

CROWLE TOWN COUNCIL

1.

MINUTES of a meeting of the Annual Assembly meeting held at Crowle Community Resource Centre on 13th May 2008.

PRESENT. Cllr M Bailey, Town Mayor, presiding

Cllr's	T Barker	I Mason	C Stewart	R Stewart	P Venum
	I Tonge	N Culpin	K Holgate	G DaCosta	J R Smith

1. APOLOGIES for absence were received from Cllr's: B Duffield, N Arrand

2. MATTERS ARISING.

No matters were raised:

3. MAYORS REPORT OF PREVIOUS YEAR.

This last year the council has progressed in many areas.

With many new councillors being elected who have brought new ideas and opened up the thinking of the council.

A complete review of the council's standing orders and the eventual introduction of a Public Forum at the beginning of each monthly council meeting. This forum enabled individual parishioners to bring their concerns direct to the council there is however a 3 minute limit for each person and the subject matter may not be responded to by the council on that night. However every effort will be made to respond to the presenter as soon as practical and possible and a record made on the agenda. This was a major step forward.

On taking up the post of chair I was immediately made aware of several problems within the Towns Cemetery all of which have been approached and several resolved. The general conditions of the burial ground itself and its general maintenance was of concern and several steps have been taken to improve matters by:

Regular inspections and the introduction of assistance from the Probation service with teams of offenders being able to do a variety of work including cleaning pathways and removing Ivy from the walls around the Burial ground, also the tidying up of some of the untended graves. This has been useful to both the community and the probation service by providing appropriate work for offenders who are on community service orders.

The group have now started to clean and re-paint the railings and gates and these are now beginning to look as they should.

I would like on behalf of the council and the users of the cemetery to thank the probation service for the work they have already undertaken and I hope they will be able to continue to help our community.

Cemetery buildings.

During one of our inspections of the cemetery building a major cleanup was requested and undertaken this however revealed some major problems with the structure of the general fabrication of the Chapels and the entrance arch. A survey was done and £10,000 has been allocated to a refurbishment project and also addresses some Health and Safety issues.

However it is expected that further funds will need to be raised to complete the refurbishment. The Town handyman has maintained the main areas of grass both inside and outside of the cemetery and also all the council owned play areas. He has maintained the contracted areas on

the south side of the town. I would like to record my thanks to Malcolm for his efforts in supporting me during my year in office.

The Cenotaphs at Crowle and Ealand

The general maintenance of our local cenotaphs both in Crowle and Ealand has been undertaken this year by “The Regeneration Group” who pruned the trees and tidied the general area within the railings in both cenotaphs. I wish to thank them and congratulate them on a Job well done and hope they will be able to continue with this good work.

CCTV Camera System.

The introduction of the long awaited CCTV cameras has been made available by the support of Yorkshire Forward and other funding areas including a significant financial input from the council to support a second camera in an area that has proved to be problematic for residents in the past.

The working of CCTV System.

The CCTV system is a state of the art system and is monitored 24 hours a day from a central unit in Scunthorpe where problems can be identified and police notified directly with visual assistance from the cameras. This we hope will deter anti social behaviour and give the people of Crowle that extra sense of safety. We as a council are hoping that a third camera will be able to be purchased to complete the first phase of CCTV surveillance; this is of course finances permitting.

The Dr Bruce Trophy.

The Dr Bruce Trophy was presented in 2007 to a group of young people who call themselves “The Friends of Ealand Park”. These young people offered their services to clean up their local park at Ealand and requested our permission and support, which of course we as a council were pleased to give them. These young people have shown a community spirit that should be an example to us all. This was to the best of my knowledge the first time that we had presented it to anyone or group of people so young.

The Crowle Town Council website.

I am pleased to announce that the Council website is up and running and can be visited on (crowletowncouncil.co.uk) Although it is in its infancy we are constantly updating and waiting for further input from businesses and local people. This site is a two way communications tool we are trying to be more open with local government making it easier to communicate with your local councillors and also the local services which are available.

Working Groups.

During the year a variety of working groups have formed to both deal with problems and investigate future roles of the council.

One such group has been looking at the possibility of becoming a Quality Council also the production of a Parish Plan which will be distributed via local means to local households. During the last year we have seen many problems with flooding and I can assure you that your Town Council has been carefully monitoring the situation on your behalf this has resulted in an Emergency planning group being formed to investigate the issues of flooding and other general emergency issues as they arise an update of all the groups should be made available on the website or at the Office.

The regeneration of Crowle Town Marketplace.

This process is ongoing and is progressing satisfactorily. The Council have been very active in gaining support from other groups within the town. But unfortunately at the time of this report and the very sensitive nature of the ongoing negotiations I am unable to comment further only to say that I feel there are exciting times ahead for Crowle.

The Office of Town Clerk.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Town Clerk Mrs Kate Fowler for all the extra effort she has put in during the last year. I know her workload has increased and she has put many extra hours into the job to enable us the council to hit deadlines required, in particular with the progress of the regeneration of the town.

Finally.

I wish to give a personal thanks for the support that all councillors have given me during my year of office which at times has been challenging but very satisfying.

That concludes my report.

4. WARD COUNCILLORS REPORT.

Ward Cllr Trevor Barker began his report with the floods of June. Crowle suffered its worst flooding in living memory, special thanks must go to those councillor's who helped during the floods, the mayor Mel Bailey, Cllr K Holgate and Cllr Ian Tonge. The latter provided two of his "fire engines and without them Godnow Road would have been in a far worse condition. The residents as well turned out in force and were a great help and comfort to their neighbours.

In 2007 the Resource Centre was once again a topic of much speculation and rumour. I am pleased to report to the meeting, that following several meetings with North Lincolnshire Council officers and Cabinet Members its future is now assured and there will be a new combination of the library and link using it. North Lincolnshire Council will bear all the costs of maintaining and running of the building, this assures the future of the services in Crowle. The Youth Centre which was closed in 2006 has now reopened in 2007. It is currently opening two nights a week including Friday, but plans are in hand for more nights to be used. A new committee to deliver the future and upgrade has been put in place during 2007. This new group of people are drawn from several local groups who are all based in Crowle and this new initiative has proved to be the correct way forward. Both North Lincolnshire Council and Yorkshire Forward are very pleased with the progress made during the last twelve months and soon Crowle Market Place will see the changes made to bring it back to be the centre of this community.

I will conclude by thanking all the people who have helped me in my first year as a North Lincolnshire Councillor and assure the people of Crowle of my very best attention to them in the future.

Ward Councillor John Briggs reported that there are many things to focus on relating to the flooding in June, the community spirit there was at the time, partnerships working together, he reported that there is joint work from both sides and there is a two year strategy concerning the Trent in progress. Flooding issues have influence concerning planning applications in flood risk areas, many meetings have taken place.

Cllr J Briggs reported concerning the Board of North Lincolnshire Homes, concerning what is happening to Manor Gardens, the units have all become empty, they have failed to be filled as many residents no longer want shared facilities etc. He reported that a planning application will be processed for the demolition of Manor Gardens and the area will be grassed until further funding has been received and a plan of what to do with the land has been agreed. This is an exciting time concerning the Renaissance as it will be a major turning point. Cllr J Briggs thanked the town councillors for all their co-operation and support.

Cllr M Bailey asked concerning Manor Gardens as to whether the area will become another Godnow Road site with piles of rubble. Cllr Briggs assured the council that this would not be the case, the area will be grassed.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Mrs McHugh reported concerning the ongoing problems at the Johnson's Lane Playing Field, it was reported that this matter is on the May agenda and will be discussed in full.

Mr John Briggs reported concerning the state of the High Street, in relation to rubbish etc, machines are needed that can get to the paths, and more regular cleaning is needed, the paths need more attention.

Cllr John Briggs reported that if anybody has got issues, please do not hesitate to contact him direct.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm