

CHURCH CROOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Full Council Meeting

Init: _____

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Church Crookham Parish Council

Date and Time: Monday 24th March 2025 from 7.45pm

Place: Acorn Hall, Church Crookham Community Centre

Present:

Councillors: Gareth Saunders (GS) Chair, Kate Stewart (KS), Annette Whibley (AW), Debbie Moss (DM), Michael Burford (MB), Gill Thomas (GT), Nick Baskett (NB), Bruce Bulgin (BB).

Also: Claire Inglis (Clerk), Sam Rowe (Deputy Clerk)

HCC Cllr Parker

HCC Cllr Forster

There were 3 member(s) of the public present.

Meeting commenced at 7.47pm

25/059	Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllr Ford and Cllr Jones Also HDC Cllr Axam
25/060	To approve minutes of previous meetings To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the Full Council Meeting 24th February 2025 To receive the minutes, approve and accept recommendations of the following committee meetings and to return to committees any issues for reconsideration: Planning Committee Meetings - February 24th, March 10th The minutes as listed were approved as a correct record of the meetings held Proposed GS, seconded MB, all in favour
25/061	Dispensations To receive any written requests for disclosable pecuniary interest dispensations from members None
25/062	Declaration of interest relating to any item on the agenda. Cllr Stewart in relation to the Grant application from Fleet Spurs Football Club
25/063	Chairman's Announcements Chair thanked the Clerk and staff team for recent endeavours including new look newsletter. Reminder that Mens Shed invitation to join them on 3rd April to see result of the grant funding in operation. HDAPTC meeting due to be held evening of 3rd April at Harehill.

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25/064	Public session This is an opportunity for members of the public to bring matters relating to items on the agenda to the attention of the committee. County Council report from Cllr Parker was received. County Cllr Forster spoke on the outcome of school places allocation for the upcoming school year. All in-catchment applications received on time were allocated their have got their places at Calthorpe and Court Moor. In addition, some 80 out of catchment places have also been allocated. The birth rate is also known to have dropped so in the early years and primary there is likely to be a reduction in class sizes and number of form entry. Hartland Village primary is still planned to be built. In terms of access to schools from Hartland a demand responsive bus may be implemented but there is also a budgeted footpath to access Kings Road with discussions with the MOD ongoing to increase the width to 3m.
25/065	Grant Applications To receive and consider approval of grant applications Following approval to increase budget in year from 16k to 20k grants YTD total 19k spend i) Music on the Views application £1,000 requested It was approved to award a grant of £1,000 Proposed KS, seconded GS, all in favour ii) Fleet Spurs Football Club boundary fence £Any amount requested It was resolved to approve a grant award of £1,000 from the 2025/26 grant budget and will therefore be paid in April. Proposed GS, seconded AW, 7 in favour, 1 abstention.
25/066	Taylor Wimpey and Crookham Park Update To receive an update on Crookham Park outstanding developer obligations A brief update was provided by Taylor Wimpey in advance of the meeting: Outdoor gym - Works are due to be finished this week. It has been agreed to retain heras fence for a couple of weeks to allow for grass to grow. Ditch works - Community event mid-May planned for the 17th. TW happy for the parish council to liaise with their appointed contactor (Frontier) and for the works to be pushed back until May 25 subject to the approval of the tree application. Legal transfer not yet undertaken of land tranche. Block work repair - junction Jubilee/ Boyce / Byrne - Works now complete. Manholes on Nugent - Price received last week, will review and instruct this week subject to price approval. Any further news on Bancums and the drop kerb issues? - No update Leipzig Road any updates on work being started here? - No further update since - holding the civils until Envero complete. South Thames commented on the Gurung Way road layout - Speed bumps can be removed.
25/067	County Council Update To receive and approve a response to the HCC Consultation

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Cllrs Saunders and Whibley provided an update following meetings attended w/e 21st March. Cllr Saunders expressed his thanks to Cllr Whibley for her efforts in summarising all the information falling out of the meetings.

"County Council update" on our proposed response to HMG (not HCC) consultation on devolution. I also include a number of questions from my notes that I have for our County Councillor(s).

For context (from HCC meetings 19/20/21 March.

"Gary" - report to Cabinet 21/3/25 re proposed response to HMG consultation

"This is not a negotiation"

Govt will "digest consultation" then lay Statutory Instruments

Mayoral election May 26

Shadow Authority until May 27

New Authority up and running from May 2027

Questions asked of County Councillors by CCPC -

Q1. Why was notice on the consultation on devolution for the region not sent out by post with council tax bills? For context, HCC Leader Nick Adams-King said (19/3) HCC would use websites, videos, social media, e-newsletters. Who is communicating with those who do not have an online presence?

