

DRAFT MINUTES

Cranford Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Cranford Parish Council held at Cranford Memorial Hall on Thursday 26th January 2023

Present: Cllr S Pickard (Chairman), Cllr A Gorton (Vice-Chair), Cllr F Gallagher, Cllr T Martin
Pat Bird (Clerk)

22/084 Apologies were received from Cllr I Jones (work commitment). These apologies were approved.

22/085 It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 24th November 2022 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

22/086 Matters arising

22/055 – A breakdown of the Clerk's administration costs is to be presented next week to Grafton Underwood Parish Council for approval for payment as its contribution to Cranford Parish Council towards the Clerk's administration costs covering the laptop, printer, mobile phone, computer software licences, consumables, training, and memberships.

22/057 – A response has been received from Troy Healy, Principal Planning Manager, North Northamptonshire Council. Mr Healy wishes to assure the Parish Council that NNC is making consistent decisions, in terms of planning policies, when it has the power to do so. Mr Healy stated that in situations where planning permission is not required, as in the case of the rebuilding of the wall in St Andrews Lane, the authority does not have the ability to require that works are undertaken in a specific fashion or using particular materials. Mr Healy also offered to attend a Parish Council meeting, via a video link, if required to answer any technical questions

22/076 – The Clerk hoped to have the Unity Corporate MultiPay Card set up in time for the new financial year.

22/081 – The Clerk reminded the Councillors to let the Clerk know of any relevant training they wish to undertake.

22/087 Cllr S Pickard declared an interest in Agenda item 22/094, specifically planning application NK/2022/0796 for 21 St Andrews Lane. No other interests were declared.

Public participation

22/088 A resident has raised an issue with multiple instances of dog poo bags being left on the high level footpath near the bin. The Parish Council previously approved moving this bin and asked the Clerk to progress this.

22/089 Cllr M Rowley and Cllr E Prentice, both NNC Ward Councillors representing Cranford had sent their apologies as they were required to attend the Council meeting at North Northamptonshire Council. Both asked to let them know of any issues that they could help with.

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Governance Matters

- 22/090** It was **RESOLVED** that the Model Standing Orders 2018 (England) – Updated April 2022 which had been issued by the National Association of Local Councils and amended by the Clerk to suit the needs of the Parish Council be adopted.

Finance Matters

- 22/091** It was **RESOLVED** that the Cash Book as at 31st December and the Budget Spend as at 31st December be noted.
- It was accepted that some of the projects, e.g. the replacing of three stiles with kissing gates, and the improvements to the footpaths between Cranford and Hanwood Park, had not progressed as originally planned so there was more money left in the budget than anticipated. However, these projects would continue alongside the Cranford Maintenance Programme so money will soon start to be spent to improve the village.
- Further options may also be explored with regards to traffic management along the High Street
- 22/092** Cllr S Holford was unable to attend the meeting so the report from the Internal Control Councillor was deferred until the Parish Council meeting in March.
- 22/093** It was **RESOLVED** that the Finance Report as at 25th January 2023 be noted and that the Schedule of Payments, as listed below, be approved

Approved Schedule of Payments			
Payee	Description	Amount (£)	Legislation
PM Bird (Clerk)	January Salary	316.99	Local Government Act 1972 s.112
PM Bird (Clerk)	Reimbursement for printer toner cartridge	42.21	Local Government Act 1972 s.111
PM Bird (Clerk)	February Salary	316.99	Local Government Act 1972 s.112
NCALC Invoice 2624	Training Courses	105.60	Local Government Act 1972 s.111

Planning Matters

- 22/094** Cllr A Gorton took the role of Chair for this particular planning application.
- Following consideration of Planning Application [NK/2022/0796](#) for alterations to the original approved application for single storey rear and side extension (KET/2020/0634) at 21 St Andrews Lane, Cranford NN14 4AQ, it was **RESOLVED** that no objections be raised by the Parish Council to this application

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Following consideration of Planning Application [NK/2022/0801](#) for the construction of a new agricultural building and installation of silage clamp roof at Home Farm, Duck End, Cranford, NN14 4AD, it was **RESOLVED** that no objections be raised by the Parish Council to this application

Following consideration of Planning Application [NK/2023/0005](#) for a new permanent agricultural workers dwelling with associated works and parking at Stone Acre Farm, Grafton Road, Cranford NN14 4JE, it was **RESOLVED** to support this application and also add its support of the land management on this site

Electoral Matters

- 22/095** Following consideration of The Local Government Boundary Commission for England's consultation on ward boundaries for North Northamptonshire, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk prepare a response to this consultation, taking into account the previous change affecting Cranford's boundary, and circulate to the Councillors for any comments before submitting this to The Local Government Boundary Commission.

