

South Croxton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th March 2022 at 6.00 pm in the Village Hall

The meeting was held in the Village Hall and in compliance with Covid guidance.

Councillors present: Cllr Dave Morris, Cllr Elizabeth Norton, Cllr Dan Fry, Cllr Steve Goodger, Cllr Daniel Grimley

Members of the Public: One

In attendance: Clerk – Mr SC Johnson

SC 029 22 Welcome

The Chair welcomed all present.

SC 030 22 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Vicky Newby – email to Clerk

SC 031 22 Disclosure of Interests and Dispensation by Councillors for this meeting

Cllr Morris declared an interest in Planning Application P/22/0014/2 – no other interests or dispensations were declared at the start of or during the meeting.

SC 032 22 Correction of minutes of meeting held on 10th January 2022

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2022 were revisited to correct a typing error in the amount of the Ringfenced Reserve amount of the Budget. The figure was £2551 but should be £2251. A copy of the corrected minutes will be filed with the original and appropriately annotated.

SC 033 22 Approve by resolution and sign Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th February 22

The minutes, circulated before this meeting, were corrected in respect of the date specified on each page of the minutes and clarification of missing word in a planning application. The minutes were approved by resolution – proposed by Cllr Morris, seconded by Cllr Norton, no objections. The minutes were signed by the Chair, Cllr Morris. Clerk to add the minutes to the website and file the copy.

(In addition the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2022 were revisited to correct a typing error in the amount of the Ringfenced Reserve amount. The figure was £2551 but should be £2251. A copy of the corrected minutes is filed with the original appropriately annotated.)

SC 034 22 Borough Councillors Report

Cllr Grimley attended the meeting and gave his report. Main issues tabled concerned Charnwood Budget, approval of deferred Planning application, and other Charnwood initiatives. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Cllr Grimley here left the meeting.

SC 035 22 Matters Arising from minutes on 7th February 22

SC023 22

The provision of an MVAS device has been clarified as being battery powered and sited at 2 positions in the village at either the top or bottom of Main Street. Cllrs queried costs of replacement batteries for this device and what arrangements were needed for

SC 024 22

A decision regarding the grant award toward ground works on the playing field will not be available until April 2022.

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SC 025 22

A series of available formats in celebration of the Queens Jubilee will be provided under item 11 of this meeting.

SC 027 22

The survey of entrances to public footpaths in the Village is in progress.

The availability of Grants for Platinum Jubilee celebrations was raised, Clerk to provide information to Cllrs. There has been an occurrence of a blocked drain at the bottom of Home Close which now seems to be cleared.

SC 036 22 Planning Matters for meeting on 7th March 2022

P/21/1949/2 Proposed change of use to equestrian tracked livery facility including menage and other associated buildings and temporary mobile home Kings Lane. Status is **WITHDRAWN**

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 (retrospective) as well as 3 No stables and backroom and temporary siting of tourer caravan to provide toilet facility and storage container. This application is classified as Invalid. Clerk has requested an update, for the second time, on this application. Status is **Invalid**.

P/21/2415/2 Proposed construction of agricultural building. Councillors concerned about the size of this building and its purpose. Clerk to request information from Planning Officer. Status is **Registered**

Travellers site progress is nil from the Planning aspect. No information in relation to the Planning Contravention Notice served.

P/22/0014/2 Single storey extension to rear of property and 1st floor extension above existing single storey kitchen. Parish Council has notified to the Planning office that we have no objections to this application. A revision of the application has been received defining the material to be used for rendering. Status is **Registered**.

P/21/2272/2 Extension to raised parking area. Parish Council have notified that we have no objection to this application but do have concerns about access obstructions on School Lane when the work is in progress. Status is **Registered**.

SC 037 22 Financial Matters

The Bank Balances for the Current and Business Reserve Accounts below were confirmed against the Bank Statements by Cllr Goodger.

