

South Croxton Parish Council

Minutes of Full Council Meeting on Friday 4th June at 18:30

in the South Croxton Village Hall

Councillors present: Phil Hawkins (Chair), Mike Baxter

Councillors not present: JoAnn Charles, Paul Jackson

In attendance: Kate Yarrow (Clerk)

Also present: Cllr Mike Preston, Richard Windley from Leicestershire Rural Housing Enabler and Paul Jackson from Charnwood Borough Council Housing Department, 1 member of the public

Before the meeting officially opened Richard Windley, Leicester Rural Housing Enabler and Paul Jackson from Charnwood Borough Council Housing Department spoke to the Council about the need for affordable housing. Richard Windley works, with the support of Charnwood Borough Council, in providing affordable housing for local people. He stated that local people are being forced out of some villages due to the high prices of property. If needed, affordable housing will be a small development on the edge of the village and would provide housing for those with strong connections with the village to afford housing when they cannot afford the open market. No site has been identified regarding South Croxton.

Richard Windley would like to conduct a survey in the village to assess whether there is any need for affordable housing in South Croxton. If there is no need then no further action will be taken. If a need for affordable housing is identified then Richard will meet with the Council again to discuss what the Council wish to do concerning the matter. Richard assured the Council that no action will be taken without their full approval. Cllr Hawkins questioned whether the Council will have access to the results of the survey. It was confirmed access would be available to the analysis of the survey data with all identifiers removed to preserve confidentiality.

Paul Jackson represented the Housing Department and assured the Council that Charnwood Borough Council is only interested in identifying need rather than advocating needless housing to be built.

The Parish Council was not quorate to make a decision on whether Richard can go ahead and conduct the survey. This item will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

The Council thanked Richard and Paul for coming to present the information.

Richard Windley and Paul Jackson left the meeting at 19.09

A resident of the village, David Baggett presented an idea for renewable energy to the Council. For the past five months, David Bagget, Cllr Baxter and Peter Wardman have been researching into getting a renewable energy supply for the village. They have been looking into an anerobic digestion

Confirmed:	Chairman	Date:
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system which consumes such materials as feed stock (e.g manure, food waste) which then produces usable energy. Although a site will need to be built for this energy system initially there would be sources of money once it is set up:

- 1) The bio-fuel system will generate energy which could provide subsidised or free electricity;
- 2) The waste material is usable as fertiliser and can be sold;
- 3) The system requires feed stock material to feed it. Businesses pay to get rid of such waste.

David Baggett and Peter Wardman are both attending a seminar to learn more about this. David Baggett asked the Parish Council for financial support for expenses.

Cllr Hawkins asked the Clerk to check whether the Council remit covers this situation. As the Council is not quorate this will be included as an agenda item at the next meeting.

Cllr Preston mentioned that there is a similar system being developed in the Melton area by Rural Partnership and suggested that David Baggett get in touch with them for advice.

David Baggett leaves the meeting at 19.27.

Cllr Preston updated the Council on activities within Leicestershire County Council. He mentioned that £14 million has already been taken off the budget for Leicestershire County Council and there is a further 10% cut in the near future.

Cllr Preston leaves the meeting at 19.39.

Meeting opened at 19:40

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Charles and Cllr Jackson

2. Disclosure of Interests

None

3. Matters of interest

None

4. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th April had been previously circulated. Amendments were suggested. The Clerk will amend and circulate for final approval. The minutes for the Parish Council Meeting in March 2010 also needs final approval.

5. Matters of interest

a) Clerk vacancy

It was agreed that the Clerk will create a job advert for the Clerk vacancy and post it on the village notice boards. The Clerk will forward the job advert to Cllr Hawkins for approval.

b) Keeper of monuments

Confirmed:	Chairman	Date:
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To be discussed at next meeting

c) Items from Annual Parish Meeting

Two issues need to be discussed as a result of the Annual Parish Meeting. The idea of emailing the village in future will be discussed at the next meeting. The suggestion to install a traffic mirror opposite the junction at Kings Lane was discussed. Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Baxter approved of this suggestion. The Clerk will look into quotes in order to purchase one.

d) Other matters

None.

6. Financial matters

a) State of Bank Accounts

The Clerk is awaiting access to the bank accounts. However, the Clerk could confirm that the balances were as of 4th June:

Current account: £7773.85

Reserve account: £1009.13

A precept payment has been made by Charnwood Borough Council.

b) Expenditure

The Council agreed to pay the following invoices:

Clerk salary & expenses	£321.73
Parkdale Play & Leisure Ltd	£4089.59

c) Bank forms

Bank forms need to be completed to update the accounts signatory details. The forms will be completed at the next meeting as all Councillors are not present.

d) Financial audits

The Clerk reported that the Council are now four years overdue for financial audit. The former Clerk still has some important financial paperwork that is needed in order to go ahead with the audits. Cllr Hawkins asked the Clerk to contact Cllr Charles to see how communication is progressing with the former Clerk.

e) Other matters

None.

7. Planning matters

a) Natural burial ground proposal

The Council are not opposed to this proposal. No action taken.

b) 7 School Lane

Confirmed:	Chairman	Date:
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The Council are not opposed to this proposal. No action taken.

c) Land between 72 and 80 Main Street

The Council was updated of the plan to remove trees on this portion of land. The Council were not opposed to this plan.

d) Other matters

None.

8. Police report

None received.

9. Correspondence received

Charnwood Borough Council – Introducing the new Mayor of Charnwood, Cllr Jill Vincent.

Burnt Oak Developments – advertising services for land development projects

My Play – advertising services for playground maintenance.

10. Any other business

i) Playing field

Cllr Baxter has looked into who owns the playing field behind the village hall. After some investigation Cllr Baxter discovered that the Parish Council did buy the field some years ago but doesn't know where the deeds are for the land. The Clerk will look at the archive paperwork.

ii) Insurance

Cllr Baxter has been in contact with the Council's insurers and has discovered that the current way we contract John Aldridge to maintain the playing field is not covered by insurance. In order to insure the work undertaken by John Aldridge the Council need to pay for work undertaken on an hourly rate rather than paying by final invoice. The Clerk will organise this.

iii) Street lighting invoice

The Clerk has received the latest street lighting recharge and has noticed that the cost has risen by nearly 60% from the following year. The Council agreed to query this before paying the invoice. The Clerk will contact Leicestershire County Council regarding this.

11. Items for inclusion as future agenda items

i) Verification of minutes

To be completed at next meeting

ii) Keeper of monuments

To be discussed at the next meeting

iii) Email proposal

To be discussed at the next meeting

iv) Rural housing enabler

To be discussed at the next meeting

Confirmed:

Chairman

Date:

v) Bio-fuel proposal
To be discussed at the next meeting

11 Date of next meeting

Thursday 1st July 2010 at 6.30 pm

Meeting closed 20.14

Confirmed:

Chairman

Date: