



Croxden Parish Council Meeting Minutes
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Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 13th September 2023, at the Abbey Room, St Giles Church, Croxden ST14 5JG. The meeting commenced at 7.20pm.

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

23.09.001 APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES - NONE

23.09.002 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS. NONE

23.09.003 TO RESOLVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th July 2023 ARE A CORRECT RECORD. – RESOLVED

23.09.004 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE

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

PARISH COMMUNITY WALK – 12TH SEPTEMBER 2023 – UPDATE

The Parish Councillors were pleased that 7 people turned up for the walk and it was a great success, providing lots of historic information about the Clapper Bridge and Water Meadows. There was extensive discussion about environmental issues.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to hold the next Parish Community Walk in the spring 2024 and a date will be set in the January 2024 meeting.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Hall Family for allowing access to their farmland for the event.

BEAMHURST (A522) TRAFFIC CALMING

The Clerk reported that Cllr Atkins received the letter from residents, highlighting their concerns and disagreement with the proposed white lines for Beamhurst on 17.07.2023. Cllr Atkins replied on 31.07.2023 and a copy of the response was including in the Agenda pack – Appendix A.

After the Agenda was issued, the Residents provided the following:

On the A515 passing through King's Bromley there were no streetlights and yet the speed limit is 30mph. On the A518 at Dove Way, there is no street lighting and yet as it passes the re-cycling centre the speed limit is 40mph. Coming out of Tean towards Draycott it is 40mph with no streetlights.

The Councillors discussed Cllr Atkins response and the response from the residents and RESOLVED to write back to Cllr Atkins and Richard Rayson (SCC Highways Manager), providing details of Cllr Hemingway research on setting speed limits in village defined areas. (Village is defined by 20 house with a 600m stretch of road). A copy of the research is in Appendix A of these minutes. The Council noted that due to developments in Beamhurst, at least 24 houses are within a 600m stretch of the road and SCC may not be aware of the changes.



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Councillors RESOLVED to send Cllr Hemingway's research to residents and to include within the minutes, as Appendix A.

HOLLINGTON ROAD – SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION – Discuss letter from Cllr Williams SCC. Cllr Williams, Staffordshire County Council (SCC) responded to Parish Council letter requesting an update on the request to reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph in order that Speed Watch activities can take place. Cllr Williams letter is in Agenda Pack Appendix A

The Council discussed Cllr Williams response and RESOLVED for the Chairman to draft a response and before sending it to Cllr Williams, send to neighbouring Councils asking for their support. Clerk to send Chairman letter to Rocester PC, Denstone PC, Checkley PC, Alton PC and JCB Head Office and then to Cllr Williams.

23.09.006 ASSET UPKEEP – CONSIDER AND APPROVE QUOTE FOR NOTICEBOARD REFURBISHMENT

WH Durose, Lengthsman, assessed the noticeboard, last painted in yacht varnish 3 years ago and the varnish is lifting. WH Durose provide a quote of £100 per noticeboard, plus materials this includes collection and reinstatement.

Total £300 plus materials. Council RESOLVED for the works to be carried out, initially Greatgate and Beamhurst and then Croxden.

23.09.007 STAFFORDSHIRE PARISH COUNCIL ASSOCIATION (SPCA) AGM – CONSIDER AND APPROVE MOTION TO DEBATE AT SPCA AGM.

The motion is for carriageways without central white lines to, nationally, have the speed limit reduced from 60mph to 40mph. Motion is for SPCA to work with NALC to lobby government for this change.

Councillors discussed the motion to debate at SPCA AGM and RESOLVED to submit.

The Council wished to Thank Checkley PC for seconding the motion in order that it could be submitted.

Council RESOLVED for Clerk to represent Croxden at the AGM on Monday 30 October 2023 at 7pm, in the Trentham suite at Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, STAFFORD, Staffordshire ST16 2LP.

23.09.008 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE – CONSIDER HOSTING QUOTES AND APPROVE

The Council discussed the current situation with the website and RESOLVED to accept Staffordshire County Council quote of £150 to create a new website, plus £9.95 for a domain name, using the domain croxdenparishcouncil.co.uk

Clerk to contact SCC and ask for the website to be created at their earliest date.

Council RESOLVED to send the current webmaster a Get Well Card and a letter and gift that expresses their thanks for the years of service to the Parish Council.

Council RESOLVED to increase the Council Administration costs by 0.5 hours per week for updating the website each week. The updated Council Administration Standing Order to be signed in November meeting.



