

# South Croxton Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 6.00 pm in the Village Hall

Councillors present: Cllr Elizabeth Norton, Cllr Dave Morris, Cllr Vicki Newbery, Cllr Jane Daly, Cllr Daniel Grimley.

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

### **SC 133 23** Welcome

The Chairman welcomed those present at the meeting.

### **SC 134 23** Apologies for Absence

Cllr Fryer (via Cllr Newbery), Cllr Seaton (via Cllr Grimley, Cllr O'Neill (via email)

### **SC 135 23** 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 136 23** Approve by resolution and sign Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 2nd October 2023

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

### **SC 137 23** County and Borough Councillors' Reports

Cllr Grimley presented his report to the meeting, a copy of his notes is attached to these minutes.

Cllr O'Neill sent his report via email, it is attached to these minutes.

### **SC 138 23** Woolaston Trust – Presentation

A short presentation by Mr Richard Clowes and Mr Jake Turcan provided a background to the establishment of the Trust and described the geographical area covered by its work. Financial assistance may be to individuals or projects. Agreement was reached to provide a establish a point of contact between South Croxton and the Trust via the Parish Council. The Clerk has the email address of the Trust and the Parish Council Chairman will process any request for assistance.

### **SC 139 23** Matters Arising from meeting minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

SC 122 23 – The 'Rights of Way' issue between 3 Turns Lane and Barsby Road has been discussed with LCC. Today's meeting is to decide the way forward following receipt of an email from the Safe and Sustainable Travel Team.

SC 123 23 – Use of a tractor for hedge cutting on the play area is to be resolved.

Progress has been made with Charnwood on the ACV Nomination.

SC 125 23 – The second precept payment and the VAT refund are now cleared in the Current Account.

SC 127 23 – Vegetation has been cleared from the steps on the playing field and the replacement of the goal post nets have been ordered.

### **SC 140 23** Planning Matters for meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023

P/21/2154/2 Proposed change of use of land on 3 Turns Lane to livery business with associated equestrian buildings including shelter (retrospective), 2 No stables (retrospective) and hay store as well as 3 No stables and backroom and temporary siting of tourer caravan to provide toilet facility and storage container (part Retrospective). This application was classified as REGISTERED on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Communication with the planning officer handling this application reported that there was further diversity work needed.

Confirmed:

Chairman

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

NEW! Communication with James Mountain, new to planning team, requested a copy of our comments on this application. The application has now been GRANTED conditionally.

Clerk to ensure that the conditions of the planning application are met within the 12 month period required.

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Travellers site – An Enforcement Notice, E11 Ref No. E/22/0225, Signed 26/05/2023, was served on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 to take effect from 7<sup>th</sup> 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 2nd October 2023.

This meeting discussed the blockage of the public footpath behind the site. Photographs of the area show the obstruction, that the area is treacherous for walkers, and that it is likely deposits from the dumping will seep into other fields in the area affecting wild life ponds and drainage. The height of the deposits above the footpath is considerable.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 – Note potential traffic movements estimated by Tenacity Planning Consultants. NEW - Additional Ecological impact assessment added dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023. The Parish Councils comments on the traffic report do not appear on the Planning website - Clerk to investigate. In addition monitoring of the traffic on Kings Lane is to be established for a 30 day period. It is noted that the Public Footpaths on the site have already been altered and include gates where the track for exercising horses cross the footpath. Clerk to report to Safe and Sustainable Team at LCC.

The meeting also noted that the condition of the Kings Lane road surface is further deteriorated by pot holes – Clerk to report to Highways.

P/22/1211/2 - 1 School Lane - Tree works in conservation area – Classified as REGISTERED on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022. No change in status since last meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023.

P/22/1703/2 - 85-87 Main Street - Tree works in conservation area – Reclassified as REGISTERED on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022. No change since last meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023.

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P/23/0620/2 36 Kings Lane South Croxton, retention of outbuilding. Application Form Redacted on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Classified a REGISTERED 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023. No change since last meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023.

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P/23/0614/2 36 Kings Lane – Retention of timber access bridge over ditch. Registered 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023. No change since last meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023.

