

## **A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 via Zoom at 7.30pm.**

Due to Government ending remote meeting legislation on 7th May, this meeting was originally scheduled for 19th May, but was brought forward in order for it to be held remotely.

**Minutes:** The March and AGM minutes were approved and will be signed as soon as is practicable.

**Apologies:** Mr Brown - unavailable.

**Present:** Mrs Slator, Mr Barnes, Mr Sole, Mr Wheeler, Ms Newland, Mr Wenman, Cllr Kindersley, one member of the public and the Clerk.

**Election of Officers:** Mrs Slator indicated that she was willing to stand for election to Chair for one more year only. There were no other candidates, so Mrs Slator was proposed for the office of Chair by Mr Sole and seconded by Ms Newland. All were in favour.

Mr Barnes was prepared to stand for the office of Vice Chair for another year and indicated that he was not willing to become Chair at the next round of elections. He was proposed by Mr Sole and seconded by Mr Wenman for this office. All were in favour.

**Declarations of Interest:** None received.

**Members Interest Forms:** Councillors were reminded that any changes to the forms must be notified to the Clerk who will pass them to the Monitoring Officer at SCDC. Councillors were requested to check their own copies as the Clerk's paper copies could not be circulated to the meeting.

### **Matters Arising:**

**Community Group:** The First Tuesday Group met on 4th May and discussions on the design continued. Three members have undertaken to produce trial designs for the next meeting and various other enquiries regarding price, grants available and proper graphic design are also being made. There was an update on the work being undertaken in the churchyard in order to obtain a Bronze award. The ladies involved have a mowing schedule which has to be adhered to, but would appreciate any offers of help with the mowing and clearing the cuttings. The next meeting is on 1st June.

**Litter Pick:** The revised date for the litter pick was 1st May. There was a good turnout and 25 bags of rubbish were collected. Thank you to everyone involved for giving up their time to help with this. The Clerk intends to try and place a report into the Crow, and Councillors were in agreement. The article would be circulated before it is sent in.

**Housing Needs:** No further information, but apparently still ongoing.

**Defibrillator:** The electrician has given an installation date of 13-14 May. Final preparations will be made after this.

**Website Update:** The website launch has had to be postponed as there is some sort of internal problem with the way it is displaying on the web. The Chair and Mr Wheeler had a brief technological discussion and Mr Wheeler has offered to help in any way he can. The website developer is looking into the problem.

**GRT Training and Workshop:** Both the Chair and the Clerk completed the training and were able to attend the workshop. The Training was felt to be informative and useful, but the workshop was not as useful. The next steps are to discuss how, as a parish would prepare for an authorised encampment (see below) and manage community communications surrounding these.

From the training:- **What is an Unauthorised Encampment?**

- The arrival of a group of people, normally a family or group of families, on land where they do not necessarily have direct permission from the landowner to stop.
- The word 'unauthorised' does not necessarily mean that the presence of the group is illegal.
- An unauthorised encampment is not to be confused with a 'Transit Site'. Transit sites are permanent sites specifically designed and provided for families that are 'on the road'. A local authority will need to apply for Planning Permission to build a transit site. This is a separate issue.

**Prince Philip:** Condolences on behalf of the village were sent to the online book.

**Cloud Storage:** Mrs Slator has been looking into the possibility of cloud storage for Council and individual email addresses for Councillors' and Clerk's use. A gmail account for each Councillor may be too expensive. Mrs Slator is finding out what the new website hosting could offer.

**Community Benefit Fund:** Councillors agreed that no further amendments were needed to the Community Benefit Fund Criteria. Clerk will update the stored copy.

**Clopton Sign:** Mr Wheeler asked when the sign was likely to be put back. Clerk responded that the weather played a big part in this - first it was too wet to get on the ground and now too dry to get the stakes in. Hopefully there will be enough rain to get the ground soft enough before too long.

#### **Correspondence:**

**Electoral Register:** Nothing notified.

**Micro-Asphalt update:** Another notification of the proposed timetable for the resurfacing of roads in the area. Micro asphalt is a form of road surfacing used in highway preservation. It is made up of a mixture of aggregates and bitumen emulsions and acts as a replacement for hot asphalt, with the advantage of being laid thinner and cold, avoiding disruption to roads that major road works would cause. The prescribed dates are issued as a guide and are subject to change as the process is weather dependent.

**East-West Rail:** The website is offering a virtual tour, and a live chat is also available.

**Cambs Rural Fund:** Council is looking into a joint application for WiFi for the Reading Room, because in future, planning applications will need to be displayed from an online source. Clerk has some paperwork, which she will send to Mrs Slator, but a quotation from a supplier is needed from the Reading Room before this can be progressed.

Councillors were keen to know how the Reading Room would be prepared for the June meeting. Not all Councillors were comfortable with attending an open meeting and would have preferred the Zoom meetings could continue for a further few months. Clerk will ask Cllr Williams for advice and The Clerk will contact The Trustees to ask what preparation will be done before the Room opens for public meetings again.

**Remote Meetings Evidence:** The Government is holding a consultation regarding the continuation of remote meetings in England. Mrs Slator circulated the questions for comments and the Clerk will now send the results in to the consultation. Remote meetings are apparently already authorised in both Wales and Scotland.

The Clerk was asked to check with the Reading Room Trustees that the Room will have been cleaned

**ZCC Grants:** The next round of applications will shortly be closed. Some of the information being received is not very clear, especially about a forthcoming meeting.

**Incident in the village:** Some cattle had escaped from their field and entered a private garden, causing a considerable amount of damage. Improvements were reported to have been made to the fence and an offer to make further investigation into the rights of both landowners and residents was accepted by Council.

**Subsequent receipts:** Were circulated to Councillors.

#### **County Cllr Kindersley gave a verbal report to the meeting:-**

**East-West Rail:** Cllr Kindersley is still fighting for a change in the proposed route, which seems to be favoured by everyone except East-West Rail.

**South Cambs Action Group:** Cllr Kindersley is also involved in the group fighting to stop the sprawling Thakeham development on an undefined area of land around Barrington, Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth, Foxton, Meldreth, Orwell, Shepreth, Whaddon and Wimpole, which if it goes ahead, would impact on Croydon. There is no local support at all for this, and although all the right noises have been made by those in Government stating that the plans would have to go through the normal planning channels, Cllr Kindersley is very cynical. Surveyors from Thakeham are already out in the villages concerned.

**Elections:** Cllr Kindersley is standing for election on 6th May. He hoped he would be returned, but if this is not the case he thanked Council for having him and assured them that he would still battle on with the above two issues.

As Cllr Kindersley had other meetings to attend, he was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

**Finance:**

**Bank Statement:** Nothing received.

**Payments:** The following were presented for payment:-

Reading Room rental	£143 - 00	
Website	£200 - 00	(for old website upkeep - approved in Jan 2021)
Churchyard maintenance	£500 - 00	
Clerk's salary	£1210 - 00	
plus:-		
IT allowance	£25 - 00	
Petty Cash	£12 - 45	
Zoom subscriptions	£115 - 12	

A new insurance provider is being considered. It was agreed that the cheque for the insurance should be put on hold until the new quotation was received and circulated, for comparison to the current provider.

This was all proposed by Mr Barnes and seconded by Ms Newland. All were in favour. Clerk will obtain signatures as soon as practicable, and distribute the cheques.

**Items for next agenda:** Reading Room Covid clean before opening.

**Date of the next meeting:** Wednesday 16th June 2021 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm

As there was no further business, Councillors and public were thanked for attending and the meeting was declared closed at 8.39pm.

Signed ..... Date .....