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23.09.009 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND RECEIVE PLANNING DECISIONS:

NEW

Tree preservation order (TPO) number 453 - Holly Bank, Alton Lane, Greatgate, Staffordshire, ST10 4HF - The above Tree Preservation Order has been made as during the course of a planning application at the above site, the trees have been identified as being of high amenity value, are healthy specimens and are a valuable ecological habitat. You will note that the Order has been made under Sections 198-200 and 201 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 which means that it becomes operative immediately. The order came into force, on a temporary basis, on 25th July 2023, and will remain in force for six months. During this time we will decide whether the order should be given permanent status. Further information in relation to Tree Preservation Order Procedures can be found on the Planning Portal website at

https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200130/common_projects/53/trees_and_hedges

The Parish Council has no comment on this TPO. 04.08.2023

P/2022/01419 - The Old Smithy Cottage Alton Lane Greatgate Staffordshire ST10 4HF - Demolition of existing outbuilding, erection of detached garage, erection of single and two storey side extensions. The comments submitted are:

Croxden Parish Council note that new proposed elevations suggest the extensions that are more in keeping with neighbouring cottages, stone faced rather than wood and the garage development is further back from the road, which is safer.

P/2023/00961 - Land at Croxden Abbey Croxden Uttoxeter Staffordshire ST14 5JG - Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for the continued use of former agricultural land as domestic garden – comments by 25.09.2023 – NO COMMENT

P/2023/00955 - Holly Bank Alton Lane Greatgate Staffordshire ST10 4HF - Works to a Protected Tree - Fell one Sweet Chestnut tree. TPO 453 (T1). – comments by 29.09.2023 Clerk requested further information on the application, as the planning form advises that a written arboriculture advice or other diagnostic information from an appropriate expert should be included and was not on planning portal. The Planning Officer responded: I can confirm that an arboriculture report has not been submitted to accompany the application. Please note, that an arboriculture report is not always necessary; however, this is assessed by ESBC's Tree Officer. I am currently awaiting comments from ESBC's Tree Officer. The Council RESOLVED on the following comments to be added to the Planning Portal: If the Tree is deemed safe, by the ESBC Tree Officer, our preference would be to retain it and we see no reason for it to be felled.

DECISIONS

P/2022/01419- The Old Smithy Cottage Alton Lane Greatgate Staffordshire ST10 4HF - Demolition of existing outbuilding, erection of detached garage, erection of single and two storey side extensions -PERMITS



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23.09.0010 TO RECEIVE ORAL REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLOR. - NONE

23.09.0011 DRAFT CROXDEN PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2024-2025 - DISCUSSION

Councillors discussed the DRAFT Budget and agreed for it to be brought to the November meeting for ratification.

The Council RESOLVED to gain two quotes for internal auditor services, having confirmed with Mazars (External Auditor) the criteria for internal auditor competencies.

The quotes will be considered in November meeting and this cost to be included in the Final Budget.

23.09.0012 FINANCE – TO CONSIDER & AUTHORISE PAYMENTS OF LIST BELOW AND RECEIVE FINANCIAL UPDATES

All July payments made 14.07.2023

Lloyds Standing Order for Salary adjustment delivered 14.07.2023 confirmed 24.07.2023

VAT 126 Reclaim for £159.28 submitted 17.07.2023

Water Butt Grant cheque uncashed presumed lost – new cheque issued.

Ref/Cheque	Item	Amount
24/so	Council administration – August	£224.73
25/200	WH Durose – stile replacement	£324 (inc £54 VAT)
26/201	Marchington IT – Annual Computer service	£49.98
27/202	Meeting Room Rent – Annual	£120
28/2023	St Giles Church – Water Butt Grant – replacement for lost cheque (03/181)	£50
Invoices after Agenda issued		
29/204	SJL Landscapes – July & August grounds maintenance	£117 (inc 19.56 VAT)
	Clerks Expenses	£14
RECEIVED		
24.07.2023	VAT Refund	£159.28
09.08.2023	Lloyds Deposit Interest	£2.06
BANK STATEMENTS		
Lloyds – main	31.07.2023	£1,133.61
	30.08.2023	£908.88
Lloyds – deposit	09.05.2023	£1,003.08
	09.08.2023	£1,005.14

23.09.0013 CORRESPONDENCE

Checkley PC requested details of Footpath Map contractor as they admired the project –

Clerk provided website link <https://www.fwdp.co.uk/product/musketeer-twin-leg-recycled-plastic-lectern/> - 01.08.2023

ESBC Election Team – requesting Cllr Hall election expenses form.



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ESBC Tree Preservation Orders – response to request for a list of TPO in parish - TPO's can be found on the ESBC online mapping system. If search on an area and then select the Tree Preservation Order layer, the TPO's will show up.

https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200130/common_projects/53/trees_and_hedges

Road Closure – 2nd August 2023 for one day - length of Hollington Road in Croxden between Field Head Cottage and Wootons Farm.