Project Updates

- 22/096** The Clerk reported that ten maintenance tasks along Grafton Road had been shared with residents via Cranford Community News. 4 residents responded positively, and the Clerk is arranging a drop in session at the Memorial Hall for 2nd February to gauge any further community interest. Some tasks could be completed before the end of March and the Clerk recommended that delegation be given to the Clerk to approve any quotes and payments subject to the approval of the Chairman and within the agreed budget.
It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk's recommendation be accepted.
- 22/097** Cllr Gallagher reported that the batteries in the speed signs are changed weekly / fortnightly. He has been unable to download the data as yet but hopes this will be done soon. Cllr Gallagher expressed concern that the majority of vehicles travelling down Rectory Hill do not appear to be slowing down when they reach the speed sign. The downloaded data will prove the issues with speeding vehicles in Cranford.
It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk supports Cllr Gallagher with this project, by helping to find out how to download the data, ensuring that the risk assessment is appropriate, and asking the Safer Roads team if the Police speed checking vehicle which appears in Finedon quite often, could come to Cranford.
- 22/098** Cllr Gorton reported that following research into a solution that would help those with a hearing impairment to fully participate in Parish Council meetings and meetings with two suppliers and a demonstration in the Memorial Hall Cllr Gorton has identified a preferred solution.
The preferred solution is a portable assistive listening system and consists of an infra-red transmitter; receivers; and a gooseneck microphone which will be placed on the table with all Parish Councillors having access to this. The cost of the preferred solution is approximately £1500. Cllr Gorton recommended that the solution is purchased that we can prove works before upgrading, if required, for example moving from using normal AA alkaline batteries to buying a charger and rechargeable batteries, upgrading the microphone to a single microphone which could be used by the person speaking, and adding a carry case.

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Cllr Gorton also recommended to have the solution in place before the next Parish Council meeting on 23rd March.

It was **RESOLVED** that the portable assistive listening system be purchased and installed before the next Parish Council meeting and that Cllr Bradley be asked to attend the meeting. The Clerk to contact Cllr Rowley to see if he was able to contribute towards this from his Member Empowerment Fund. Also, representatives from the Village Hall Committee and WI be invited to the meeting to trial the assistive listening system as whilst it enables the Parish Council to meet its duty under the Equality Act, its real value is that it can be used to benefit other members of the community.

Other Matters

- 22/099** a) The Chairman shared the sad news of the death of Peter Quincey, a former Clerk to Cranford Parish Council. As someone who had served on the Parish Council with Peter, the Chairman added that Peter's contribution to the Parish Council had been fundamental in helping Cranford Parish Council establish its administration processes and that this should be acknowledged.
- b) The Chairman mentioned the planting 3 Oak trees, as discussed at the Parish Council meeting in September, i.e. one to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, one to remember Queen Elizabeth II and one to mark the new King.
- Now with the Coronation of King Charles III scheduled for 6th May it was **RESOLVED** that the 3 Royal Oaks be planted, with Autumn being the preferred time; and that the location of these trees be considered at a future meeting.
- c) The Chairman stated that both Cllr Jones and Cllr Bradley have been absent from Parish Council meetings for personal reasons. Cllr Jones has contacted the Clerk stating that they would be returning to attending Parish Council meetings. Once the assistive listening system was installed and working it was hoped that Cllr Bradley would be able to return to attending Parish Council meetings also.
- 22/100** The Clerk shared that:
- a) The Clerk is currently working through the portfolio for the CiLCA course and is hoping to complete this by the end of March 2023
- b) The door on the notice board on The Green is extremely difficult to open so the Clerk has contacted the supplier and they are due to investigate an remedy the situation in the next week or so
- c) The Clerk has been contacted by a representative of Hanwood Park, asking if they could attend a Parish Council meeting to give an update. With Cllr Gorton struggling to find someone from Hanwood Park to continue discussions regarding the required improvements to the footpaths between Cranford and Hanwood Park, the Clerk forwarded the previous communications between the Parish Council and Hanwood Park. A meeting is being arranged between the Clerk, Cllr Gorton and a representative of Hanwood Park with a view to progressing the footpath improvements.
- 22/101** The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is on Thursday 23rd March 2023 with an Agenda item being extra speed cameras / traffic calming measures.
- 22/102** The meeting closed at 20:15

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