

**Minutes of the Annual meeting of Croxton Parish Council
Held on Wednesday 21 May 2025 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

Present: Councillors: Cllr Paul Bayer, Cllr Gareth Lowson, Cllr Karl Parish, Cllr Linda Sach and Cllr Martin Sach.
In attendance: 2 members of the public County Cllr Mandy Smith, District Cllr Mark Howell, District Cllr Peter Sandford, and Mr Ben Stoeher (Locum Clerk).

1. To elect a Chairman and to receive the declaration of acceptance of office

RESOLVED to elect Cllr Bayer as Chairman. (Prop PB, 2nd KP, unanimous)

2. To elect a Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED to elect Cllr Lowson as Vice-Chairman. (Prop MS, 2nd KP, unanimous)

3. To appoint committees, working groups or any representatives on any other organisation or authority deemed necessary and conduct annual reviews of policies

RESOLVED that there should be no committees or working groups at present.

3.1 Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and other policies review

RESOLVED to make amendments to grammar in section 5 of the Standing Orders and to add in various options in the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

RESOLVED that the following policies be updated for Croxton and adopted: Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Freedom of Information, Data Protection and Risk Management.

3.2 Assets, Land, Insurance policy and fidelity guarantee review

The asset register was reviewed.

The insurance policy was reviewed and noted that there should be no assets cover included.

RESOLVED to renew the policy for one year and that the Chairman should make the arrangements.

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

No reports had been received from the County and District Councillors.

4. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

4.1 To receive written apologies for absence and reasons

Apologies for absence had been received from County Cllr C Poulson, District Cllr Mark Howell, District Cllr Peter Sandford and J Burkett.

4.2 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda and to receive and grant any written requests for dispensations

None.

1.3 To receive and grant any written requests for dispensations

None.

5. To approve the minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 17 April 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, after an amendment under item 3.2 to change "the majority" to "all" and "existing" to "new".

6. To consider any resolutions from the Annual Parish Meeting

None.

7. To consider any matters arising from the last or a previous meeting including

7.1 (7) To consider a resident's request for a defibrillator in the village

The resident reported and explained the options and the pros and cons. The cost of a defibrillator inside the Village Hall would be £1,474. The equipment would be registered

and volunteers would be able to access it. The cost of an external defibrillator would be £1,923.99.

It was noted that British Heart Foundation grant applications open in June.

RESOLVED to proceed with the internal option and a volunteer rota.

RESOLVED to approve costs up to £1474.00 but that the resident should apply for a grant to reduce the costs if possible.

RESOLVED to obtain permission from the Village Hall Committee.

8. Finance, procedure & risk assessment

8.1 To approve any payments

RESOLVED to reimburse Cllr Parish the sum of £20.00 for the purchase of a wreath.

8.2 To consider any urgent works required because of risk

None.

8.3 To consider the insurance policy renewal and whether any changes are needed

Taken earlier.

8.4 To consider any Internal Auditor's report received during the year

RESOLVED to note that the Internal Auditor's report was due to be received shortly.

8.5 To prepare and approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the Annual Return)

RESOLVED having considered the Annual Governance Statement, that all the questions be answered "Yes" except for question 9 which was not applicable, The Parish Council only took office in March and was not aware of any previous issues.

8.6 To consider and approve the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the Annual Return)

The Accounting Statements were reviewed and approved.

8.7 To agree to declare exemption from External Audit

RESOLVED to declare exemption from External Audit.

9. To consider any correspondence received

None.

10. To consider any planning or tree works applications received

10.1 Planning applications

10.1.1 25/01657/FUL - Land At Cambridge Road - Installation and operation of a renewable energy generation and storage station comprising ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays together with battery storage containers, inverter/transformer units, control house, substations, onsite grid connection equipment, storage containers, site access, access gates, internal access tracks, security measures, other ancillary infrastructure, landscaping and biodiversity enhancement

The Parish Council made the following comments:

The screening would only be effective after 15 years. The Parish Council would want assurances that any works to the road surface were fully re-established. A Health and Safety report on exposure is required. The Council would want battery storage site to be time limited to 35 years to fit in with the solar farm installation. There was no information about radio frequency interference in the application. Heavy vehicles would impact the road surfaces. "Beautification" in Toseland Road was not defined or detailed in the application.

RESOLVED that the Chairman should submit the response.

10.2 SCDC Decision notices, appeals notices, enforcement notices and planning correspondence for information only

None.

10.3 Tree works applications

None.

11. To consider members' items and reports for information only unless otherwise stated

- 11.1 To note that the Parish Council purchased a poppy wreath for VE Day
Noted – taken earlier.
- 11.2 A428 Legacy Funding – Footpath along A428
A meeting was required with the new County Councillor to discuss de-trunking options and plans.
RESOLVED that Cllr Bayer should take this forward and discuss the matter with the new County Councillor.
- 11.3 A428 updates
Cllr Bayer reported on recent closures and issues. He is reporting issues to Skanska. Consistency in approach is needed as there is currently a different process for each closure.
- 11.4 East West Rail Updates
RESOLVED to note that the project was ongoing and there was no update. A new consultation is due soon.
12. **Closure and dates of future meetings**
RESOLVED that the next meeting should be on 23 July at 7.30 pm.
There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.42 pm.

SignedChairmandate.