



Minutes

Minutes for the virtual full council meeting held on Thursday 14th May at 6pm.

The Chair welcomed all to the first virtual meeting of Creswell Parish Council.

1. Attendees

Chairman Cllr Mr Ray Sutherland
Cllr Jonathan Price
Clerk Mrs Jodie Guy

Also in attendance were the two Staffordshire County Councillors Cllr Jeremy Pert, Cllr Mark Winnington.

Apologies

Cllr Jack Kemp

Public open forum questions

The meeting was remotely attended by 11 members of the public representing Creswell Parish area and the below three questions were brought to the meeting.

1. With the ongoing Strawsons development breaching Health & Safety and furthermore Planning regulations, when and how do the current Parish Council intend to bring Alto Construction to order?

Answer – The Borough Council cannot bring Alto Construction to order, the borough council are the planning authority and any breaches proven they will inform the health and Safety executive who will then take legal action if necessary.

2. Speed Awareness Equipment

Answer – this is being covered in the agenda at tonight's meeting. Speed radar was discussed and agreed

3. Co option response.

Answer -

4. Illegal movement of wide loads to Strawsons site from Great Bridgeford direction. Flooding onto Doxey Marshes of waste water from Strawsons site (photographic evidence can be provided)

Answer – wide loads are necessary for development on site and they can arrive either way. Flooding on the marshes has to be reported to Stafford Borough, however Cllr Jonathan Price offered to go onsite. The enforcement officer has confirmed no breach occurred.

Throughout the meeting various other questions were raised and these were answered as the meeting progressed.

2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests relating to items on the agenda

none were recorded.

The Chairman apologised for not giving the three clear days of the publicised agenda and confirmed this will be done in the future and gained permission for the meeting to proceed or be re-scheduled. Residents agreed to carry on.

3. Signing and approving the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 6th January 2020.

3.1. The minutes were proposed, seconded and but cannot be accepted as a true record of the meeting held due to none of Councillors present today were at the meeting on the 6th Jan 2020.

4. To receive a report from the Chairman outlining activities since the last meeting on the 6th January 2020.

4.1. Since the 6th January meeting, Jack Kemp, Jonathan Price and myself have been appointed as Creswell Parish Councillors to provide Creswell with some continuity in the running of the Parish Council. With the agreement of Cllr's Kemp and Price, I was appointed chairman until any election of new councillors.

4.2. We have advertised, interviewed and appointed a new clerk and financial officer.

4.3. One of the new Parish Councils aims is to try and build trust and improve communications with both residents and companies within the Parish.

4.4. We will endeavour to produce a quarterly newsletter, but anything which has a time limit will be posted on our Notice Board, our Face book page and on the Parish Website.

4.5. I want to reiterate the point about respect. Remember that Parish Councillors are not remunerated, we are here to listen and where possible to use our experience and knowledge to support the parishioners of Creswell within the legal framework.

5. To receive a report from the Clerk outlining actions taken since the last meeting

To receive Clerk's detailed first report and Financial Statement

5.1. Due to the Corona Virus the Government have changed the deadlines for approval and publication in England for 2020.

5.2. Approval required for the signatories to be changed on the two reverses accounts held with Stafford Railway Building Society along with the main Co-op account.

RESOLVED - Agreed

5.3. To approve financial payments, receipts and transfers since April 2020.

5.4 The below are four invoices have been paid and authorised for payment due to time restraints.

Paid To	Details	Amt	VAT	Total to pay	Chq Number
SPCA	Annual Subs - SPCA £94 & NALC £44	140.00		140.00	400550
VISION ICT LTD	Website Upgrade	325.00	65.00	390.00	400553
SPCA	Clerks Induction training	40.00		40.00	400551
SBC	Uncontested election 2019	99.81		99.81	400549

5.5 To approve the new expenditure below

Came & Company	Parish annual insurance fee	£457.36 plus a £50 broker fee
Clerks Salary	Aprils salary	£369.95 (Gross)
Office expenses	Aprils	£73.80

A resident asked for clarification on how much the clerk's salary was.

RESOLVED – All agreed

The Chairman reminded members of the public are not permitted to speak without permission of the Chairman and only after the meeting has been suspended. If you feel it appropriate to raise a question relevant to the discussion, please raise your hand and wait until asked to speak. This is to allow the business of the meeting to progress in good time.

6. Legal response with regards to co-opting onto Creswell Parish Council

6.1. In normal circumstances, the procedure stands as it is written in the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) Rules 2006. This would require the Parish Council to publish a notice of vacancy as soon as practicable after a vacancy arose. The notice would give 14 days in which at least 10 registered electors could request an election to be held for those vacancies. If no request was made, then the Parish Council could co-opt.

6.2. However, these vacancies did not arise under normal circumstances. This was an unusual case in which all members of the parish council resigned, as you are very well aware at the same time. There was, therefore, no-one left to authorise the display of notices of vacancy (or anyone left to be able to co-opt if an election wasn't called). It was not, therefore, practicable to publish notice of vacancies and follow the usual process. Instead, the Borough Council used its emergency procedures to appoint temporary councillors and order that an election be held in May 2020. There is therefore no current power to co-opt. Unfortunately along came the Coronavirus Pandemic. Regulations made under the Coronavirus Act currently prevent any local election taking place until May 2021. Until these changes, the Borough Council will not be taking any further action.

6.3. For your information, the Coronavirus Act/regulations have not currently changed the legislation regarding co-option. The government has indicated that it may review the regulations to allow elections to be held earlier than May 2021 if it becomes safe to do so.

7. To consider any highways matters that need action and to review any previously reported.

Including Speed Radar Update - Approved by the last Parish Council and now has been approved for ordering by the new Parish Council.

7.1 Cllr Jeremy Pert agreed to fund £500 from his SCC divisional highways budget from this years budget.

7.2 Updates from Councillors regarding recent highways work completion including A34 Redhill to M6 island, Structural repairs on Redhill Island, and future works on Beaconside.

8. GDPR Regulations and the consent form.

8.1 **Newsletter** published three times a year, the Counsellors thanked a Creswell resident for offering the help in the distribution of these once printed, and gratefully accepted. Government guidelines on social distancing will be observed.

8.2 **Face book** – a new official face book 'Creswell Parish Council Official Page' which was created on the 20th April 2020 and currently have 75 members from across the Creswell parish (this includes Marston Grange).

8.3 Notice Board – will be updated with current contact details along with useful information. A resident asked about if a notice board is on Marston Grange. Cllr Pert agreed and contact has been made with Taylor Wimpey to erect one of the two notice boards on the new Marston Grange estate.

8.4 Website – The Parish Website required an upgrade as part of the Website Accessibility Regulations and should be up and running soon.

9. To receive Councillors reports.

10. To consider items for the next agenda.

To be forwarded to the Clerk 10 days before the meeting.

11. Dates of future meetings

The next public open meeting will be week commencing the 16th July 2020 or earlier. The agenda will be published via the notice board, face book and our website.

There being no further matters, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:10 and thanked everyone for their important contributions to a successful meeting.

Signed Date

These minutes remain a draft (E & O A) until confirmed at the next Full Council meeting of the Parish Council.