



Croxden Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
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Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021, via Zoom (<https://zoom.us/join>) online platform due to the Coronavirus. The meeting commenced at 7pm.

Zoom Meeting ID – 869 9520 4409 – residents who have no access to internet please call 0131 460 1196 or 0203 051 2874 and enter meeting ID. Legislation for holding Zoom Meetings, was passed on 2nd April 2020, <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/392/part/2/>

Present: Cllr Bean, Cllr Hall, Cllr Brandrick, Cllr Hemingway, Cllr James and the clerk.

21.01.001 APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES – Cllr Whittaker

21.01.002 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS. Failure to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest at a meeting is a criminal offence under section 34 of the Localism Act 2011.  
Cllr James – Checkley PC funding letter via the Working Group.

21.01.003 TO RESOLVE THAT THE MINUTES OF PARISH MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020 ARE A CORRECT RECORD.  
Amendments needed: See Finance section for the amendments.

21.01.004 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ABOUT PROGRESS OF RESOLUTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

**Wildflowers/Trees within parish** - – how do we record this information - Discuss  
Councillors discussed the SCC Climate Change Funding that was not appropriate for the Parish but are keen for residents to be aware of the trees and wildflowers within the Parish. RESOLVED to add comments onto the Footpath Map/Guide highlighting these. Councillors RESOLVED to also create a “Spot It” leaflet to accompany the Footpath Guide/Map.

**Parish Walk/Footpath leaflet – update on design and content - discuss**  
Councillors discussed the design, and the new idea for wildflowers and Tree Spot It leaflet and agreed to bring designs back to March Meeting for consideration.

**Speed Reduction – Working Group - discuss update from Cllr David Williams – Staffordshire County Council, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport.**  
Clerk received the following from Cllr David Williams – Staffordshire County Council, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport: [david.williams2@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:david.williams2@staffordshire.gov.uk) on 15.12.2020.

*“I have liaised with my officer for this area and he has sent me the following response to your enquiry. As I have referred to you previously Hollington Road is a National Speed Limit Road and has good compliance, a speed and volume survey was carried out between 21/11/2019 and 30/11/2019 with 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds of 59mph east bound and 53mph west bound, the accident history here is also very low. Effective speed management is part of creating a safe road environment which is fit for purpose. It involves many components designed to work together to require, encourage and help road users to adopt appropriate and safe speeds below the speed limit. As well as being the legal limit, speed limits are a key source of information to road users, particularly as an indicator of the nature and risks posed by that road both to themselves and to all other road users. Speed limits should therefore be evidence-led and self-explaining and seek to reinforce people’s assessment of what is a safe speed to travel at which encourages self-compliance. Speed limits should be seen by drivers as the maximum speed, rather than as a target speed at which to drive irrespective of conditions. It is often not*



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*appropriate or safe to drive at the maximum speed limit. Reducing the speed limit on Hollington Road is unlikely to change driver behaviour by itself and inconsistent speed limits can lead to confusion by drivers, especially in other areas where measures have been introduced to deal with specific issues. Also, reducing speed limits in areas where there is no evidential justification can lead to resources being diverted from other areas. A speed limit reduction here is likely to lead to non-compliance of any new speed limit to which neither the County Council or the Police are likely to support or manage in terms of enforcement. Whilst we commend the Parish Councils aspirations to manage speed issues within your Parish and to offer funding towards such a reduction, any such reduction would be minimal in terms of what could be achieved and the benefit it would give, it is unlikely that the Police or our Safer Roads Partnership would support any reduction and any speed limit change would still be outside of that which could be monitored through Community speed watch. Unfortunately, therefore I cannot support nor recommend a reduction of the speed limit along Hollington Road. The Council's Accident Investigation Unit does however, monitor data provided by the police and looks for trends or clusters of incidents where speed related factors have contributed to personal injury and we would be happy to review the situation should anything change." In light of this very experienced officers response I have to agree that a change in speed limit at this location cannot be supported at this time. Can I suggest that any future request for this change should be supported by the locally elected County Council member who is able to prioritise highway issues in their respective wards."*

Clerk received an update from Staffordshire Parish Council Association (SPCA) about the Motion presented at the AGM for National Speed Limit reduction in order that local councils did not have to bear the financial burden of speed reduction requests and forwarded the SPCA reply to Councillors.

**“SPCA Executive 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020: Extract of Minutes - 20/1/11 RURAL ROADS SPEED LIMITS.** *The Executive resumed the discussion of the subject of the motion about a blanket 40mph speed limit on rural roads without central line marking which Croxden Parish Council had submitted for consideration at the SPCA AGM held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The meeting reaffirmed the conclusions arrived at the AGM, noting the impracticability of the suggestion given the fact that on many rural roads central white line marking was frequently interspersed with stretches of highway with no marking. The fact that no feasible means of enforcement of such a limit could realistically be applied was also cited as an objection to the proposal. The CEO explained that he had also taken the issue to the recent meeting of the West Midlands Regional Group of CALCs. Whilst the WMCALC meeting was sympathetic to the underlying objective, the conclusions arrived at were similar to those reached when the matter had been discussed at the SPCA AGM, notably that a national speed limit of 40mph on carriageways without central line marking would be impractical due to unenforceability. Suggestions made at the meeting in Birmingham had included the encouragement of parish councils to purchase and share vehicle activated Speed Indicator Devices (“SIDs”), moving them from one location to another on a regular basis. Such initiatives were thought to have been successful in changing drivers’ behaviour in many locations. Communities could also undertake ‘speedwatch’ programmes with the support of the police. Whilst the expense might be thought to be a barrier to the widespread introduction of SIDs, Cllr Kelly pointed out that funding was available under the ‘Safe Road Partnership’ scheme. The Executive reconfirmed that there was no case to be made for putting forward the motion submitted by Croxden PC to the NALC Policy Committee.*

**SPCA Executive 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020: Extract of Minutes - 20/2/3 SPEED LIMITS ON RURAL ROADS.** *At the request of Croxden Parish Council, the Executive again resumed the discussion of the subject of the motion about a national 40mph speed limit on rural roads without central line marking which had originally been submitted for consideration at the SPCA AGM held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.*

*It was noted that, at its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January, the Executive had reaffirmed the conclusions arrived at the AGM. Both meetings had questioned the practicability of the suggestion of a 40mph limit, given the fact that on many rural roads central white line marking was frequently interspersed with stretches of highway with no marking. The fact that no feasible means of enforcement of such a limit could realistically be applied had also been cited as an objection to the proposal. Croxden Parish Council had nonetheless asked that the matter again be looked at and Cllr Paul Bean had been invited to address the meeting and restate the Council’s case, making reference to supporting documents which had been*



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*circulated with the agenda. Cllr Bean stated that Croxden Parish Council had sought to address the issue of excessive speeds on a specific stretch of de-restricted highway, namely the Hollington to Rocester road, and the related concerns about the associated damage caused to property, vehicles and people. The parish council was said to have support from local residents, demonstrated by a petition of 116 signatures, and from adjacent parishes and businesses. As the road was a single track carriageway with no speed restrictions in place the parish council was frustrated in not being able to undertake 'speedwatch' or take other measures to discourage high speeds. Croxden Parish Council felt that, as such issues were clearly manifest in multiple locations across the country, a change of the national speed limit on rural roads would solve the problem at a stroke, rather than resources being expended pursuing the same arguments on an individual basis. Cllr Bean suggested that without a generic, nationwide, approach to controlling speeds on rural roads, the council would nonetheless continue to seek to address speed controls for the road in question. Cllrs Caine, Kelly and Painter indicated that in similar situations in the south of Staffordshire the County Council had readily agreed to the implementation of speed limits when the funding had been raised locally, either by the parish council or from other sources. It was noted that the stretch of roadway of concern to Croxden Parish Council was in the vicinity of the JCB plant near Rocester and suggested that JCB itself might prove willing to provide the requisite finance. The CEO explained that related advice had been sought from the SCC Highways Dept. Whilst not having expressed a definitive opinion on the practicability or efficacy of the proposal of a nationwide 40mph limit on rural roads with no central line marking, the County Council had provided a comprehensive statement in relation to the case made by Croxden Parish Council. It had been confirmed that the local Community Highways team was aware of Croxden Parish Council's aspirations for speed reductions on a specific rural route within their parish and more widely across the rural minor road network. Mention had been made of the Government's Road Safety Statement 2019 which broadly covered its aspirations for road safety in terms of influencing road user behaviour, in-vehicle safety and implementing changes to the road infrastructure. With specific reference to rural roads a "Rural Road Users Advisory Panel" was to be set up to look at a range of issues including rural speeding and speed limits."*

Councillors discussed the next step for this project/working group and RESOLVED to reply to Cllr David Williams, SCC Highways. RESOLVED for Clerk to approach JCB via the Speed Watch Team and Derbyshire Parish Council Association. Councillors confirmed that the Working Group with Checkley Parish Council would continue.

### **Whipping Post – Greatgate - update on restoration enquiry**

Cllr James leading this project and liaising with Alison MacDonald at Historic England.

After discussing on the progress, Councillors RESOLVED to complete the restoration application which will be presented to both Historic England and the Secretary of State for consideration before March meeting.

### **Village Signage – Discuss designs.**

Councillors RESOLVED to keep the signage simple and in keeping with Croxden Parish. Clerk to create designs of signage and frame for March Meeting.

### **Local Government Boundary Commission England– further consultation**

<https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/18788> - Croxden Parish Council submitted the following comments on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Received confirmation from LGBCE Consultation Portal by email.

*Croxden Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the further*



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*recommendations from Local Government Boundary Commission England and would like the following comments to be considered:*

*The proposed name of the new ward - Stramshall and Weaver Ward – this name highlights only one small village within the ward and therefore does not represent the whole ward. As Croxden Parish Council is now within this new ward, and having an Abbey within its parish boundary, would it not be preferable to name the new Ward, Abbey. As Rocester, which is also within this new ward has an abbey remains too.*

*Then the new proposed Abbey Ward name could be changed to Blythe, as the ward no longer has an Abbey, but does have the Blythe river linking all parishes within the boundary.*

*Croxden Parish Council are happy that 37 Councillors will be representing the area of East Staffordshire and would like to thank LG BCE for listening to the previous comments made by many of the parish councils.*

**21.01.05 Woodland Trust - Trees in Parish – resident request to consider**

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/>

Councillors discussed the request by a resident to obtain free trees from the Woodland Trust for the Parish and RESOLVED that no area within the Parish is suitable for the tree packs, because they have to be planted on or around publicly accessible land such as cricket pitches, church yards, school playgrounds etc. Not privately owned land with a footpath crossing or a private garden.

Councillors would encourage residents to plant trees within their own land and East Staffordshire Borough Council Go Garden project is a good place to obtain reasonably priced plants. <http://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/parks-and-open-spaces/go-garden>

Councillors are keen to have a Parish wide planting project and will discuss a previous resolution about providing residents with bulbs to plant within the Parish.

**21.01.06 CLERK REPORT**

**Clerk Appraisal – via Zoom – 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7pm**

Clerk carried out a Workplace Assessment and will now be using a larger screen, keyboard and mouse, clerks own. Clerks wages to be discussed in January Meeting  
**St Giles Church**, tree creating a Health and Safety Issue – Clerk/Chair authorised SJL Landscapes to remove branches – 16.11.2020

**Combridge Lane** – the Ford – stones upended reported to SCC 19.11.2020 – updated Highways log and sent to website 26.11.2020

**Footpath Parish Walks Maps** – onto website 23.11.2020 – Rolleston on Dove and Cauldon leaflet provided to Councillors for a leaflet format.

**Stile Repairs – Footpath** – advised by landowner that a change from stile to kissing gate required, not repairs to the steps, clerk provided landowner with rights of way team details in order to get permission for change 23.11.2020

**Parish Grass Cutting** – Clerk requested a 3yr contract price from SJL Landscapes Ltd



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– to include Greatgate Village Green, strimming around Whipping Post, maintaining Wildflower border on Greatgate – Clerk will gain a second quote for Councillors to consider in March meeting.

**NALC booklets** researched for website - <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/publications>

**Lloyds Bank – opening second account** – this service is currently not available due to COVID-19 19 – 31.11.2020

**Gdrive set up, and files sync enabled** – access provided to Chair only 03.12.2020

**Microsoft 365** one year license purchased – 21.12.2020 and installed by Clerk.

Footpath 35 – Old Turnpike Cottage – Clerk has not yet reported the feeder blocking the footpath.

**21.01.07 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION\*** 15 mins – 3 mins per item. NONE

**21.01.08 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND RECEIVE PLANNING DECISIONS:**

Councillors discussed the benefits of a Neighbourhood Plan and Cllr Bean will provide the Council with an update from the ESBC Local Plan to show areas of Parish that are currently protected.

<http://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/local-plan-2012-2031>

**NEW**

**P/2020/01283** - Town End Farm Uttoxeter Road Beamhurst Uttoxeter ST14 5EA - Erection of an extension to an existing building for storage of hay and straw – Comments added 11.12.2020 – The Parish Council would like Planners to consider the footpath access, as currently Footpath CROXDEN 41 on Staffs County Council interactive mapping facility does not show that recent buildings already block the exit of this footpath safely out onto the A522. Existing footpath signage directs walkers straight into the milking holding area with no way out. The proposed building appears to be over this yard. A safe alternative route needs to be provided and signage across the farm corrected. The building is no problem as long as the landowner provides an alternative route round. A small job compared to the building work proposed.

**P/2020/01234** - The Munchbox Cafe Lay by on A522 Uttoxeter Road Uttoxeter Beamhurst - Retention of existing Cafe and Portaloo for a period of 5 years – No comment added 10.12.2020

**DECISIONS**

P/2020/01040 - Butterley Bank Farm Rocester Road Croxden Staffordshire ST14 5JQ - Western Power Distribution -Replace existing open wire conductor with a bunched ABC conductor and also poles on a like for like basis – PERMITS

P/2019/00841 - The Wootons Hollington Road Croxden ST14 5JD - Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a replacement dwelling – PERMITS with conditions.

**P/2020/00976** –Land adjacent to Beamhurst View Uttoxeter Road Beamhurst



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Uttoxeter - Change of use of land and erection of a detached building for use as a workshop/storage/office associated with the formation of landscape contractors' yard (Sui Generis) and erection of a 2m high fence and gates – PERMITS.

**21.01.09 TO RECEIVE ORAL REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLOR – NONE**

**21.01.10 FINANCE – TO CONSIDER & AUTHORISE PAYMENTS OF LIST BELOW**

Correction from November minutes – Cheque 47 is Clerk Expenses and Cheque 48 is VOID, see below. Plus, Internet Savings Account opened, with a transfer of £1000, then transferred back to Current Account and internet account closed.

26.10.2020 – Councillor had sight of closure statement

All November payments made 23.11.2020 – Cllr Hemingway and Cllr James confirmed payments.

Lloyds cheque book ordered 07.12.2020 and received

**PRECEPT request** for £5,449.81 was sent to Geoff Bagnall, ESBC 07.12.2020.

**Budget** for 2021-2022 onto website in Financial area

**November Cheques amendments below:**

47/047	Mrs VRE Gibson – Clerk expenses, stamps, maps (Not signed in November, as not on minutes)	£25
48/VOID	Written in error	
49/049	SJL Landscapes Ltd – October grass cut	£33.60 (in £5.60 VAT)
50/050	St Giles Church event - donation	£50

**January Payments – cheques 51 – 53 signed in between meetings**

Ref/Cheque	Item	Amount
51/051	SJL Landscapes – Tree Surgery – St Giles Church	£180 (in £50 VAT)
52/SO	Council Administration – December	£125.41
53/052	SJL Landscapes – Wildflower Border – Greatgate	£180 (inc £30 VAT)
54/053	Gdrive – storage for Council files – Annual Fee	£15.99
55/054	Zoom Invoice – December	£14.39
56/SO	Council Administration – January	£125.41
57/055	Microsoft 365 license – 1 year (21.12.2020-21.12.2021)	£64.99
58/056	Zoom invoice – January	£14.39



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	Clerk expenses – Oct/Nov – see item 47/047 above	
59/057	Clerks expenses – Dec/Jan	£10
60/058	Zoom annual subscription – refund to Clerk	£108.61
61/059	Black Printer Ink and A4 paper – refund to Clerk	£24.83
Bank Balance	Lloyds – 16.12.2020	£4, 160.15

<b>Reconciliation at 11.01.2021</b>			
<b>Receipts and payments</b>			
a. Opening balance 1st April 2020		4,493.96	
b. Total receipts	6,377.95		
c. Total payments	6,971.93		
d. Surplus/(Deficit) in the year (b-c)	-593.98		
e. Closing balance (a+d)	3,899.98		
<b>Bank accounts</b>			
Lloyds account		4,160.15	
			4,160.15
Add: unrepresented income			0.00
Less: unrepresented cheques			260.17
			3,899.98

**21.01.11 CORRESPONDENCE**

**SPCA Annual Meeting** - Monday, 7th December 2020 at 7pm via Zoom – forwarded details to Councillors – 23.11.2020

**Happy at Home project** – details on website – 26.11.2020 You can explore the ‘Happy at Home Interactive House’ at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/happyathome](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/happyathome)

**Cllr Victoria Wilson – SCC letter** – forwarded to Councillors 30.11.2020

**Coronavirus COVID-19:** Roll out of vaccination programme – details on website and to Councillors 07.12.2020

**COVID-19 19 – Tier 4 and Testing information** – all information put on website 31.12.2020

**SCC Resident survey** - Staffordshire County Council is committed to listening and responding to the needs of its residents, which is why we want to hear from you. Deadline 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 <https://consultation.staffordshire.gov.uk/insight-planning-and-performance/staffordshire-county-council-residents-survey/>

**St Giles Church** – Thank you email for dealing with the fallen tree for the Church 10.12.2020

**Fole Lane** – Road Closure – 5<sup>th</sup> January – on website in news section 21.12.2020

**Western Power** – power cut information provided. If residents have a power cut, please phone: 105 or 0800 6783 105. Twitter: @wpduk

**COVID-19 19** – Lockdown update received – all details on website – 07.01.2021

**Neighbourhood Plan – Checkley Parish Council** – sent details for Councillors to consider – consultation date is 8<sup>th</sup> January – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021. For a copy of the



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report and supporting documents, more information or details how to make comments please visit our website

<https://www.checkleyparishcouncil.co.uk/neighbourhood-plan-consultation/>

**New OS Data Hub Public Sector Plan** launches 11.01.2021 – details forwarded to Councillors.

**COVID-19 Rapid Testing** - Alton Towers are working with Staffordshire County Council to offer rapid COVID-19 tests for the local community at the Resort on Friday, 15th January between 10am and 1pm. You do not have to have symptoms to get a test. Please visit [Welcome to the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Community Test Sites Appointment System \(zipporah.co.uk\)](http://www.welcome-to-staffordshire.co.uk) to find out more and book a test.

**RABI - launch of the #BigFarmingSurvey** and this will be my main focus over the next few months, helping to gain some of the 26,000 responses. The survey can be seen here <http://ex.ac.uk/BigFarmingSurvey> also included fundraising ideas.

**21.01.12** Clerk Appraisal - update - **PUBLIC EXCLUDED (Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960)**

**21.01.13** COUNCILLORS REPORTS (information only)

Councillors requested the clerk to ensure that Mrs Marion Kent Freedom of Parish framed scroll be delivered with the view to a future photo opportunity and press release after Lockdown has finished.

Croxden Flooding by bridge – Clerk to investigate with Highways and local residents the possible cause and solution needed and to report back to Council in March.

Cllr Bean will carry out an internal audit trail in January 2021.

Parish Newsletter items will include, Footpaths and Flowers, zoom meetings and COVID-19 19 updates are on website.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The Next Parish Council meeting will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7pm via Zoom. The meeting was formally closed at 20.59

Signed.....