

MINUTES OF CROSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Held at the Church Rooms, Church Street

on

Tuesday 13th June, 2023, at 6:30 pm

Present: Cllrs K Egan, A Ford, C Jackson, M Rogers, H Shergold (Chairman)

Attending: Cllrs. B Height and M Lovell (Somerset Council)
J McGhee (Parish Clerk)

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

1. WELCOME

2. APOLOGIES/ABSENCES

S Fawcett-Fice, B Gudzelak.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- i. To confirm and sign minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 09 May 2022.

RESOLVED. Approved.

- ii. To confirm and sign minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 09 May 2022.

RESOLVED. Approved.

5. PLANNING APPLICATION

- i. To consider the following planning application.

| No. & Officer | Detail | Type |
|---|--|------------|
| <p>2023/0768</p> <p>Kelly Pritchard</p> | <p>Change of use of land - link to full details</p> <p>Response Date: 17/6/23</p> <p>Change of land to use as a Gypsy/Traveller site comprising 2 pitches (1 mobile home, 1 touring caravan and 1 dayroom each)</p> | <p>FUL</p> |

An extensive discussion was held on this planning request. Parishioners present who live in the vicinity of the proposed development expressed very strong views against the development, citing a history of anti-social behaviour at the site and disrespect being shown to the adjacent crematorium. Council noted and agreed with a range of reasons for objection already lodged with Somerset Council’s planning including those related to traffic, inadequate plans for waste handling and the threat to the dignity and integrity of the crematorium.

The council expressed disappointment that an elected district councillor who sits on the planning board had already expressed approval for the planning application before listening to the opinions of residents and the Parish Council. It was thought to be an unprofessional stance.

The Chairman proposed lodging an objection to the planning request; Cllr Ford seconded. The council voted unanimously to object to the planning request. **RESOLVED.** Council to lodge an objection to the request.

6. FINANCE

- i. To approve (or not) bank account reconciliation to 31 May 2023 (**Appendix 1**). **RESOLVED** – Approved.
- ii. To note cashflow 03 May 2023 to 07 June 2023 (**Appendix 2**). **RESOLVED** – Noted.

7. CLERK’S REPORT

- i. To note Clerk’s Report (**Appendix 3**). The Clerk drew specific attention to the availability of grants under Somerset Council’s Health and Wellbeing Fund. **RESOLVED** – Noted.

8. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORT

- i. Somerset Council. **RESOLVED** – Report submitted by Cllr Lovell on behalf of Somerset Council noted.

9. PARISH PLAN

The Chairman advised that a meeting of the Parish Plan Steering Group will take place 28th June to discuss, inter alia, the range of questions already submitted. Cllr Egan undertook to submit suggested questions related to the Health and Wellbeing Fund mentioned above.

10. ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHARING USE OF FIELD SOUTH OF CEMETERY

The Clerk related a conversation he had with the lessee of the field. In particular, he reported that he had agreed that the latter would receive notice at least a week before any planned event related to the orchard, after which notice the lessee undertook to remove any sheep and electric fencing from the field to allow the event to take place.

11. ENQUIRY TO WANDERLANDS RE PLANS FOR FIELDS NORTH OF FAYREWAY

Council discussed the exchange of letters between the Chairman and Wanderlands re the latter's plans for the fields north of Fayreway, and resolved that no further action on the request was necessary or appropriate.

12. MATERIAL FOR EXTERNAL AUDIT

- i. Note internal audit report (**Appendix 4**). **RESOLVED**. Noted.
- ii. Approve the annual governance statement (**Appendix 4**). **RESOLVED**. Approved.
- iii. Approve the accounting statement (**Appendix 4**). **RESOLVED**. Approved.
- iv. Note the details of the public rights notice (**Appendix 4**). **RESOLVED**. Noted.
- v. Confirm the Parish Clerk is also the Responsible Financial Officer. **RESOLVED**.
Confirmed

Council thanked the Clerk for his efforts related to internal and external audits..

13. REVIEW OF COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS (PER STANDING ORDERS 5j)

Reports from appropriate councillors followed by review of status, terms of reference and composition for each of the following committees or working groups ([link to terms of reference on the website](#));

- i. Flood and Environment Working Group
Terms of reference to be updated by Clerk to indicate meetings to be held once a year or as needed. Clerk to request up to date list of FEWG members and outline report from chair of FEWG.
- ii. Orchard Working Group

Council recognised that the Orchard Working Group had met its original purpose. Cllr Rogers to liaise with Jim Scott of the Orchard Working Group to draft Terms of Reference for an Orchard Management Group. Clerk to assist as necessary.

Cllr Rogers advised that there may be a desire for an orchard event planned for sometime in July; Orchard Group to develop plan and submit to councillors by email for approval in this instance since now unlikely to be a council meeting before then to approve.

iii. Parish Plan Steering Group

Chairman to develop terms of reference for Parish Plan Steering Group and submit to next meeting for approval.

iv. Play Area Working Group

Deferred to next meeting.

v. Staffing Working Group

Deferred to next meeting.

vi. Traffic Working Group

Cllr Egan provided an update on the Traffic Working Group. It is in the process of being re-established. A preliminary meeting was held on 5th June attended by 10 people.

Concerns were raised about, for example, the impact of very heavy vehicles on historical buildings in the village. Cllr Height suggested contacting Somerset Council's Highways Department and ask them to monitor (contact charlie.higgings@somerset.gov.uk).

The next meeting of this group will be organised after contact with and feedback from Somerset Council.

14. MATTERS OF REPORT – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Cllr Jackson noted that there had been no notice of a change to a footpath at Thrupe Lane.

Cllr Height to pursue with Somerset Council.

Date of next meeting – 29 August 2023.

CLOSE Meeting closed at 19:55.