

These are the unadopted Crookham Village Parish Council Minutes of the Meeting of 2 December 2013 held in the WI Hall, The Street, Crookham Village. Please refer to the Minutes of the January 2014 meeting for any amendments.

Present: Cllr. Simon Ambler (Chairman)  
Cllr. Julia Ambler  
Cllr. Philip Ashton  
Cllr. Peter Crawley  
Cllr. David Jackson  
Cllr. Judy Johnson  
Cllr. Julie Kelly  
Mrs. Angela Sayers (RFO)  
Mrs. Carol Leversha (Clerk)

In attendance: County Cllr. John Bennison, Ward Cllrs. Tony Clarke and Jenny Radley, Mr & Mrs Michael White, Sarah Callaghan, Andrew Hillyer, and Mr. Spink.

**MIN.184/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies from Ward Cllr. Chris Simmons (who sent his good wishes for the festive season) and Cllr. Makepeace-Browne.

**MIN.185/13 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman announced that the bus stops in Aldershot Road were being re-located and there would be one outside of Redfield's which would also have pedestrian access at that location. Mention was made of the recent congestion due to the new Redfield's building and the Chairman advised the meeting of the actions taken to alleviate this.

**MIN.186/13 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 4 NOVEMBER 2013**

**RESOLVED: Mins. 166/13 to 183/13 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.**

**MIN.187/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA & DELEGATION OF DISPENSATION TO THE PROPER OFFICER (CLERK)**

The Chairman advised Members to consider whether they had any disclosable interest in matters on the Agenda and if so to declare them now or at the appropriate point on the Agenda.

**MIN.188/13 CONSIDER CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

The Chairman reminded Members of their obligation to consider crime and disorder implications on any decision they might make at this meeting.

**MIN. 189/13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (maximum of 3 minutes per speaker).**

The Chairman requested permission to adjourn the meeting for public participation.

Mr. Richard Spink of Mede House, Crondall Road wished to talk about the Crondall Road traffic calming. He spoke about the proposed pathway from the Canal to the Exchequer pub – his concern at the exhibition was that people were not given enough information about the footway on which to vote. He requested that the full implications of the footway are re-examined. Mr. Michael White spoke about the EIA screening application for the land north of Netherhouse Moor. Sarah Callaghan also spoke about Crondall Road footway and said she would be sending the Parish Council a very detailed email. PSCO Clayton French addressed the meeting – he had been transferred from the Fleet beat and would be covering this parish and Church Crookham from now on and asked that Members feel free to contact him at any time – the Clerk has his details. The Chairman thanked him for his Crime Report. The Chairman then reconvened the meeting.

**MIN.190/13 FINANCE**

**(i) Report of Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)**

Cheques were presented for signature. The RFO has drawn up a draft budget based on Members requests. There are a lot of spread sheets but these will be in

Dropbox for ease of access. Cllr. Jackson had a quote for the Newsletter on quality paper and he believes we are ready to go to press and can deliver it over the weekend. The Chairman said as soon as they were back he would be allocating them for delivery.

**RESOLVED: Cllr. Jackson to confirm order with printer.**

**(ii) Consultation on Future of Local Audit**

The Chairman referred to the 54 page document supporting the consultation. The Chairman of Finance & HR said in essence they ask a series of questions which she felt were self serving. This Council fits within a bracket from £25k to £6.5m but the consultation is very much geared to authorities with a £1m precept – there is an opt out provision and that appears to be to do with the appointment of the Auditor or to have 3 members of the public who appoint an independent audit panel or to have to have one appointed by the Secretary of State. This would not suit small parishes and she would suggest that she replies that there should be a partial exempt status between the £25k and £100k – otherwise most of our precept would disappear in audit fees. Debate took place about where we are at the moment and the RFO said this year she has sent them off to Stoids - cost is comparable with the previous Audit Commission and there had been no issues.

**RESOLVED: Chairman of Finance and HR and RFO to draft response (as per suggestions above) and get it signed off at the next Finance meeting. Also to send the same response through to HALC and ask them to lobby Government.**

**MIN.191/13 PLANNING**

**(i) Trees Report**

Cllr. Crawley said he had nothing to report.

**(ii) Report of the Planning Committee**

Cllr. Jackson spoke to his report and invited questions. He spoke of an application in an adjacent parish which had not been notified to CVPC and said he may have to delegate to other Members of the Cttee the job of studying adjacent parish planning applications so that we do not miss one. Cllr. Crawley said he wished to add to comments on Grove Farm (when it goes live) that the avenue of trees along Hitches Lane be preserved.

**RESOLVED: The Report of the Planning Committee was accepted.**

**(iii) Planning Application 13/02351/SITE99 (Knights Close/Tudgeys Nursery)**

Members had all had sight of the relevant documents

The Chairman said this pre-application for the proposal was the first time CVPC had seen the plans. No formal response has been made but he and Cllr. Makepeace-Browne had been invited to the pre-app meeting prior to which an emergency working group meeting had been held and as a result the following issues were raised:

- layout and lack of open space which in order to resolve that would have meant removing two dwellings to provide more open space;
- keen to have an embedded play area in the development
- requested more entry level housing – whilst it is only a pre –app these are generally bigger houses
- more car parking for visitors was also requested.

The only point the Hart Officer raised was about layout – it effectively goes in a straight line and she would have preferred it did not. Members were asked for their views – Cllr. Jackson said he was concerned about the POS being at the end of the development in the light of vandalism issues we have already experienced on Zebon Copse. The Chairman said the HDC officer was looking to encourage them to re-organise the layout at that end. Cllr. Julia Ambler said the experience of Zebon Copse having the open space and community facility at the dark end resulted in many incidents of petty vandalism. The Hart Officer said the Affordable Housing element

should be more of a pepper pot spread rather than in the two blocks of 4 and was told that apparently this is because the Registered Social Landlord (RSL) prefers them for ease of management. The question of the viability of the proposed access onto the public footpath network was raised.

**RESOLVED: Comments as above to HDC planning.**

**(iv) Update on Neighbourhood Plan**

No further update at this time but item should remain on agenda until the Hart Local Plan is produced. Cllr. Jackson spoke about the training session at HDC where a senior retired Town Planner had suggested that getting the evidence together early could carry some weight on applications. There was a need to get a group together as a sub-cttee and he would like this done at the next meeting. Getting a decent biodiversity document together would be an aid to limiting development.

**MIN.192/13 LEA GREEN PLAY AREA**

Satisfactory references had been received and the contract awarded. The Clerk has a meeting with the representative next week to advise where the older children's play equipment should be sited to avoid noise issues with the nearby residents.

**MIN.193/13 ACQUISITION OF LEA GREEN**

Daryl Philips (Hart Corporate Director) has advised that the proposed lease between HDC and CVPC will now go to Cabinet for a decision this month. If goes through then we will get the lease on the land as previously agreed.

**MIN.194/13 UPDATES ON HIGHWAY & FOOTPATH MATTERS**

**(i) SID Data & Speedwatch**

SID rota as normal pending further site requests from the Speedwatch volunteers.

**(ii) Crondall Road**

Cllr. Jackson, Clerk and CRAG representatives and County Cllr. John Bennison met at Hook on 18 November. Option 1 had majority support and following debate some changes were sought to address the concerns of consultees. Cllr. Jackson advised the meeting of the issues raised and suggestions made to remedy these. With regard to the question of the footway – this consultation was widely publicised and sufficient time given to people to respond. It is now past that stage and into detailed design. The Chairman said that emails coming through today show that HCC officers are endeavouring to address concerns raised. He is sure this will remain on the Agenda and invited Cllr. Bennison to address the meeting. Further update emailed today from Greg Churcher requesting comments from Members.

**RESOLVED: Support the Gateway scheme.**

**(iii) A287/Redfields Lane junction**

Awaiting outcome of planning application for Albany Park (which offers a roundabout at this junction).

**(iv) Report of Hon Environment & Footpaths Consultant**

Richard Hellier had sent his report through a week ago and Members had been requested to raise any issues with him prior to this meeting. The Chairman welcomed Richard to the meeting and expressed condolences for his recent bereavement. Richard expressed his concern about the work on f/p 5 and the quality of finish and also the possible damage to the oak root system. He confessed that he does miss things because of his work commitment and asked that the Parish Council are proactive in alerting him to issues. He would be happy to take Members on a tour. He said when looking at repair of footpaths that we should look holistically – further on f/p 5 there is a rutted area used by cattle and tractors and the slurry is draining down the path and will get into the River Hart and he asked the Council to remedy the two negative aspects of that issue. Gravel could be used for the rutted area and perhaps the farmer could feed his cattle further away. With regard to the roots of the Oak he was concerned that some disturbance may have happened. In addition that section of footpath contained the relic of a wildflower meadow and those plants which lined the

footpath have been dug up and trashed. Incremental damage sometimes gets missed and that is where he can help. With regard to Crondall Road – this particular stretch is important. With regard to the gateway there are 3 species of endangered birds breeding within 50 feet. Environment must be taken into account and a detailed plan showing the losses of vegetation should be available. There is a wildflower verge opposite Seven Steps. He mentioned the Albany Park proposal and said Crookham Village is bang in the middle of a fantastic river valley. We live in an ecosystem that is all very connected – if we look at things in a landscape scale then Albany Park must be looked at as being intrusive into this very rich valley landscape. He spoke about SANGS and there is not only a concentration of dog walkers and recreation into these areas - it has a significant impact into the existing ground nesting birds and has a major urbanising effect and when it comes right down to the River Hart it has a significant effect. To increase environmental awareness it would be helpful if the Council would recognise that the Hart Valley contains species and habitat that are important to our nation. We live in the Upper Hart Valley and this is an eco system which is very vulnerable. The Chairman said Members understand the officially designated areas and what Richard Hellier is saying is that there are species in the Upper Hart Valley which require protection – he said the Council would need quite a lot more specialised advice to put it forward. Cllr. Jackson said he had asked questions on this and it is very helpful to include what Richard Hellier is saying as well as evidence it to put into a Neighbourhood Plan. Richard Hellier was asked to get the base evidence and something more focussed for the Council to follow up on. Finally, Richard has noticed there is some allotment development at Pilcot Farm on Hitches Lane and is concerned that it is wetland and if it is used for allotments then pesticides are likely to get into the River Hart. Cllr. Crawley said many years ago it had been allotments and there were remains of allotments there when he had first come to the village. The Chairman said he understood that a private group have made an agreement with the landowner. Cllr. Crawley referred to the earlier mention of the SANG and asked if there would be significant advantage to moving the SANG back from the River Hart. Richard Hellier said the SANG is on both sides of the river. It would be good if you could set it back on the east side of Redfields Row – he feels there needs to be a buffer zone along the river - one could then continue to walk the river corridor and be unaware of development. Cllr. Crawley said with regard to f/p 5 slurry this also applies to f/p1 – and Richard said that was his whole point look at the whole circuit not just bits of it.

**(v) Parish Lengthsman scheme**

There is a requirement for insurance cover to a £10m liability – Clerk is checking our insurance cover.

**MIN.195/13 ZEBON COPSE CENTRE & ADJACENT AMENITIES**

**(i) Report from Centre Manager**

Report received.

**(ii) Play Areas (exception reports)**

None noted.

**MIN.196/13 INFORMATION SHARING & AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Agenda item – Chairman requested Standing Orders review – when all are finalised they should be published on the web.

Agenda item - Cllr. Judy Johnson requested Neighbourhood Plan sub-cttee. DJ asked that emails be not sprayed around.

Cllr. Jackson requested continuity of subjects when responding to emails.

Cllr. Makepeace-Browne to give her keys to Cllr. Kelly because she lives closer to the Centre – advise Centre Managers of change of keyholder name.

Check with Centre Managers where we are with the keys to the sports area.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

**Dates for 2014 meetings:**

WI Hall

3 February  
7 April  
12 May (Annual General Meeting)  
7 July  
6 October  
1 December

ZCC

6 January  
3 March  
14 April (Annual Parish Meeting)  
2 June  
1 September  
3 November