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P/23/0611/2 36 Kings Lane – installation of fence and gates. Registered 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023. No change since last meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023.

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P/23/0613/2 36 Kings Lane – Retention of decking. Registered 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023. No change since last meeting on 2nd October 2023.

P/23/1117/2 18 School Lane – Tree works – To be confirmed

The meeting was reminded that a number of the above applications have failed to meet time restraints for planning decisions.

Confirmed:

Chairman

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

FINANCIAL POSITION STATEMENT FOR MEETING ON 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023

a) Bank Accounts and Reserves

Statement Current Account Balance	<b>£12386.07 (Statement to 05/10)</b>
Estimated Income to year end	£ 0.00
Total	£12386.07
Uncleared Cheques from last meeting	£ 439.50
Estimated spend to year end	£ 4593.87
Estimated Current Account Balance @ yr/end	£ 7352.70

**Statement Reserve Account Balance £11497.27(Statement to 05/10)**

a) Cheques to be approved at meeting

HMRC (Oct)	£ 62.80	Chq No 1125
Clerks Wages (Oct)	£250.93	Chq No 1126
Village Hall Rent (Nov)	£ 55.00	Chq No 1127
Maintenance (football nets)	£ 79.98	Chq No 1128
RGS Arboricultural Consultants	£ 540.00	Chq No1129

**Total Amount £ 988.71**

b) Revised Accounts 6th November 2023

**REVISED ACCOUNTS AT 6TH NOVEMBER 2023**

CATEGORIES	PRECEPT	SPEND TO DATE	ESTIMATE	TOTAL YR END	-USPND
			SPEND TO YR END		OVER SPEND
PAYROLL SERVICE	230.00	170.10	59.90	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	1757.11	1302.89	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	171.00	329.00	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	330.00	220.00	550.00	0.00
DEFIBRILLATOR	300.00	140.95	159.05	300.00	0.00
HMRC	764.00	439.00	325.00	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
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>10737.61</b>	<b>6222.45</b>	<b>4593.87</b>	<b>10816.32</b>	<b>78.71</b>
CONTINGENCY	1013.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11751.00</b>	<b>6222.45</b>	<b>4593.87</b>	<b>10816.32</b>	<b>78.71</b>

Confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman Date: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

<b>CURRENT ACCT NON BUDGETED ITEMS</b>	
Maintenance	23.00
VH Donation	500.00
Maintenance	70.00
VH PAP	7500.00
Maintenance	35.00
	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8128.00</b>

<b>BANK BALANCES 6th November 2023 meeting</b>		
CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE	12386.07	SUPPORTED BY BANK STATEMENT *
LESS UNPRESENTED CHQS	439.50	
ADJUSTED CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE	11946.57	
RESERVE ACCOUNT BALANCE	11497.27	SUPPORTED BY BANK STATEMENT
Includes Interest 29th Sept 2023	13.23	

\* Note balance includes 2nd Precept payment

#### **SC 142 23** Police Report

Afternoon all. Here on the rural team, a big part of our role is to look at rural crime patterns in order to consider future prevention opportunities. In October 2023, Leicestershire Police recorded 94 rural crimes. In October 2023, we were down to just 42. That's a huge 55% decrease.

October this year saw rural crimes that included livestock worrying, hare coursing, criminal damage, rural thefts and wildlife offences.

We feel that it's important to feedback to the rural community (not just the farming and agriculture sector), but villages, gamekeepers, equine yards, rural businesses, local walking groups, youth groups and beyond.

We continue to train new and existing officers and staff about the importance of understanding rural crime and the victim impact. We have developed an app for frontline officers that gives them a host of bespoke information at their fingertips.

Please continue to report crime to us as appropriate. Use 999 in an emergency or 101 / online for anything else. Make use of local WhatsApp groups to share information. You can contact the rural team directly via email - [leicsruralcrime@leics.police.uk](mailto:leicsruralcrime@leics.police.uk) Thank you. PC 207 Rob Cross.

