

**Minutes of the meeting of Croxton Parish Council
Held on Wednesday 12 March 2025 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

Present: Councillors: Cllr Mandy Smith, Cllr Mark Howell, Cllr Peter Sandford.
From item 2 onwards: Cllr Paul Bayer, Cllr Gareth Lowson, Cllr Karl Parish,
Cllr Martin Sach and Cllr Linda Sach

In attendance: 9 members of the public and Mr Ben Stoehr (Locum Clerk)

1. **Election of Chairman and to receive the declaration of acceptance of office**
RESOLVED to elect Cllr Mandy Smith as Chair. (Prop MH, 2nd PS, unanimous)

Public participation on agenda items and matters of mutual interest (includes reports from County and District Councillors and representation by members of the public)

Cllr Mark Howell reported that he had spoken with the Election Department of the District Council and had been advised that the plan for handling Councillor co-options and resignations was acceptable as the District Councillors and County Councillor had been appointed as Parish Councillors, so the usual procedure did not apply.

Cllr Mandy Smith thanked the previous Chair for his work over the past years.

2. **To co-opt councillors**

Application forms received were considered.

RESOLVED to co-opt: Richard Paul Bayer, Gareth Lowson, Karl Parish, Martin Sach and Linda Sach. (Prop MH, 2nd MS, unanimous)

At 7.37 pm Cllrs Smith, Sandford and Howell resigned as Parish Councillors and Cllr Smith resigned as Chair.

Cllr Bayer was elected as Chair. (Prop MS, 2nd KP, carried with 4 in favour and 1 abstention)

Cllr Bayer signed the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office before taking his seat.

3. **Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**

- 3.1 **To receive written apologies for absence and reasons**

Apologies for absence had been received from Dick Watson (unwell).

- 3.2 **To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda**

Cllr M Sach declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Village Hall committee member.

Cllr Bayer declared a non-pecuniary interest as his wife was treasurer of the Village Hall committee.

- 3.3 **To receive and grant any written requests for dispensations**

None.

4. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 14 August 2024 are not available.

The Parish Council confirmed that it was happy for the District Councillors and County Councillor to speak during the meeting.

5. **Arrangements for Clerking**

RESOLVED to proceed with Ben Stoehr from LGS Services as Locum Clerk with a review in six months' time. (Prop PB, 2nd GL, unanimous)

6. Consider arrangements for Council website and emails

The Chairman currently has the croxton.org.uk domain which could be used. He had been made aware that the Council could have a .gov.uk domain. The Chairman will look at website options for the next meeting.

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

A member of the public asked about domain and website costs.

7. Finance, procedure & risk assessment

7.1 To approve any payments

RESOLVED to approve the payment of an invoice from the Village Hall for £781.00 towards insurance, CCTV electricity and room hire. (Prop GL, 2nd KP, unanimous)

RESOLVED having considered CAPALC affiliation, that the Parish Council should join CAPALC for an annual affiliation fee of £215.87, including the Data Protection Officer service. (Prop GL, 2nd MS, unanimous)

7.2 To consider any urgent works required because of risk

None.

7.3 To review banking arrangements

The Parish Council has a single signatory account with HSBC.

The Chairman had taken advice from CAPALC who had suggested CCLA, and the Clerk had suggested an account with Unity Trust Bank.

RESOLVED that Cllr Bayer would investigate the options for the next meeting. (Prop PB, 2nd GL, unanimous)

7.4 Update on precept

Last year the precept was £4,500 and kept for the next financial year. A request for the precept has been submitted to SCDC.

7.5 Appointment of Internal Auditor

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting pending confirmation of the previous auditor's details.

The Chairman asked for a vote of thanks to Nathan Spencer for his efforts over the last 17 years on the Council. (unanimous)

8. Closure and date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 9 April 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.19 pm.

SignedChairmandate.