



Croxden Parish Council Meeting Minutes
www.croxdenparishcouncil.co.uk

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 2024, at the Abbey Room, St Giles Church, Croxden ST14 5JG The meeting commenced at 7pm.

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

- 24.03.001 APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES – Cllr Sankey (ESBC)
- 24.03.002 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS. - NONE
- 24.03.003 TO RESOLVE THAT THE MINUTES OF PARISH MEETING HELD ON 10th January 2024 ARE A CORRECT RECORD. - RESOLVED
- 24.03.004 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ABOUT PROGRESS OF RESOLUTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

BEAMHURST – A522 – SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION – SCC and Kate Kniveton MP - UPDATE

Clerk provided a 32-page document to Kate Kniveton MP. The document contained all contact between SCC and Parish Council/Residents in regards to the request for a speed limit reduction in Beamhurst and asked Kate Kniveton to pass to Department of Transport for their input - 01.03.2024.

Kate Kniveton MP advised she would have an update for the May 2024 meeting.

NEW WEBSITE – UPDATE

The new website launched on 9th February 2024 – new site www.croxdenparishcouncil.co.uk
New community groups to be considered. RESOLVED for clerk to investigate further groups.

PARISH COMMUNITY WALK and ART EXHIBITION– CONFIRM ARRANGEMENTS

Councillors discussed date for walk and RESOLVED to delay walk until 7th May 2024 and to be an early evening walk at 6pm starting at Wood Farm, Greatgate.

RESOLVED to ask Ian Ecclestone, a Plein-air artist, to exhibit his paintings of Croxden Abbey for residents to view before/after the walk in the barn at Wood Farm.

Refreshments will be provided.

FOOTPATH MAP – UPDATE

Council RESOLVED to create a template for the May meeting.

PARISH FLOODING – DISCUSS

Councillors discussed the flooding in the parish, namely Hollington Road, Spond Bank, Keelings Lane, Watery Lane and RESOLVED to use the SCC Flood report website to ensure that SCC are aware of the issues.

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Highways/flooding/Highway-drains.aspx>



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NEW NEWSLETTER – UPDATE

A letter was sent by royal mail to all residents of the parish announcing the newsletter and providing the subscription email address croxenpcnewsletter@gmail.com
26 subscriptions received and RESOLVED for Cllr Hemingway to produce newsletter for both electronic version and parish magazine version after each bi monthly meeting. RESOLVED for clerk to send to all subscribers bi monthly.

SPCA MOTION – REDUCE NATIONAL SPEED LIMIT ON NARROW LANES.

SPCA held an executive meeting on 10th March 2024, Clerk attended via Teams and the executive voted to support the motion and request NALC to work with the Government on the motion. See Appendix A for full motion.

D- DAY EVENT – 6TH JUNE 2024 – CONFIRM ARRANGEMENTS FOR EVENT.

Councillors discussed the event and RESOLVED to purchase a 5ft x 3ft D-day 80 year flag from <https://newtonnewtonflags.com/product/the-d-day-80-flag-of-peace/>
Councillors RESOLVED to hold the 6th June 2024 beacon ceremony at Wood Farm, Greatgate at 9.15pm.

Councillors RESOLVED to provide an exhibition area in the barn and invite residents with memorabilia to exhibit them. Council RESOLVED for Refreshments to be provided.

24.03.005 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE GENERAL RESERVES POLICY
Council RESOLVED to adopt the policy.

24.03.006 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE CROXDEN GENERAL RESERVES FOR PARISH COUNCIL
Council discussed the 6 months funds for general reserves - £2,179 and RESOLVED to adopt.
Council RESOLVED to keep general reserves in savings account.

24.03.007 TO CONFIRM 2024-2025 COUNCIL CONTRACT DETAILS
Council confirmed the Contract values RESOLVED in Budget 2024-2025 (11th November 2023 Meeting)
SJL Landscapes – annual grass cutting - £490
Toplis Associates – Internal Audit - £169
Staffordshire County Council – website and domain name - £160
Bradleys Ltd – Payroll Bureau - £90
Zurich – Council Insurance - £400

24.03.008 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE 2023-2024 BUDGET AGAINST ACTUAL SPEND AND CONFIRM VIREMENT/EARMARK FUNDS
Council discussed the underspend of £840 and RESOLVED to earmark £399 to purchase a new laptop from HP Computers.
Council RESOLVED for old laptop to be de-commissioned and then donated to a local school.