**N.B. Councillors comments:** Some concern was expressed about action not being taken when reported. It was agreed that reports made should be separately recorded to enable action taken by the police to be monitored.

#### **SC 143 23** Clerks Report for meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Assets of Community Value. The necessary responses to the Planning Officer have been made in good time and results are awaited.

#### **SC 144 23** Right of Way – Update

The Right of Way between 3 Turns Lane and Barsby Road is recorded as Unclassified in the Public Highway records. The Ordnance Survey map notes that the pathway is open to the public. The Parish Council are content with the present situation provided that maintenance is carried out when necessary.

Confirmed:	Chairman	Date: 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2023

**SC 145 23** Precept 2024/2025

The meeting emphasised that the precept should reflect the current economic situation. Accepting that there would be increases of costs for our normal budget a case for additional amounts related to the Play a Part project are not acceptable. Sufficient reserves for the Parish Council must be maintained.

**SC 146 23** Play a Part Update

A proposal was made to replace all of the existing equipment on the playing field the majority of which required repair or replacement. Replacement would be like for like, with the possible addition of a climbing frame. The Clerk was instructed to obtain quotations from relevant suppliers for the work, each item to be listed and priced separately. The goal posts would be removed/replaced to open up the central area for use. Completion of the fencing and seating/tables are to be included in the details. Removal of the existing equipment is to be included in the quotations and wooden parts set into the ground should be encased in metal.

An invitation to Parishioners to comment or assist with the project will be advised when costs are available. The costs involved will be met from existing capital held by the Parish Council and grants from outside sources. The meeting noted that the earlier project resulting from the Rural Community Council involvement failed due to inability to find funding.

**SC 147 23** Correspondence Received

Emailed information has been distributed to Councillors, as appropriate, since the last meeting.

**SC 148 23** Opportunity for Members of the Public to speak (Limited to 3 minutes)

Member of the public present at the meeting contributed to the discussion on rights of way.

**SC 149 23** Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 6pm in the Village Hall at South Croxton

This meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Items for inclusion in future agenda

Play a Part project, Precept for 2024/5.

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Cllr Grimley Report for this meeting

Comments awaited.

Cllr O'Neill Report for this meeting

**Flooding.** The recent flooding in the Wreake villages has been the worst for quite a few years. It has highlighted the need for a more integrated approach to these situations. CBC has been keen to stress what it is responsible for. The CBC chief executive has restated what Charnwood is responsible for cooperation between agencies, the provision of rest centres for those effected and lobbying for effective flood measures. The Environment Agency responsible for issuing flood warnings if rivers are predicted to overflow. Private landowners are responsible for clearing flood water on their own land. In the past Parish councils have been asked to appoint 'Flood Wardens'. Some councils are unclear about who these people are and what their role is.

**Sandbags.** The provision of sandbags has been raised. The chief executive of CBC has pointed out that it does have a limited supply of sandbags but will only supply them to vulnerable residents and that they only have a limited life span. Flood warnings are currently in place across parts of England, Scotland and Wales due to the arrival of Storm Ciaran.

Confirmed:

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Date: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Revenue and Payments.** CBC council leader Cllr Jewel Miah has announced that the council is to take the collection of revenue and payment of benefits back into administration by CBC. The current contract awarded to Capita runs until 2024. This will make an estimated saving of £1.5 million over the next 5 years.

**Postal / Proxy voting.** It is now possible to register for a postal vote or proxy vote online. Anyone registered to vote can do so via the internet. This entitles the applicant to vote in all elections for the next 3 years. They will need to give a national insurance number as a means of identification.

**Recycling.** Major changes are coming to bin collections across England due to new government rules on recycling. Contaminated recyclable waste is estimated to cost CBC £1 million a year. CBC have begun a campaign to explain to residents what type of refuse can be recycled. At present food waste cannot be recycled. Separate food waste collections are planned by the government in the future.

**Council meetings.** The next meeting of the full council is on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November. CBC chief executive has emphasised the need for a balanced budget. The council needs to deliver important services and avoid overspending.

Cllr C O'Neill

30/10/2023

Confirmed:

Chairman

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023