirmed dates for 2023 as Monday 16 January 2023 and Monday 20 March 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Appendix 1 - Payments

DATE	DETAILS	PAYMENTS
10.12.2021	Microsoft annual subscription	59.99
21.03.2022	Clerk expenses – google play; mileage; printer paper	46.49
29.11.2021	Remembrance wreath payment to the Church, invoice	17.50
21.03.2022	Church – donation to graveyard maintenance 2021-22	250
01.03.2022	Clerk Payroll (1 Feb – 28 Feb 2022) due 1 March 2022	94.00
01.04.2022	Clerk Payroll – (1 March – 31 March 2022) due 1 April 2022, includes backpay 2021- 22	107.60
22.04.2022	HMRC – Q4 due 22 April 2022	73.80
21.03.2022	Room hire St Michael's church 21/03/2022	25.00