Q4. Why did HCC help organise at short notice a devolution consultation event in Portsmouth (20/3) - supposedly run by HMG - and why is there not one in Hart before the consultation deadline? Is that because Portsmouth City Council have expressed some public concerns about this process?

Cllr Forster explained the timing restrictions and legal requirements for including the consultation in council tax bills and that there has been the extensive coverage in the press and the request for multiple consultations across the county.

Q2. Why did HCC Leader Adams-King state that HMG "suggested" HCC request to postpone elections from May 2025?

Q3. Why does HCC now say they are "working on the assumption we will have County Council elections in 2026" (NAK 19/3)? What happened to the certainty that the elections were only postponed for one year, and given the timeline (set out above) why should we believe there will be County Council elections when the new MCCA will be "up and running" from May 2027?

County Councillor confirmed that unless primary legislation is changed elections will go ahead in May 26.

Q5. "And ultimately, the Government will choose whichever is the one that they think is the most sustainable one and meets their criteria that they've laid out in the Devolution White Paper back in December" (NAK 21/3). Why then does the proposal feature 3 UAs that combined only just make the "target" 500k population figure, and one for the rest of the county of nearly three times that figure? The UA for Southampton effectively remaining in place - given their financial situation is that "sustainable"?

Q6. Why, in setting out the benefits to residents of the new strategic authority, did HCC (NAK briefing to stakeholders, 19/3) only put Health and well-being 7th of 8 new regional duties and powers?

County Cllr discussed the importance of parishes in the future governance and the need for a balanced approach to service delivery. Also, that there is no clear answer on what will happen to health boundaries in the future.

It was agreed for the consultation responses to be updated with the recent information and Cllr Whibley to circulate for agreement in principle and to be agreed by FORM on 7th April.

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25/068	Transport To receive an update on Transport matters It was previously discussed to purchase an additional Speed indicator device to move around the parish, so that there will more than one operating on the roads to encourage safer driving. Previous purchased SID has already been effective in alerting drivers to their speed and by providing more data than the previous model. It was agreed to understand the data that the SID can provide so that the second model purchased gives greater analysis of speeds achieved between 30mph and 40mph. Cllr Baskett agreed to work with Facilities Officer to achieve this outcome. It was resolved to research and purchase a second SID as budgeted for in 25/26 to be moved around the parish by Simone Surveys. SID from Highways EMR held. Proposed GS, seconded NB, all in favour.
25/069	Orchard To receive an update on action taken in Crookham Park orchard In discussion with Chair, it was agreed to appoint Les Davies, The Westcountryman to visit and maintain the orchard at a rate of £275 per day plus overnight hotel stay. This is the price held since his last visit in 2018. The Mens Shed have utilised some of the wood for projects within the shed. The remaining wood to be chipped by our tree surgeons for use within the allotment site to agree £250 It was resolved to approve orchard work carried out by The Westcountryman £744 and Charterhouse to chip wood for use at allotments £250 Proposed GS, seconded AW, all in favour. Les was as enthusiastic about the orchard as his previous visits and is going to write an article for our next newsletter about the orchard.
25/070	Asset Register as at 31st March 2025 To receive the Asset register reconciliation for 2024/25 and approve disposals as listed Staff carried out asset review to ensure familiarity with the assets registered on the asset register and to ensure that their locations were updated based on any changes. The asset register has been updated for changes that took place earlier in year e.g. maturing cash deposit but is supported by the "Asset register to do" schedule which has the findings of the review process. Some findings highlight updates required in relation to prior year e.g. Basketball refurb and signage. Asset register will be updated with the items as listed on the schedule. Asset register balance will be confirmed by FORMS following the approved updates. It was resolved to approve the additions and disposals as listed and approve asset register value as at 31st March £4,150,158 Proposed GS, seconded GT, all in favour.

