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## NOTICE OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (LGA 1972)

**This Agenda Pack was issued with the Agenda for a Croxden Parish Council meeting at Abbey Room, St Giles Church, Croxden ST14 5JG commencing at 7 pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Issued by - Mrs VRE Gibson – Parish Clerk**

Date: 30 October 2023

### **AGENDA PACK**

23.11.001 APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

23.11.002 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS.

Councillors to declare any interests, a failure to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest at a meeting is a criminal offence under section 34 of the Localism Act 2011.

23.11.003 TO RESOLVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 ARE A CORRECT RECORD

23.11.004 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ABOUT PROGRESS OF RESOLUTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

- WEBSITE – UPDATE ON PROGRESS

Staffordshire County Council started work on the new website and work will continue until the end of December 2023.

- SPCA MOTION – UPDATE ON SPCA AGM MEETING.

Croxden Parish Council submitted the following Motion for SPCA to consider at its AGM held on 30.10.2023: Croxden Parish Council has a number of roads within its rural parish that have a speed limit that are set by law at the National Speed Limit due to country roads automatically being set nationally at the National Speed Limit.

Croxden Parish Council residents have, for a number of years, been asking for some of the roads within the parish to be reduced to 40mph from 60mph, and the County Council, unfortunately, do not have the funds as such a request needs to go to the Secretary of State in central government. Therefore, Croxden Parish Council would like SPCA to accept this motion and work with NALC, in order that NALC can lobby the Government for a national change to be made to speed limits on rural roads.

Rural roads are the most dangerous in the UK, accounting for nearly two-thirds (60%) of all road deaths (RAC). With most country roads, even those with no central marking carrying the national speed limit of 60mph there is a real temptation for motorists to drive at the limit because they are technically allowed to do so, even if it is inappropriate because of the driving conditions or local hazards.

Not only are too many lives being lost on these roads, but damage is caused to roadsides and verges, pollution levels are increased and the speed of drivers acts as a major deterrent for other users of the system such as walkers, cyclists and horse-riders. We believe the time has come where strategic, rather than tactical action needs to be taken.

The current position of requesting county councils to implement a change in speed limit has significant costs financially, plus in time and effort and generally is not progressed until death or serious injury has occurred. We believe that this needs to change as a matter of urgency.

Our suggestion would be to make a simple change to the national speed limit, reducing it to 40mph for carriageway roads without central line-marking.

This approach has the following advantages:

(1) It could be implemented nationally with a simple administrative change by Government

(2) A single national information campaign could be cost-effectively run to communicate the benefits of the change to all road users

\* The item, Public Participation, allows 15 minutes of each Parish Council Meeting, for members of the public to make representations or give evidence in connection with items included on the agenda. Each representation must be a maximum of 3 minutes. At the discretion of the Chairperson, the meeting may be adjourned to give members of the public present an opportunity to raise other matters of public interest.

- The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulation 2014 – allows the filming and recording of Parish Council meetings



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(3) No changes to signage would be required  
Croxden Parish Council would ask the SPCA to consider the motion to request NALC to pursue this national change of speed limits with central government.

- DAFFODILL BULBS – UPDATE  
The bulbs have been ordered and the Councillors will plant on Greatgate Village Green when they arrive.
- BEAMHURST TRAFFIC CALMING – UPDATE  
Cllr Atkins was provided with Cllr Hemingway report and asked for Beamhurst to be established as a village, due to the number of residents and therefore a 30mph speed limit.
- ASSET UPKEEP – Noticeboards and Defibrillators - UPDATE  
All Noticeboards have been re-varnished and protective membrane added to Greatgate noticeboard. Defibrillator postcode labels were updated.
- HOLLINGTON ROAD – SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION – UPDATE  
Chairman of the Parish Council wrote to Cllr Williams, SCC requesting an update on the request to reduce the speed limit, also highlighting the recent accident. All neighbouring Councils provided with a copy of the letter, with a request for support. JCB provided with a copy of the letter, with a request for support.

23.11.005 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE CREATION OF A RESIDENT EMAIL ADDRESS DATABASE TO FACILITATE DISTRIBUTION OF PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER  
Information Commission Office provided guidance on how to keep data safe and how to request email addresses. Council to consider the guidance.

23.11.006 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR  
Council to consider two quotes for internal auditor services for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025

23.11.007 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE BUDGET FOR 2024-2025  
Councillors considered Draft Budget in September meeting and will consider Final Budget.

23.11.008 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE PRECEPT REQUEST FOR 2024-2025  
Councillors will consider the precept request to East Staffordshire Borough Council, based on the Budget.

23.11.009 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION  
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23.11.0010 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND RECEIVE PLANNING DECISIONS- applications on website.

23.11.0011 TO RECEIVE ORAL REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLOR

23.11.0012 FINANCE – TO CONSIDER & AUTHORISE PAYMENTS OF THE LIST ON AGENDA AND RECEIVE FINANCIAL UPDATES

23.11.0013 CORRESPONDENCE  
Councillors will consider correspondence and action needed.

23.11.0014 CLERK REPORT

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23.11.0015 COUNCILLORS REPORTS (INFORMATION ONLY)

Councillors will bring items to the meeting for consideration for future Agendas.

23.11.0016 STAFFING MATTERS - PUBLIC EXCLUDED (Public Bodies(Admissions to meetings)Act 1960)  
TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE INCREASE TIME FOR COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION.

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