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24.03.009 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE APPLICATION FOR LLOYDS BANK DEBIT CARD

Clerk currently pays for a number of items on her credit card. Council RESOLVED to apply for a Debit Card, so payments can be made by Council Debit card.
Council RESOLVED for Chair and Clerk to sign application form.

24.03.0010 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND RECEIVE PLANNING DECISIONS:
NEW

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).
Comment added 07.02.2024: Croxden Parish Council are aware this tree has a TPO granted. The Council feels that as long as all work conforms with the TPO the Council has no further comment.

DECISIONS

Tree Preservation Order No. 453 – Holly Bank, Alton Lane, Greatgate, Staffordshire, ST10 - 4HF – GRANTED

P/2023/01284 - 3 Croxden Cottages, Croxden Lane, Croxden, Staffordshire, ST14 5FE - PERMITS

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 - REFUSES

24.03.0011 TO RECEIVE ORAL REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLOR - NONE

24.03.0012 FINANCE – TO CONSIDER & AUTHORISE PAYMENTS OF LIST BELOW

Bradleys advised that back pay to clerk, paid in January meeting, should have had tax deducted, Clerk refunded to Parish Council £30.40. Bradley advised £9.40 HMRC payment needed.

Newsletter and website payments made between meetings – 07.02.2024

Homeworking allowance standing order for monthly £7 instead of cheque – RESOLVED

Internal Audit to take place on 11th April 2024 by Toplis Associates Ltd.

| Ref/Cheque | Item | Amount |
|------------|--|---------|
| 48a/so | Council Administration - January | £272.42 |
| 49/219 | Newsletter postage – refund clerk | £77.25 |
| 50/220 | Newsletter printing and enveloping – refund clerk | £70 |
| 51/221 | Webmaster Gift Voucher – Refund Clerk | £50 |
| 52/222 | Website domain name and Annual hosting – Staffordshire County Council – refund Clerk | £157.95 |
| 53/SO | Council Administration - February | £272.42 |



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| | | |
|----------|---|---------------------|
| 54/so | Council Administration - March | £272.42 |
| 55/223 | Kaspersky Anti-Virus – Annual Subscription – refund Clerk | £47.99 (inc £8 VAT) |
| 56/224 | HP Instant Ink – monthly – refund Clerk | £5.49 |
| 57/225 | Homeworking allowance £7 for Feb and March plus postage | £21.35 |
| Received | | |
| 8 | HMRC payment | £9.40 |
| 9 | Backpay refund to Council from Clerk due to tax requirement | £30.40 |
| | | |

Bank Reconciliations

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|----------|
| Reconciliation at 30.01.2024 | | | | | |
| <u>Receipts and payments</u> | | | | | |
| a. Opening balance 1st April 2023 | | | | | 2,010.09 |
| b. Total receipts | | | | | 6,773.53 |
| c. Total payments | | | | | 7,424.47 |
| d. Surplus/(Deficit) in the year (b-c) | | | | | -650.94 |
| e. Closing balance (a+d) | | | | | 1,359.15 |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|--|----------|------------|
| <u>Bank accounts</u> | - | | | | date |
| Lloyds Current account | | | | 1,457.90 | 30.01.2024 |
| Lloyds Deposit | | | | 1,008.12 | 09.11.2023 |
| | | | | 2,466.02 | |
| Add: unrepresented income | | | | 0.00 | |
| Less: unrepresented cheques | | | | 1,106.87 | |
| | | | | 1,359.15 | |



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24.03.0013 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION* - NONE

24.03.0014 CORRESPONDENCE

SPCA update – Chief executive resigned on 19.01.2024, acting Chief Executive appointed
Public procurement legal update from SPCA– 19.04.2024

S137 The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has notified the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), that the appropriate sum for section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for local (parish and town) councils in England for 2024/25 is **£10.81**. The amount is a result of increasing the amount of £9.93 for 2023/24 by the percentage increase in the retail index between September 2022 and September 2023 under Schedule 12B to the 1972 Act.

King Charles III – Portrait - The UK Government is pleased to offer this portrait to commemorate the accession of His Majesty King Charles III. Council discussed but no suitable location for the portrait.

Ukraine Refugee scheme – update from Government – 26.02.2024

Storm Henk Flooding - Impacted residents and businesses need to fill out this short online form before 8 March 2024. They can access this form via this link

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/StormHenk - 26.02.2024

D-Day event organisers sent details of D- Day flag -

<https://newtonnewtonflags.com/product/the-d-day-80-flag-of-peace/>

Call for Sites – Land Consultation - East Staffordshire Borough Council (ESBC) are advising all those on our planning policy consultation database of the ability to submit sites to the Council for consideration for a list of land uses. Further details on ESBC website using the link: <https://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/planning-policy-consultations>

You can amend or delete your details from the planning policy consultation database at any time by contacting planningpolicy@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

Denstone Neighbourhood Plan – update from ESBC - East Staffordshire Borough Council (with agreement of Denstone Parish Council) appointed Christopher Collison to examine the Updated Denstone Neighbourhood Plan. The Examiner conducted the examination through consideration of written representations. The Examiner's Report – available at <https://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/denstone-neighbourhood-plan> - has concluded that the Updated Neighbourhood Plan, subject to recommended modifications, meets the Basic Conditions and should proceed to referendum. East Staffordshire Borough Council is now required to decide what action to take in response to each recommendation made by the Examiner and decide whether to send the Updated Neighbourhood Plan to referendum. Following consideration by the ESBC Council a copy of the Decision Statement will be published on the above webpage.

24.03.0015 CLERK REPORT

Highways – Combridge Lane ST14 5JA – flooding due to blocked grid reported to SCC – Ref: 4364068 – on 22.01.2024



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Kate Kniveton MP – Clerk invited to March Meeting.

Printer donated to Globe Foundation, Uttoxeter. 12.01.2024

Art Exhibition – Clerk invited artist to set up painting for the Community Walk – 26.01.2024

D.Sargeant (webmaster) – Thank you letter and gift voucher sent 05.02.2024

St Giles Church – booked room for Community Event – 27th April 2024

Flooding, Hollington Lane – Clerk not yet contacted landowner

Greatgate Village Green registration – Clerk sent email to land charges at SCC 11.03.2024, auto reply advised 30 days to reply.

Highways Log – clerk to update

Hollington Road, Rocester, Speed Limit - Freedom of Information – SCC schedule for proposed 40mph in Rocester – Clerk received a response from SCC giving information about the Rocester 40mph speed limit reduction. Chair requested a further submission and submitted the following to SCC: Croxden Parish Council would like a further Freedom of Information request in regards to the paragraph at the bottom of the “**Statement of Reason**” document that was provided. Croxden Parish Council would like to be provided with the total number of “local community” that made the request for the change of speed limit. Clerk received an update from SCC - Representations have been made previously by Croxden Parish Council regarding wishes for the Speed Limit to be reduced within the area of the parish, along Hollington Road. This has been considered in conjunction with the County Councillor for the area, Philip Atkins, under the Divisional Highways Programme. The matter was considered on the 7th September 2023. Using available data and information the application was declined. Although this application related to Hollington Lane in the area of Croxden, this area cannot be considered to be part of the FOI request in relation to Hollington Lane at JCB Golf Club. Public representations regarding speed at this location may be made via reporting system. Records have been examined on this system and no reports relating to speed have been found.

Council discussed the SCC response and RESOLVED to send a further Freedom of Information request.

Hollington Road, Croxden – Speed limit reduction – to be added onto May Agenda.

24.03.0016 COUNCILLORS REPORTS (information only)

Council requested Clerk to report the following potholes to SCC.

Greatgate Ford, Spond Bank Farm pothole and manhole cover collapsed, plus large potholes in all pull ins on Alton Lane from Wood Farm to Spond Farm.

Clerk to report to Alton PC that signage on Bradley Bank has been damaged.

Cllr Hemingway will attend Coffee morning at St Giles to represent the Council.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The Next Parish Council is the Annual meeting to be held on 8th MAY 2024 at 7pm.

The meeting was formally closed at 20.48

Signed.....



Appendix A

SPCA Motion (24.03.004)

“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 to 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 60 mph 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 are 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: 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.”