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25/071	EMR Movements Year End 2024/25 To confirm Ear Marked Reserves as per year end actuals Initial review of accounts prior to year end conclusion indicates: S106 expenditure in year likely outturn £119k vs £108k budget having overspent on installing knee rail to protect and improve open spaces Precept outturn has improved further due to refund from Southern Electric re Azalea CCTV install and UKSPF additional funding of Access to Athletics with likely outturn prior to any additional accruals to be made £40k Full council decision following January Finance & Policy resolved to increase EMR to CCLA mitigation which would see a £46k mitigation vs current approx. shortfall of £126k on the present value of the CCLA property fund investment. The budget surplus represents the CCLA dividend received in the year utilised to reduce this deficit. It was resolved to make a £4k Sandstone plaque replacement EMR as budgeted and remaining surplus to CCLA mitigation EMR. Proposed GS, seconded GT, all in favour.
25/072	Bank mandate To confirm and approve bank mandate amendments The following bank mandate changes are presented for approval: Unity bank mandate - Remove and Replace CCO on Current account only Lloyds Credit Card linked to Unity 2 steps to update records: Step 1 Add Sam Rowe / Remove former RFO. Step 2 Cllr Chatfield to be updated to new surname Thomas. HSBC require a Safeguarding audit to be carried out - Cllrs DM and GS can be available All other mandates as required Approved Proposed GS, seconded DM, all in favour.
25/073	Policy Review To review and approve any amendments to: Anti-Fraud Corruption & Theft Policy Accessibility Statement Financial Regulations It was resolved to approve the updates to the policies as proposed Anti-Fraud , Corruption and Theft policy Accessibility Statement Financial Regulations Proposed GS, seconded NB, all in favour.
25/074	Spring Festival 2025 To receive an update and outline plan for May 17th event Councillors Whibley and Stewart confirmed that they would like to be involved in assisting organising the Spring Festival event. Working on the successful platform for the event from the past 2 years our Events Officer is looking to continue to enhance the event with more fun elements for families to enjoy a good day out. As prices and events are confirmed information will be shared with all councillors as we get nearer to the event.

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25/075	Cleaning Contract Specification To confirm and agree a specification for cleaning contract due to be placed on tender and agree a rolling contract with KMC until the tender is completed Following agreement earlier in year to review contracts the cleaning contract is due for renewal as due to expire 31st March. It was agreed to follow the timeline: New contract to commence from as soon as possible after 1st July June meeting to approve contractor appointment Interviews early June to agree to appoint contractor Last 2 weeks May working party get together to shortlist Closing date mid may for submissions Appointments to visit centre/ sites during Easter break so comm centre available Invite contractors ASAP Also approved to extend the current cleaning contract for an additional quarter whilst it is put out for competition to ensure that best value and best contract performance is achieved. CLRs to be involved DM, GS and GT. Proposed GS, seconded BB, all in favour.
25/076	Staff Committee To receive and approve recommendations from the Staff Committee meeting held 20th March It was resolved to approve the Staff Committee meeting minutes as a correct record of the meeting held and the recommendations within: Policies adopted (excluding 3 to be referred back to HALC for more information) Job title change to Community Centre & Events Officer to Community Centre, Events & Communications Officer Additional 5 hours added to Deputy Clerk & Finance Officer role from 25 to 30 hours per week Proposed DM, seconded GS, all in favour.
25/077	Quotes To receive and approve quotes for works required It was resolved to approve: i) Orchard work £744 ii) Summer Flowers £3,204 (colours oranges / yellows) iii) Artwork for 10 year Church Crookham banner logo for emails / newsletters etc £600 -800 max Red Rooster Design – asked for CC landmarks Comm centre in centre, Gurkha statue, war memorial, play parks , footy , basketball ideas iv) VE Day bench donated by The Lions Fleet Lions are not able to cover the additional £750 required for a S115 agreement as listed by HCC. Church Crookham Council will effectively take possession of the bench and look after its upkeep. v) Comm centre summer redecoration £1,050 Proposed GS, seconded NB, all in favour.

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25/078	To approve payment of accounts for March 2024 Clrs GT and BB approved payments in the month. It was resolved to approve the March finance report Proposed BB, seconded GT all in favour.
25/079	Clerks Report To receive Clerk's report and approve any actions arising The office is currently busy preparing for year end with Audit now booked for Monday 7th April. Accounts need to be fully ready by then. Clerk met with Athletics club with Portakabin who are supplying the unit for the club at the athletics track to discuss access for delivery. An emergency repair was required in the Mens urinals
25/080	To receive monthly safety reports Reports were received
25/081	External Bodies Committee reports To report on external bodies committee meetings attended and recommend any action required by the Parish Council Thanks to Clrs GS and AW for attending recent Devolution meetings and Cllr Saunders for attending the Fleet TC residents meet.
25/082	To agree dates of next meetings Upcoming meetings 2024/25 dates were agreed as follows: 14th April 7.30pm PLANNING followed by FINANCE & POLICY from 7.45pm 28th April 7.30pm PLANNING followed by FULL COUNCIL from 7.45pm WEDNESDAY 7th May Annual Residents Meeting from 7pm 12th May 7.30pm PLANNING 19th May 7.30pm ANNUAL MEETING of the FULL COUNCIL 9th June 7.30pm PLANNING 23rd June 7.30pm PLANNING followed by FULL COUNCIL 14th July 7.30pm PLANNING followed by FINANCE & POLICY from 7.45pm 28th July 7.30pm PLANNING followed by FULL COUNCIL 11th or 18th August 7.30 PLANNING if required

The meeting closed at 9.51pm

Signed:

Date: