

South Croxton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5th February 2024 at 6.00 pm in the Village Hall

Councillors present: Cllr Elizabeth Norton, Cllr Vicki Newbery, Cllr Chris O'Neill, Cllr Daniel Grimley, Cllr Dan Fryer.

In attendance: Clerk – Mr SC Johnson, Members of the Public – 1

In the absence of the Chair for this meeting a resolution was passed that Cllr Fryer will take on that responsibility.

SC 177 24 Welcome to the meeting

The Chairman, Cllr Fryer welcomed those present.

SC 178 24 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Morris (via email)

SC 179 24 Disclosure of Interests and Dispensation by Councillors for this meeting

No Disclosure of interests or dispensations were declared at the start of or during the meeting.

SC 180 24 Approve by resolution and sign Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 8th January 2024

The minutes, circulated before this meeting, were approved by resolution – proposed by Cllr Norton, seconded by Cllr Newbery, no objections. The minutes were signed by the Chair, Cllr Fryer. Clerk to add the minutes to the website and file a copy.

SC 181 24 County and Borough Councillors' Reports

Cllr Grimley reported to the meeting, followed by Cllr O'Neill. Both reports are added at the end of these minutes.

SC 182 24 Matters Arising from meeting minutes of 8th January 2024

SC 174 23

The Police are to be asked to provide a more comprehensive report to the South Croxton Parish Council similar to the submission in the Thurmaston Times Community Newspaper by the Charnwood East Beat Team dated February/March 2024.

SC 175 24

Quotations for Play a Part have been sent to Councillors on 15th/16th of January 2024, plus an update on 24th January 2024.

SC 183 24 Planning Matters for meeting on 5th February 2024

Travellers site – An Enforcement Notice, E11 Ref No. E/22/0225, Signed 26/05/2023, was served on 1st June 2023 to take effect from 7th July 2023. A recent planning application (P/23/0617/2) is not valid until the outcome of the enforcement or whether it is appealed.

3 large caravans removed from site. No report from Planning since meeting on 8th January 2024.

P/22/1640/2 Change of use of land on Kings Lane from Agricultural to Agricultural/Equestrian to include livery, provision of menage, formation of parking/turning area and siting of mobile home. (Resubmission of P/21/1949/2). Classified as REGISTERED on 3rd October 2022 – Note potential traffic movements estimated by Tenacity Planning Consultants. NEW – National and Built Environment Team comments dated 29th November 2023. No report since last meeting on 8th January 2024. Parish Council awaiting outcome of Natural and Environmental Team decision.

P/22/1211/2 - 1 School Lane - Tree works in conservation area – Classified as REGISTERED on 3rd August 2022. No change in status since last meeting on 8th January 2024.

P/22/1703/2 - 85-87 Main Street - Tree works in conservation area – Reclassified as REGISTERED on 21st September 2022. No change since last meeting on 8th January 2024.

P/23/1117/2 18 School Lane – Tree works – New – but no change in status meeting on 8th January 2024.

Confirmed:

Chairman

Date: 4th March 2024

The meeting noted that a caravan had been parked in a field on 3 Turns Lane near to the second bend exiting from the village. Clerk to inform planning as to legality.

SC 184 24 Financial Matters for meeting on 5th February 2024

a) Bank Accounts and Reserves

Statement Current Account Balance	£ 4033.46 (Statement to 05/01)
Estimated Income to year end	£ 0.00
Total	£ 4033.46
Uncleared Cheques from last meeting	£ 510.23
Estimated spend to year end	£ 3155.53
Estimated Current Account Balance @ yr/end	£ 367.70

Statement Reserve Account Balance £17986.45 (Statement to 05/01)

b) Cheques to be approved at meeting

HMRC (Jan)	£ 67.20 Chq No 1138
Clerks Wages (Jan)	£ 268.73 Chq No 1139
Village Hall Rent (Feb)	£ 55.00 Chq No 1140
LRALC (Audit Fee)	£ 200.00 Chq No 1141
HMRC (Nov 23)	£ 62.80 Chq No 1142

Total Amount £ 653.53

N.B. a typing error in the statement of Reserve Account Balance has been corrected for these minutes.

c) Revised Accounts

REVISED ACCOUNTS AT 5TH FEBRUARY 2024

CATEGORIES	PRECEPT	SPEND TO DATE	ESTIMATE	TOTAL YR END	-USPND OVER SPEND
			SPEND TO YR END		
PAYROLL SERVICE	230.00	226.80	3.20	230.00	0.00
OFFICE EXPENSES	200.00	136.97	63.03	200.00	0.00
WEBSITE	372.00	372.00	0.00	372.00	0.00
CLERKS SALARY	3060.00	2666.57	393.43	3060.00	0.00
DEV ACCUMULATOR FUND	945.00	0.00	945.00	945.00	0.00
INSURANCE	340.00	401.32	0.00	401.32	61.32
PLAYING FIELD INSP/MAINT	500.00	250.78	249.22	500.00	0.00
PLAYING FIELD MOW/STRIM	1400.00	1080.00	320.00	1400.00	0.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS	215.00	237.41	0.00	237.41	22.41
STREET LIGHTING	771.61	771.61	0.00	771.61	0.00
VH RENT	550.00	495.00	55.00	550.00	0.00
DEFIBRILLATOR	300.00	140.95	159.05	300.00	0.00
HMRC	764.00	666.40	97.60	764.00	0.00
TRAINING BUDGET	150.00	0.00	150.00	150.00	0.00
ELECTION RESERVE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
INTERNAL AUDITOR	220.00	0.00	220.00	220.00	0.00
RESERVE ACCOUNT TOP UP	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
CLERK HTG/LIGHTING	120.00	120.00	0.00	120.00	0.00
NORTON A/V PRODUCTS	100.00	94.98	0.00	94.98	-5.02
TOTALS	10737.61	7660.79	3155.53	10816.32	78.71

Confirmed: Chairman Date: 4th March 2024

CONTINGENCY	1013.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS	11751.00	7660.79	3155.53	10816.32	78.71
CURRENT ACCT NON BUDGETED ITEMS					
Maintenance		23.00			
VH Donation		500.00			
Maintenance		70.00			
VH PAP		7500.00			
Maintenance		35.00			
RGS CONSULTANTS		540.00			
TOTAL		8668.00			

<u>BANK BALANCES 5th February 2024 meeting</u>		
CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE	4033.46	SUPPORTED BY BANK STATEMENT
LESS UNPRESENTED CHQS	510.23	
ADJUSTED CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE	3523.23	
RESERVE ACCOUNT BALANCE	17986.45	SUPPORTED BY BANK STATEMENT
Includes Interest 29th Dec 2023	15.84	

In resolving an issue concerning an unrepresented cheque a letter of instruction to the bank was signed to authorise the cancellation of the lost cheque.

SC 185 24 Clerks Report

The Clerk raised the issue of the change of ownership of the website from 2 Commune to Cuttlefish Multimedia Limited. The issue is a need to either accept the change to the new owner or find a different provider. The Clerk has requested approval to migrate to the new owner rather than find a different provider. A resolution was passed at the meeting to move to Cuttlefish, proposed Cllr Norton, seconded Cllr Newbery. Clerk to complete and sign relevant document.

Blocked drains were reported at Barsby Cross Roads and out side 15 Main Street. Clerk to report to Highways.

SC 186 24 Police Report

A report published in the Thurmaston Times (published bi monthly), was presented to the meeting. The proposed new method advised in the previous minutes carries only numbers categorised into types of crime with no information of police activities. Arrangements have been made (post meeting) for the Clerk to receive a copy of the Thurmaston Times following publication.

SC 187 24 Opportunity for Members of the Public to speak (Limited to 3 minutes per person)

A suggestion was made to affix a notice at the pathway entrance behind the village hall to warn of the uneven surface. The repair will be effected by the contractor in March 2024.

SC 188 24 Correspondence received

SC 189 24 Play a Part – Receive quotations

As informed on the meeting agenda Councillors resolved that the meeting from this point on would exclude the press and members of the public to enable Councillors to discuss the tenders for the Play a Part project. It was considered that allowing financial information into the public arena at this stage of tendering could have been prejudicial to the public interest.

Quotations for replacing the play equipment were received from 3 subcontractors and these were opened at the meeting. The brief to each contractor had been to replicate the original installation parts of which were deteriorating and had been condemned by the ROSPA Inspection. Councillors had been provided with copies of the

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quotations and catalogues for 2 of them were available at the meeting. Comparisons were made between subcontractors items like for like to assess quality and costs. Contractors had provided diagrams, pictures, plans with their proposals. It was recognised that the terms and conditions were important. All prices are subject to VAT. All quotations include the use of steel feet for posts.

The first quotation, cost of £24850.15 which included 3 picnic tables, at a cost of £1284. (During the site survey it had been mentioned we would be providing sitting areas). This quotation would be subject to a full site survey if selected. There would be an additional cost to reinstate grass which may have been damaged by vehicle travel. Waste and welfare facilities were not allowed for (Cost would be £1050.00). Supply of grass mats are included for the area of the swings. It is important that site access is assessed should this contractor be selected.

The second quotation, cost of £30,204.50, has been amended by a 6% price increase. Similarly to the first quotation this would be subject to a full site survey. It is important that site access is assessed should this contractor be selected. Turfing with grass would be used but infilling with top soil is not included. Welfare facilities and container for onsite storage are included. Again, damage to grass caused by vehicular travel, would involve an additional reinstatement cost. The proposal also includes excavation and disposal of soil, details shown on the site plan.

The third quotation, cost of £36,076.00, has a separate quote of £1608.00 to complete the fencing at the pathway entrance. This was not part of the brief. Rubber grass mats are included for swing areas. Welfare facilities are not provided but the hire of 2 skips is included. Excavations and fill to formation levels would be at additional costs. The site access to be assessed.

Consideration of the quotations concluded until site visits have been made to assist Councillors in making their decision. A time frame of 2 weeks has been planned for this action.

SC 190 24 Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 4th March 2024 at 6pm in the Village Hall at South Croxton. This meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

Items for inclusion in future agenda

Play a Part project.

Notes From the Leicestershire County Council.



February 2024

County Councillor Daniel Grimley

Welcome to the latest round up of news from Leicestershire County Council.

Thurmaston County Councillor, Brenda Seaton, is unable to make the Parish Council Meeting as she is having to attend at Council Meeting tonight.

Flood-hit householders and businesses can now apply for Government cash to help them get back on their feet after Storm Henk.

Around 650 homes were flooded across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland earlier this month, with 70 roads closed and over 100 incidents attended by Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service.

People are encouraged to apply for the funding which includes up to £500 for flooded homes, reduced Council Tax and business rates and business recovery grants, and more information is now available on council websites. Our area has faced the full force of Storm Henk and I'm pleased that communities are on the road to recovery.

Confirmed:

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Flooding is devastating and we've not seen this level of impact for many years, with communities cut off and businesses forced to stop trading.

This extra money is a welcome helping hand and I'd encourage homeowners and businesses affected to find out more and get their applications in.

Local leaders called on the Government to release funding and last week, wrote to Flooding Minister, Robbie Moore MP, asking the Government to do more for those affected, including more help to businesses without flooding insurance.

The Government's financial support is made up of:

A £500 grant for households - where the living accommodation has been flooded or the home has been left uninhabitable, such as when utilities have been cut off

Eligible households may also qualify for the Council Tax Discount scheme - entitling them to a 100 per cent discount for a minimum of three months

For affected businesses, the following schemes are available:

Business Rates Relief Scheme -100 per cent relief on business rates for a minimum of three months. To qualify, flood water must have entered the property, or the flooding seriously impacted upon the business's ability to trade from the property during Storm Henk

Business Recovery Grant - A grant payment of £2,500 for those severely affected by Storm Henk, with criteria closely aligned with the Business Rate Relief Scheme

These are being managed by district and borough councils and application forms, eligibility criteria and extra information can be found on their websites, or by visiting www.leicestershire.gov.uk/flood-funding .

Anyone unable to complete the form online should call their local district or borough council for support.

Leicestershire County Council will also be running a property flood grant scheme – where eligible flood-hit property owners can apply for up to £5,000 to help make their homes and businesses more resilient to future flooding – and more information will be available soon.

Bridging the gap crucial as budget challenges continue

Significant investment to cover growing costs and service demand, wide-ranging savings and a Council Tax increase all feature in an updated budget plan, as councils across the country face unprecedented challenges.

Leicestershire County Council's latest proposals, published today (Thursday), set out investing £129m more to meet growing demand, mainly in social care, and an extra £113m to cover inflation and the National Living Wage increase. They propose balancing the books next year using £6m of reserves – the first time this has been required - and forecast a budget gap of £83m by 2028 after planned savings.

A three per cent Council Tax increase for core services - and a two per cent increase in the adult social care precept – generating in total £18m more for front line services - is planned from April.

Scaling back waste site closures, subject to consultation, is also included in the draft strategy which has been updated to reflect the extra Government funding announced last week.

It's good news that the Government has listened to local government's very real and pressing concerns, and we welcome the extra funding.

It halves the reserves we need to use to balance the books next year. But it's far from a sustainable solution and does nothing to help with the budget shortfall in later years.

The four-year budget plan includes:

A £6m budget shortfall next year – rising to £33m in 2026, £60m in 2027 and £83m in 2028

£127m more mainly to support vulnerable people – to pay for more home and residential care, and support people with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and mental health needs

An extra £113m - to cover inflation and the National Living Wage increase

Major redesigns of services to manage future demand, including:

- o Special educational needs and disabilities - a new approach balancing growing demand for support with getting children the right help
- o Working with Barnardo's to run children's homes locally
- o Boosting 'supported living' - over 100 new placements created since 2020, enabling people with learning and physical disabilities and mental health needs to learn life skills and live independently

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o Rolling out 'care technology' - over 2,600 pieces of equipment, including falls detectors and GPS location trackers, installed over last year, benefiting over 1,000 people
£39m of savings – including redesigning services, reducing the cost of back-office support services by maximising digital technology and smarter procurement
An extra £400k to help the council do more to tackle flooding - after 500 homes flooded across the county in the wake of Storm Henk in the New Year
£2.7m money to maintain roads and fix potholes - including £2.2m of Government 'Network North' money
A £445m four-year capital pot – including £18m to improve bridges, roll out flood alleviation projects and improve road surfaces
The proposals will be discussed by the council's cabinet next Friday (9 February)
You can follow me on Twitter @county grimley, email daniel.grimley@leics.gov.uk, facebook: Cllr. Daniel Grimley or tel. 01162600899. Post C/O Members' Secretariat, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester, LE3 8RA

Charnwood BC Report to South Croxton Parish Council Feb. 2024.

Flooding. Issues arising from the recent floods continue to have an important role for Charnwood Council. The County Council is the lead flood authority in Leicestershire and along with the Environment Agency is responsible for ensuring the area is prepared for flooding.

CBC has set up a scrutiny panel to review its measures following the recent floods in Charnwood. Charnwood BC is actively providing relief for householders and businesses affected by the floods. All residents and businesses affected by the floods are asked to apply to Charnwood BC for the grants. These are:

- Community Recovery Grant - £500 for immediate recovery costs.
- Council Tax Discount – 100% Council Tax relief for at least three months.
- Business Recovery Grant - £2,500 to help return to business as usual.
- Business Rates Relief – 100% relief for at least three months.

CBC has arranged for the collection of bulky waste (eg damaged carpets) that has been produced as a result of the floods.

Parish councils are being asked to appoint flood wardens if they do not already have them. NB. Flood wardens do NOT have the power to close roads.

Planning. The government have issued new guidance to planning authorities in the form of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) . CBC is in the process of reviewing its recent planning decisions . Approval of the Local Plan for Charnwood has been delayed again. The inspector will hold hearings at the end of February focused on several issues including transport links.

Sandra Woodward, Laurie Needham, Chris O'Neill
CBC councillors for Wreake Valley

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