FINANCIAL POSITION STATEMENT FOR MEETING ON 7th March 2022

a) Bank Accounts and Reserves

<u>Current Account Balance 04/02</u>	£	6475.72
Estimated Income to year end	£	99.77 (vat)
Total	£	6575.49
Estimated spend to year end	£	737.74
Uncleared Cheques	£	521.87
Balance	£	5315.88

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Reserve Account Balance 05/01 £ **15923.77**

b) Cheques to be approved at this meeting		
CLERKS WAGES (Feb)	£	229.47
HMRC (Feb 2022)	£	57.40
VH Rent (March)	£	55.00
Clerk Expenses (Printer ink)	£	22.99
TOTAL	£	364.86

SC 38 22 Review Orders and Regulations

A list of the Orders and Regulations used by the Parish Council was presented to the meeting as follows:

Asset Register - Reviewed

Publication Scheme - Reviewed

Business Continuity Plan - Reviewed

Complaints Procedure - Reviewed

Equality and Diversity Policy - Reviewed

Financial Regulations - Reviewed

Risk Assessment - Adopted

Members Code of Conduct - Adopted

General Data Protection Regulations – Reviewed – no complaints have been received during 2021 to 2022.

Standing Orders - Adopted

All of the above have been reviewed. Where ‘Adopted’ is indicated a major change has been made e.g. Risk Assessment has been refined to include a matrix to demonstrate likelihood and impact of a risk. Review indicates a thorough check of the document updating details where necessary.

Councillors have been sent copies of the following documents emphasising the need to be familiar with the contents:

Standing Orders

Code of Conduct

Risk Assessment

Financial Regulations

Councillors approved this work and are able to view the documents on the website.

SC 039 22 Members Highway Fund

Details of the siting of support posts are awaited from Highways.

SC 040 22 Clerks Report

Play a Part project update – due to the time elapsed since quotations were produced it is the intention of the Parish Council to obtain updated figures from suppliers before commencement of work. Work toward the second stage of the project will be started shortly.

Survey of Public Footpath entrances from Village – a list of entrances to public footpaths throughout the village has been produced, with queries of 3 pathways. When clarified each site will be photographed and assessed as to any works required.

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A defibrillator check has been carried out – the device passes the tests but a light in the cabinet is not functioning. A back up torch is available in the cabinet.

A Salary Increase of 1.75% has been awarded to Parish Clerks – backdated to 1st April 2021. Councillors notified.

No crimes were reported in the last month in South Croxton.

SC 041 22 Correspondence Received

Email information has been distributed as appropriate since the last meeting.

SC 042 22 Opportunity for Members of the Public to speak (Limited to 3 minutes)

A query was raised about the Play a Part Project definition documentation. The work carried out by RCC earlier in the process had not been seen by the member of Public. In addition requirements for Contractual matters are contained in Standing Orders and Financial Regulations of the Parish Council. It was agreed that consideration should be given to appointment of a Project Manager prior to work commencing.

Also raised was the issue of pavement parking – Clerk to research and report to Cllrs.

SC 043 22 Date of next meeting

4th April 2022 at 6pm in the Village Hall at South Croxton.

Items for inclusion in future agenda

Kings Lane Footpath, Travellers Site.

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Meeting closed at 7.32 pm

Notes From the Borough Council.

Councillor Daniel Grimley, Queniborough Ward



Welcome to my latest round up of news from Charnwood. February has been a busy month at Charnwood. A lot of work goes into the preparation of the budget which was presented at Full Council on 21st February. Amongst my other duties I also spoke at the Plans Committee on 24th February regarding a local planning application. Later in my report I go into further detail.

It is good to see the lifting of the covid restrictions, but residents still need to be vigilant as Covid has not completely gone away. I personally still wear a face covering when using public transport and when shopping. Nationally, we are all saddened by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Planning Application for residential development for the erection of up to 50 no. dwellings Land off Boonton Meadow Way including No. 65 Glebe Road Queniborough – Application APPROVED

This planning application that was previously deferred was heard at the Plans Committee on 24th February 2022. It was approved by Planning Committee member by 6 votes to 2 with 2 abstentions. I spoke in opposition to the committee of this proposed unplanned development together with Stephen Wright, the Chairman of Queniborough Parish Council. Our main objection was to the reason for the recommendation for approval which stated that the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan (QNP) housing allocation did not meet the criteria of Paragraph 14 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Currently, Charnwood cannot demonstrate a 5 Year Housing Supply because of the failure of the Planners to have renewed the local plan. The current local planning policies are seen as out of date. In an area with a made current Neighbourhood Plan with a defined housing allocation a lesser figure of 3 Years Housing supply applies.

The application was deferred in December to allow the Parish Council to obtain a legal opinion from a barrister. The legal that the Parish Council concluded that the QNP housing allocation was valid. Separate opinions obtained by the

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Developer and Charnwood Borough Council concluded that the housing allocation in the QNP was not valid. A decision on this was made by committee members on this.

I am disappointed by this result. As it stands the QNP, and all made current Neighbourhood Plans in Charnwood cannot provide a defence against unplanned developments such as this one while Charnwood cannot show a 5 Year housing Supply. It is not to say that all housing developments will be approved, but, unless there are demonstrable material planning reasons it would be very difficult to argue for a refusal.

For further unplanned housing developments that are come to the Plans Committee the parish council for the area, or, a neighbourhood plan committee could seek a further legal opinion to challenge Charnwood on this.

Charnwood element of council tax to rise by less than 9p a week

Charnwood Borough Council has agreed to raise its share of council tax by less than 9p a week for a D property.

The increase was agreed at full Council on Monday February 21 where 31 councillors voted in favour of the increase and eight voted against.

I voted for the increase. I appreciate that this is an increase but being pragmatic the borough council has over the last 10 years reduced costs. However, there is a need to balance the books. No alternative budget, or amendments, were proposed by the opposition.

The increase will see the annual charge for the Charnwood element of an average Band D property rise by £4.61 (3.52 per cent) to £135.69 from April 1, 2022. Council tax bands are related to a historic valuation of housing with A being the lowest band and E being the highest. My own house is rated as band B.

The Charnwood element of council tax bills accounts for less than 10 per cent of the total average bill The final Council budget for 2022/23 is around £17.9 million. This includes making savings, generating extra income through fees and charges and using some reserves.

The savings include amending the opening hours of the Council's reception and the telephone contact centre and not reintroducing the Shopmobility scheme in Loughborough. Charges for the garden waste service and bulky waste collections will also increase. More details are available at www.charnwood.gov.uk/budgetsummary.

People on low incomes can apply for Local Council Tax Support. This gives up to an 85 per cent reduction on the whole council tax bill.

Spring clean to get underway on A6 and A46

Two major roads in Charnwood are scheduled to be given a spring clean next month.

Charnwood Borough Council's waste partner Serco will be undertaking the clean-up in March which sees litter and debris cleared from central reservations, slip roads and laybys of the A6 and A46 in the borough.

The clean-up is completed twice a year and usually takes place around the same time as the clocks change.

The clean-up is due to start on March 26 and will be ongoing until April 20, 2022.

A rolling lane closure will be in place while cleaning is being carried out and may cause delays.

The full schedule of the clean-up can be found at the Council's website:

https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/cleaner_greener

To stay up to date in the latest refuse and recycling information involving Charnwood Borough Council, please sign up to our email alerts at: www.charnwood.gov.uk/email_alerts

For more information, please contact me.

You can follow me on Twitter @dangrimley, email cllr.daniel.grimley@charnwood.gov.uk, Facebook: Cllr Daniel Grimley or tel. 01162600899. Post c/o Member Services, Charnwood Borough Council, Southfields, Loughborough, Leicester, LE11 2TX.

Cllr. Daniel Grimley

Charnwood Borough Councillor for Queniborough Ward (including Barkby, Barkby Thorpe, Beeby, Hamilton Lea, Queniborough, South Croxton and part of Thorpebury)

Confirmed:	Chairman	Date: