



Croxden Parish Council Meeting Minutes
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DRAFT minutes of the Parish meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 2024, at the Abbey Room, St Giles Church, Croxden ST14 5JG. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

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

24.05.001 APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES – Cllr Brandrick, Cllr Sankey (ESBC) – approved.

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

24.05.003 TO RESOLVE THAT THE MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13th March 2024 ARE A CORRECT RECORD. **RESOLVED**

24.05.004 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE ASSET REGISTER 2024-2025
Laptop purchased in April 2024. New Asset Value = £10,473.98
Chair and Clerk signed. **RESOLVED**

24.05.005 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE

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

COMMUNITY WALK AND ART EXHIBITION – 7TH MAY 2024 AT 6PM – UPDATE AND SET NEXT COMMUNITY WALK DATE.

Ian Ecclestone (<https://www.instagram.com/ianeckey/>) held an exhibition in the Barn, Wood Farm, Greatgate, ST10 4HF. A Guided walk was led by Cllr Brandrick and residents enjoyed the refreshments after the walk.

Council discussed sending a Thank you letter to Nick and Sue Bradrick and considered a donation for electric/cups etc. **RESOLVED** to send a letter and make a £20 donation.

Councillors discussed the next Community Walk – **RESOLVED** to hold it on Wednesday 17th July 2024 at 7pm, starting at St Giles Church, Croxden to explore route to Gallow Green, refreshments after the walk at St Giles Church.

D DAY EVENT – 6TH JUNE 2024 – TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE EVENT TIMETABLE.

Councillors discussed the event timetable. **RESOLVED** the following:

1pm raise D-Day 80 years flag at St Giles Church, Croxden

8pm – D-Day memorabilia exhibition and refreshments in The Barn, Wood Farm, Greatgate

9.15pm - Beacon to be lit at Wood Farm and D-Day poem to be read by Cllr Bean.

GREATGATE VILLAGE GREEN REGISTRATION – CONSIDER STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE.

Clerk provided documents to SCC requesting registration of Greatgate grass triangle as a Village Green and SCC provided the following update: The land is not a village green. It is



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not registered as such and cannot be registered as a village green. The land is part of the publicly maintainable highway, a status which can only be extinguished by way of a legal order. A licence granted by the County pursuant to s96 of the Highways Act 1980. This licence, which was properly granted by the County as highway authority, permits Croxden Parish Council to carry out the activities on the land which are listed in the licence in accordance with what was agreed with the Area Surveyor at the time (as required by clause 1 of the licence). Council considered the update from SCC and RESOLVED to continue with existing arrangement. Clerk to investigate the anniversary date with the view to having a celebration.

SPCA MOTION TO NALC – UPDATE AND DISCUSS RESPONSE TO NALC.

SPCA provided Croxden PC Motion to NALC in order that NALC can lobby the Government for a national change to be made to speed limits on rural roads. 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: It could be implemented nationally with a simple administrative change by Government. A single national information campaign could be cost effectively run to communicate the benefits of the change to all road users no changes to signage would be required. Croxden Parish Council would ask SPCA to consider the motion to request NALC to pursue this national change of speed limits with Central Government.

NALC provided a response outlining the 20mph is plenty scheme supported by NALC.
http://www.20splenty.org/police_enforcement

Councillors discussed the response and RESOLVED to contact NALC regarding Croxden motion for roads without central markings.

24.05.007 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE LITTER PICKING EQUIPMENT FOR CROXDEN LITTER PICKING VOLUNTEERS.

Two residents made a request for the Parish Council to provided gloves, picking stick and bags for their volunteer litter picking sessions.

Councillors considered a number of quotes and RESOLVED to purchase two litter pickers and two bag rings from Waterhaul, as made from recycled plastic. £48 plus delivery.

Clerk to investigate funding for any further equipment needs.

24.05.008 TO CONSIDER AN ANNUAL LITTER PICKING EVENT

Residents requested the Parish Council start an annual litter picking event.

Councillors RESOLVED to hold the first one on Sunday 8th September 2024 – 10am – Noon and Clerk to borrow the litter picking equipment from the Globe Eco Centre, Uttoxeter.

Refreshments will be provided after the event in St Giles Church, Croxden.

24.05.009 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND RECEIVE PLANNING DECISIONS:

NEW

P/2023/01337 - Jeffrey Meadows Farm Nabb Lane Alton Staffordshire ST10 4AY - Partial demolition and conversion and alterations of existing agricultural building to form two



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dwelling houses.

P/2024/00388 - Newlands Barn Uttoxeter Road Beamhurst Uttoxeter Staffordshire ST14 5EA
- Erection of a detached timber cabin to side. Council has no comment

DECISIONS

P/2024/00049 - Holly Bank, Alton Lane, Greatgate, Staffordshire, ST10 4HF - Heavily reduce the canopy to a semi-pollard of up to 8m one Sweet Chestnut tree. (T1 of TPO 453) -
GRANTS

24.05.0010 TO RECEIVE ORAL REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLOR - NONE

24.05.0011 FINANCE – TO CONSIDER & AUTHORISE PAYMENTS OF LIST BELOW AND RECEIVE FINANCE UPDATES

Internal Auditor – consider and approve Toplis Associates for 2024-2025 – **RESOLVED**

Council Administration – to continue to pay via Standing Order - **RESOLVED**

Lloyds Debit card arrived 28.03.2024

Lloyds internet banking re-established for Clerk– April 2024

Lloyds Bank – **RESOLVED** to add Cllr Bean to internet banking access.

Old Laptop – **RESOLVED** for Marchington IT to remove all info and **RESOLVED** to donate to a school project.

HP Printer ink – added Debit Card for April payment. **RESOLVED**

Precept – first instalment received 19.04.2024

VAT 126 Refund – to be submitted on 10.05.2024

Ref/Cheque/DC/SO	Item	Amount
59/227	ASUS Vivobook Laptop	£319.99 (inc £53.33 VAT)
58/226	SLCC annual membership	£112
New Financial Year 2024-2025		
1/DC	Post Office – Lloyds Forms	£3.80
2/DC	Newton Flags – D Day Flag	£28.80
3/DC	HMRC	£58.64
3a/SO	Homeworking allowance – Clerk	£7
4/301	Zurich Insurance 2024-2025	£334.38 (inc IPT £35.82)
5/302	HP Printer ink – 27th March/27th April – refund Clerk	£5.49 (inc £0.92 VAT)
6/303	Post Office – Lloyds Forms – refund Clerk	£4.20
RECEIVED AFTER AGENDA ISSUED		
7/so	Council Admin – April	£272.42
8/304	Staffordshire Parish Council Association – Annual Subs	£108
9/305	Toplis Associates Ltd – Internal Audit 2023-2024	£260.52 (inc £43.42 VAT)
10/dc	HP Printer Ink – 27 th April/27 May	£5.49 (inc £0.92 VAT)



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11/dd	ICO – Annual Subscription	£35
12/306	St Giles Church – Annual Meeting room rent	£130
13/307	Bradleys Payroll Invoice 2023-2024	£144 (inc £24 VAT)
14/308	SJL Landscaping – Grass Cutting	£61.62 (inc £10.27 VAT)
15/309	Mr Brandrick – Community Walk donation	£20
RECEIVED		
1	ESBC Precept – first instalment	£4257
2	Lloyds interest	£2.15
BANK STATEMENTS		
Lloyds Current account	03.05.2024	£3,805.38
Lloyds online deposit	09.04.2024	£1,013.58

24.05.0012 CORRESPONDENCE

Road Closure – 5th April 2024 - Nabb Lane in Greatgate for approximately 194m south of property called Thorneyfields. Work to be completed in one day. https://api-gb.one.network/downloads/tm/1118/rg_road-closure-ttro-second-notice-new_137258322_3680559_ffdd291b23.pdf

Staffordshire County Council Strategic Plan for 2024-25 sets out the council's key priority activities and focus for this financial and performance year. <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Your-council-and-democracy/Policies-and-plans/Strategic-Plan.aspx>

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Election, for the Staffordshire Police Area - Notice of Election and the Notice of Election Addresses for the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner Election to be held on Thursday 2 May 2024.

REACH is an 'Innovation project' from National Grid looking at how rural areas can accelerate their decarbonisation plans where the network capacity might be limited in their area. We are looking for rural community groups such as parish, town and district councils that might be interested in taking part. This initial phase is just about exploring the concept and understanding the ambitions of rural communities. www.regen.co.uk

SPCA well being information provided to Council - [Health & Wellbeing – Staffordshire Parish Councils Association \(spcaonline.org.uk\)](http://Health & Wellbeing – Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (spcaonline.org.uk))

Government Briefing - Delivering rural opportunity: Third rural proofing report setting out how the government supports rural business and communities. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/delivering-rural-opportunity>

Stramshall Footpath – resident contacted Council able a footpath in Stramshall, Clerk provided the contact details for Uttoxeter Rural Parish Council.

Parish Council's 50 year anniversary – Croxden PC came into existence in 1974, following the introduction of the Local Government Act 1972 and the significant local government restructuring that followed. A logo to celebrate the anniversary has been produced by the



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Society of Local Council Clerks. See news area on website.

Staffordshire County Council Community Fund – details provided to Parish Council and put in news area <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Your-council-and-democracy/Members/County-Councillors-Fund/County-Councillors-Fund.aspx>

Alton Towers – email stating they are looking to visit your parishes and chat to you within the area to further strengthen our relationship with the Parish. Councillors discussed email and RESOLVED to reply to Alton Towers that Croxden PC would prefer to continue the existing arrangement of the Working Group, which is a meeting between Alton Towers and all neighbouring parish councils in order to retain a common voice from the Parishes to Alton Towers. RESOLVED to send an email to all neighbouring parishes with the Councils decision and propose a working group meeting as soon as possible, as the last meeting was held in 2023.

24.05.0013 CLERK REPORT

Newsletter – first one sent after March meeting.

New Laptop – Marchington IT advised to purchase an Asus laptop.

Internal Auditor – Toplis Associates Ltd – completed internal audit

Highways Log – issued reported to SCC and log updated 22.04.2024

Alton PC email to re: signage on Bradley Bank damage – 22.04.2024

Freedom of Information request to SCC for the total number of Local Community who requested the speed reduction in Rocester. 29.04.2024

SJL Landscapes – grass cutting contract ended. Council to consider two quotes for a new contract in July 2024 meeting.

24.05.0014 COUNCILLORS REPORTS (information only)

Cllr Hemingway attended St Giles Coffee Morning and Council have discussed residents requests re: Litter in this meeting.

Cllr James requested Clerk to investigate a Local Hero Award and bring details to July 2024 meeting.

Cllr Bean requested Clerk to investigate funding for stile repairs. Cllr Bean highlighted a stile for repair but in September, as hedge work needed.

24.05.0015 Staffing Matters – Staffordshire Pension Scheme.

PUBLIC EXCLUDED (Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960).

Councillors reviewed the Staffordshire Pension Scheme and financial contributions for the Clerk to join the scheme and RESOLVED for Clerk to be registered for the scheme via Bradleys Payroll, starting in June 2024.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The Next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th July 2024 at 7pm. The meeting was formally closed at 8.30pm . Signed.....