SCC consultation regarding providing Family Hub Model across Staffordshire – supporting families with children from 0-19, (25 with SEND) – put on website and FB

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/ChildrensCentreConsultation>

NHS MIDLANDS AND LANCASHIRE COMMISSIONING SUPPORT UNIT consultation response on inpatient mental health services in south east Staffordshire -

<https://staffsstoake.icb.nhs.uk/our-work/transformation/inpatient-mental-health-services-in-south-east-staffordshire/>

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), is holding a consultation on draft recommendations for division boundaries in Staffordshire - the consultation closes on 16 October 2023. To view the consultation visit <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/staffordshire> - Croxden Parish Council submitted no comment when original consultation started. – NOTED

Croxden Facebook page – resident advised Council to set up its own FB page as resident one for resident updates. – NOTED

Topcashback Community Grant scheme for up to £500

<https://staffordshire.foundation/grants/topcashbackfund/>

Alton Towers Community Meeting held on 24.08.2023 – minutes provided and distributed to Councillors. (See Councillors Reports below)

YESS Posters – highlighting services to be added to community page – RESOLVED

SCC Climate Change Action Fund is open again and there is additional £1,500 funding for each Division. The new Phase is open until December 22. As suggestions it is open to local groups, schools and charities for EV Charging points, LED Lights, Water Butts, Bike Sheds, Tree planting, compost bins and solar panels. Details here:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/Climate-change/Climate-Action-Fund.aspx>

20mph is plenty - further information then please see <https://www.20splenty.org/> - We think that if enough parishes in Staffordshire show their support for the principle of 20 mph speed limits then the county council may be persuaded to review its approach on funding 20 mph schemes. So far 10 parish councils in Staffordshire have formally resolved to support the principle of 20 mph and we would like to ask your council to consider doing this. – RESOLVED TO SUPPORT

Improving Biodiversity in the ST14 postcode area - Uttoxeter (and District) Nature Recovery Network (UNRN), Identifying Nature-friendly initiatives in ST14 - The Globe Foundation's project covers the whole ST14 postcode area (see <https://goo.gl/maps/QppFJgrTkq57Wvgf9>). We are therefore writing to the Parish Councils within this area to identify initiatives in each Parish, which are being undertaken or have taken place, which are relevant to encouraging nature to thrive. Parish Councils are the best source of information about their



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areas. We would like to know about initiatives such as wildflower planting, gardening projects, and any other projects you are aware of which are seeking to help nature. We would also like to know of any activities, which are relevant to tackling climate change.

Concessionary Travel – SCC provided posters for noticeboards regarding applying for concessionary bus pass.

23.09.0014 CLERK REPORT

Footpath Croxden 29, had stile replaced due to Health and Safety issue, by WH Durose on 02.08.2023 with landowners permission. The Landowner commented, “That looks brilliant, thank you.”

D Day event – 24th June 2024 – register interest to hold event. 31.07.2023

Lisa Hall – SCC – sent Thank you letter for road signs on Alton Lane – 31.07.2023

WH Durose provided quote for noticeboard refurbishment.

Daffodil bulbs – Council RESOLVED for clerk to purchase Lenten Lillies (native daffodils) for planting in October from Boston Bulbs. Bulbs to be planted in circle of trees on Greatgate Village Green and by Noticeboard, remainder by Croxden sign on Keeling’s Lane.

Internal Auditor – Clerk sought guidance on internal auditor requirements - Section 4 on the Practitioners Guide –Item 4.6 onwards on page 24 sets out ‘essential competencies’.

23.09.0015 COUNCILLORS REPORTS (information only)

Cllr Brandrick provided details of **Beamhurst Bus Stop**, by Watery Lane, that resident complained needs attention. Clerk to provide resident with details of Uttoxeter Rural Parish Council, as within their Parish.

Cllr James provided details to the **Council of Alton Towers Community Meeting:**

Alton Towers confirmed they funded the bend signage on Alton Lane, Clerk to write a Thank you letter. Nabb Lane will be highlighted on the Alton Towers website in Red, so that guest do not use it to get to the resort. Alton Towers will request that Nabb Lane residents be provided with tickets, as affected by the volume of traffic. The Community engagement budget will be set in the next 3 months and then Croxden Parish issues can be addressed. Wootton Lane is now resolved, it is now access only from 9am-11am and Sat Nav are not sending resort guests onto Wootton Lane

Cllr Hemingway provided update on the **Nature Reserves** email received by Mr Trenerly and Council RESOLVED to provide the following environmental achievements in 2022-2023: No Mow May, Bulb Planting, Recycling of Batteries, Requested Speed Limit reduction, Parish Walks to highlight natural environment of Parish and purchased a Footpath Noticeboard made from recycled CD’s and a Carbon Blog each meeting for residents, Councillor received Carbon Literacy training, Clerks computer recycled to local school. Clerk to send to Mr Trenerly.

Cllr James – requested **labels with postcodes for the Defibs**, as keep wearing out. Clerk to obtain from Ashmores.

Cllr Hemingway – **Defib inspection sheets** provided by AEDdonate



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Cllr Bean – requested Clerk to investigate the **Data Protection** for creating a residents email database for distribution of newsletter.

23.09.0016 Staffing Matters – Public excluded
Clerk updated Council re: appointment as Mayfield PC Clerk.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The Next Parish Council meeting will be held on 8th November 2023 at 7pm. The meeting was formally closed at 21.05

Signed.....

Appendix A

BEAMHURST TRAFFIC SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

PART ONE : Relevant notes selected from Dept. Transport Gov.uk document ‘Guidance Setting Local Speed limits’

12) Traffic authorities are asked to:

- keep their speed limits under review with **changing circumstances**

Local speed limits should not be set in isolation, but as part of a package with other measures to manage vehicle speeds and improve road safety.

Responsibility for local speed limits

- The Department for Transport’s vision is for a transport system that is an engine for economic growth but one that is also **greener and safer and improves quality of life in our communities**
- we also want our roads to become safer, less congested and less polluted
- we want to encourage sustainable local travel and economic growth by making public transport and **cycling and walking more attractive and effective, promoting lower carbon transport and tackling local road congestion**
- we want to contribute to wider public health and safety outcomes by contributing to a reduction in road casualties
-

It is government policy that a 30 mph speed limit should be the norm in villages. It may also be appropriate to consider 20 mph zones and limits in built-up village streets.



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It is recommended that the minimum length of a village speed limit should be 600 metres.

7.3 VILLAGES

131) Fear of traffic can affect people's quality of life in villages and it is self-evident that villages should have comparable speed limits to similar roads in urban areas. It is therefore government policy that a 30 mph speed limit should be the norm through villages.

133) Traffic Advisory Leaflet 01/04 (DfT, 2004) sets out policy on achieving lower speed limits in villages. It suggests that reasonable minimum criteria for the definition of what constitutes a village, for the purpose of applying a village speed limit of 30 mph, would be that there were: • 20 or more houses (on one or both sides of the road) - and a minimum length of 600 metres.

138) If there are high approach speeds to a village, or the start of the village is not obvious, village gateway treatments can also be an effective way to slow drivers down. Advice can be found in Local Transport Note 1/07 Traffic Calming (DfT, 2007) and Traffic Advisory Leaflets 01/94 VISP – A Summary (DoT, 1994a) and 01/04 Village Speed Limits (DfT, 2004).

PART TWO: Our Problem at Beamhurst

- **Speed limit currently 50mph.** occasionally monitored by speed watch teams but frequently exceeded according to residents.
- **Over taking of vehicles** is almost continuous due to, straight road with good visibility and no double white lines, this being the only possible opportunity between Uttoxeter and Blythe Bridge (8-10miles) which local drivers know and take advantage of. Speeds are limited to 30 or 40 for the whole of the rest of this route and continuous double white lines present.

These two factors lead to the following problems:

- Noise and vibration disturbance inside houses from accelerating vehicles
- Difficult and dangerous conditions when residents wish to turn their own vehicles in and out of their own properties.
- As there are no other maintained routes or crossing points for bicycles and mobility scooters, these cannot be used within this community.
- Fumes and pollution due to quantity of heavy traffic accelerating.
- Division of the village into two halves either side of the road.

Some Additional Relevant information and History



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- **Beamhurst is a Village, the population has increased.** Within the past 10 years there has been significant residential expansion largely due to two farmyard developments at Madeley Farm and Beamhurst Hall Farm. This brings the total number of dwellings in the settlement to 24 with at least a further 6 separate business premises. There are now 18 private drives leading onto the A522 within roughly a half-mile stretch.

- **Traffic passing through the village has increased and will increase:**
 1. Within the last 10 years JCB have built 3 large factories on the A522 at Stramshall and up to the Parish Boundary with Beamhurst causing an increase in both heavy Lorries and employees cars.
 2. Nearby Bramshall Fields housing development will use this route to access Cheadle and beyond increasing traffic further.
 3. Construction of Taylor Made Landscapes headquarters at Beamhurst employing up to 70 people will add to slow traffic needing to turn.

Conclusion

Due to the increased population of Beamhurst and the increasing through traffic a request should be made to the local Highways Agency/Authority to review downwards the 50mph speed limit on the A522 through the village and consider double white lines to prevent unnecessary over taking.

Traffic needing to travel long distances at speed can use the A50 and so a reduction in speed limit in Beamhurst should not impede movement of traffic in the area.

New speed limit signs could be reinforced by erection of village gates to define the entrance to the village, which is not obvious.