

MINUTES OF CROSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL AGM HELD REMOTELY ON WEDNESDAY 10 June 2021, 7:30PM

PRESENT: Cllrs G Parker; S Fawcett-Fice; J Cansdale; M Rogers; S Dyer-Gibbins; C Sully; B Gudzelak.

IN ATTENDANCE: G Pettitt (Parish Clerk); one member of the public.

01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Cllr Fawcett-Fice; Cllr Gudzelak **RESOLVED:** To accept the apologies and reasons given.

02. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Dyer- Gibbins declared a personal interest in item 6.

Cllr Sully declared a personal interest in item 7.

03. EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC : There were no exclusions.

04. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: No questions were put to the meeting.

05. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chair announced the coming Saturday charter market proceeds would be put to the playground fund.

06. GRANT APPLICATION

Croscombe Events Group - applied for £250 + £50 VAT towards a Circus workshop run by Wookey Hole Trainers, to enhance the Greatest Showman film event and to encourage families to join in and picnic.

RESOLVED: To approve a grant of £250 plus VAT to the Croscombe Events Group towards the Greatest Showman Film event - Approved.

07. BURIAL GROUND SOUTH FIELD: [Cllr Sully left the meeting.]

i. To consider and approve or not:

a) process of selling the lower portion of the grazing land below the cemetery by going to parish for consultation.

RESOLVED: To set up a Working Group to evaluate the different options available to the parish for the lower portion of the South Field. Approved.

RESOLVED: To appoint Cllr Dyer-Gibbins and Cllr Parker to the South Field Working Group. Approved.

b) To consider the offer from a parishioner of purchasing a 25yr lease of the lower portion of the grazing land below the cemetery @£5,000 and £100pa rent. The parishioner spoke to his proposal - to keep sheep on the field while populating the top portion with an orchard purchased by himself but planted with the community. He proposed replacing the stock fencing with hedging and would access from the top through the cemetery.

ii. To consider and approve, (or not), to create a community orchard on the higher portion of the grazing land below the cemetery and to conduct the research required for achieving this. The Chair outlined a proposal that the parish plan an orchard with

benches and beehives and that villagers be invited to plant trees (native apple, pear, cherry), in the Autumn as memorials to loved ones. Confirmation has been received from Dinder Estate that there would be no issue with an orchard being set on the top portion of the South Field.

RESOLUTION RE ITEM 07.i.b): Thanking the parishioner very much for the offer and for sparking the flow of ideas for the area, however Council would prefer to keep the orchard within the public domain and its trees owned by the community. Approved.

RESOLUTION RE ITEM 07.ii.: To plan and set up a Parish Orchard in top portion of the South Field at an autumn planting day with trees donated and planted by villagers commemorating loved ones. Approved.

[Cllr Sully returned to the meeting.]

08. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS

- **Avon & Somerset Police:** Noted.
- **Somerset County Councillors:** None received.
- **Mendip District Councillors:** None received.

09. MINUTES OF CROSCOMBE COUNCIL AGM HELD THURSDAY 6 MAY 2021

The minutes of CPC AGM of 6 May 2021 were approved and signed as a correct record.

10. CROSCOMBE PARISH PLAN

RESOLVED: That Cllr Sully and Cllr Cansdale will prepare for 3 sessions to begin defining a schedule for the Parish Plan. Approved.

Cllr Sully will email Council for suitable dates.

11. REPORTS

i. Flood Committee

- a) The revised Flood Committee Terms of Reference were deferred.
- b) To appoint a new member. Noted the Flood Committee is very successful, but that Councillors' time is already at a premium.

RESOLVED: To defer the selection of a new member to the Flood Committee to allow for consideration of changing the status of the Committee to a Working Group. Approved.

ii. Staffing Committee:

- a) **RESOLVED:** To approve the Staff Appraisal, which advised the contract be upgraded from temporary to permanent. Approved.
- b) Approval of Staff Contract deferred.

RESOLVED: To form a Working Group made up of members of the Staffing Committee, to finalise contract. Approved.

iii. Play Area Working Group

RESOLVED: To approve the Schedule for the Play Area Equipment renewal. Approved. Noted Quotes are coming in and the community is being consulted.

iv. Traffic Working Group

Cllr Sully has met with Mendip District Council, will consolidate findings and continue engaging people in the issue.

- a) Rock Street Radar- The group have written to the proposer of this. The group needs to consider traffic in the parish as a whole before deciding on specific locations.
- b) The Traffic Working Group does not include any members of the public, so no appointments required.

v. Footpaths

Cllr Sully has reported issues with SM5/9 - Duncart Lane; SM5/24; and SM5/53. Cllr Sully will pursue the issue at Paradise Lane.

Parishioners are asked to contact Cllr Sully with photos and description of footpath issues.

An application has been received to move a footpath at Crapnell Farm. Cllrs Sully and Cansdale found that this is a retrospective application.

RESOLVED: To voice concern at the retrospective action on the moving of the footpath. Approved.

vi. Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Cansdale proposed to step back from this initiative. There is no appetite for a stronger Neighbourhood Watch in the village.

RESOLVED: To discontinue action to form an active Neighbourhood Watch in Croscombe. Approved.

vii. Clerk

a) MDC consultation on the Statement of Licensing Policy and Street Trading Policy. Council felt there was no interest in these policies for Croscombe.

12. PLANNING

- i. **RESOLVED:** To approve the Planning Committee Terms of Reference. Approved.
- ii. **RESOLVED:** To approve Planning Application 2021/0940/FUL - the Old School House alterations for holiday use and short-term let accommodation. Approved.

13. FINANCE

- i. **RESOLVED:** To approve the revised balance sheet 2020/21. Approved.
- ii. **RESOLVED:** To receive the Annual Audit Report 2020/21. Approved.
- iii. **RESOLVED:** To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21. Approved.
- iv. **RESOLVED:** To approve the Accounting Statements 2020/21. Approved.
- v. **RESOLVED:** To approve the Certificate of Exemption from External Audit 2020/21. Approved.
- vi. **RESOLVED:** To approve the Public rights and Publications of Annual Governance & Accountability Return dates of 28 June to 6 August 2021.
[NB The following three items were considered as one]
- vii. **RESOLVED:** To approve the revised budget 2020/21 including General and marked Reserves. Approved.
- viii. **RESOLVED:** To approve the revision of staff hours. Approved.
- ix. **RESOLVED:** To approve the back payment of staff overtime. Approved.
- x. **RESOLVED:** To approve payments listed in the Clerk's Report. Approved.
- xi. **RESOLVED:** To approve the Burial Account bank reconciliation to 17 May 21, and current bank balances. Approved.

All item 13 documents were signed and dated as required by the Chair.

CLOSE

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 22 July 2021.

Signed

Date

Actions

- Form a Working Group to assess South Burial Field options - Cllrs Dyer-Gibbins & Parker
- Prepare 3 sessions for Council to prepare Parish Plan - Cllrs Sully & Cansdale
- Consider reverting status of Flood Cttee to that of Working Group - Flood Cttee
- Form Working Group to draw up staff contract - Staffing Cttee members
- To persue issues with Paradise Lane footpath - Cllr Sully
- To voice concern at retrospective Crapnell Farm application Cllrs Sully & Cansdale