

CROWLE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Joe Tinson

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on: Thursday 9th April 2026, 7.00pm at Crowle Millennium Hall, Committee Room

Present: Councillors Ruth Dawson-Jones (Chair), Lawrence Wall, Steve Bott, Rod Smith, Donna Kennedy and Clerk Joe Tinson

In attendance: County Cllr Linda Robinson, District Cllr Margaret Rowley and 4 members of the public

04.26.1 To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received and approved from councillors Stephen Denne and Lawrence Wall (who joined the meeting during the public session)

04.26.2 Declaration of Interests & Dispensations

None

PUBLIC SESSION

The meeting was now adjourned for Public Question Time

- Council tax increase – Due to the increase in the Parish Council aspect of the council tax (the precept) it was asked how it is calculated by the Parish Council and if it always must go up
 - Answer – The council tax usually goes up due to several factors, for example:
 - Costs keep going up
 - Employee salaries, that is not fully under Parish Council control
 - External Audit cost increases (required to use prescribed organisation)
 - Facilities need replacing and maintenance like the MUGA and playground (rarely covered external grants)
 - The new facilities project that is to make improvements for parishioners
- Salt bins – Following on from the council tax question it was asked if the extra salt bins that were bought last year were also under the Parish Council
 - Answer – The parish Lengthsman's had asked for the extra salt bins and it was agreed by the council that they were needed and so they were budgeted for, for the next financial year and will be purchased from the Parish Council funds
- Reducing the council tax increase – Another follow up question was, do things get postponed to reduce the increase and can a cap be made to the increase
 - Answer –
 - The budget is talked about by the council in the January meeting where any increase is discussed
 - A cap is not possible as mentioned a lot of the increase is out of the council control, another example of this is the field last year needed extra work due to the dry summer

- The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) next week will have a budget summary which will also be in the May Cryer, a councillor is happy to go into more details surrounding the budget at the APM
 - To reduce costs grants and donations are used where possible, for example the cleaning of the war memorial recently was done using grant money
 - Some of the budget was not used last financial year, which will be held in reserve for projects this year
 - An increase of 17.5% sounds high, but this equates to £14.70 per year, £1.23 per month or 28p per week per household for a Band D property
 - Crowle also was not the highest in Wychavon and was below the national average this year
- Touch rugby sign – It was asked if the new touch rugby could have a sign erected outside the gate of the Parish Hall car park (to the left) that would be up when the touch rugby was being played
 - It was agreed by the council that there was no issue with this
- Allotments – A few questions were asked about the allotments that are planned on being moved as part of the facilities project:
 - If allotment holders do not want to move and give up their allotments will the allotments reduce in size
 - Answer – No, the Parish Council must keep the same overall area for allotments and cannot reduce these but can move them if needed as the rental agreements are annual
 - As part of the facilities project there is allocated car parking for the allotments, but what stops others from taking these spaces
 - Answer – The spaces will be behind a locked gate with only those with an allocated allotment or requiring it for maintenance access will have code
- Facilities project – Several questions were asked about the new project:
 - If there is not the money to fund part of the project are there stop points?
 - Answer – Yes, the project is split into three phases, with the first phase already being funded. If there is not the money to go ahead with a phase it could still go ahead just further in the future from the plan or with a reduction in what is delivered
 - The project does not have any dog walking spaces, even though this was asked for
 - Answer – The project looked at the local area when making decisions and as the numerous housing developments around Crowle are adding in various open spaces with no livestock it was deemed not necessary to add in the project
 - Is there a list of what everyone asked for
 - Answer – Yes, this will be a board at the events happening in the coming weeks at the Platinum Hall and will also be added to the Parish Council website
 - Why was not all the information put in the leaflet that was delivered to parishioners

- Answer – There was a lot to cover and the leaflet was meant as an introduction to the project, there will be more information at the events and put on the website in time
- Bison – A landowner is fund raising to purchase and relocate a herd of bison to Crowle
 - Concern that Bredicot Lane would get extra traffic from people wanted to see the bison and as a narrow lane would not be able to cope. Will highways be consulted
 - Answer – This is a concern, but highways would not get involved
 - There are various rules and licences that need to be followed and obtained to put bison on the land, but these are not under the control of the Parish Council, but further investigations will be done to confirm if being done correctly
 - **Action** – Cllr Robinson will find contacts for the Parish Council to talk to people with the knowledge needed
- Children on bikes – Concern was raised about children riding unsafely around the village on their way to and from the dirt track
 - **Action** – Cllr Robinson to check for bike safety info leaflets for children to be passed on to the children via WhatsApp group

04.26.3 Chair’s Welcome and Remarks

a) The Chair welcomed all attendees.

b) Action List

- The action list has been reviewed and updated by the clerk
- **Action** – Councillors to look at the action list and get their items done
- Cllr Smith has the oldest action about a signage in Crowle Court. The original plan to put this on a kissing gate is now not possible as Cllr Smith informed the council that the kissing gate has fallen into disrepair and so does not think the sign can go on anymore
 - **Action** – Cllr Smith and Helen Dowson to check the W3W details and locations if the broken gates and check with landowner if they believe it is their gate or county owned, and send information to Cllr Robinson for Highways to review
 - **Action** – If county owned, Cllr Smith to send What3Word details to Cllr Robinson to report the kissing gate, as well as another close by

04.26.4 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th March 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record. The Chair signed the minutes.

04.26.5 District and County Councillor Reports

a) **District Council** - Cllr Margaret Rowley report highlights were:

- SWDP adopted by the District Council
 - This plan is for 20,000 new homes by 2041
 - Wychavon Town is still going ahead
 - As there is enough land for homes over the next five years it should make it easier to oppose new developments (five year housing supply plus 5% contingency)
 - However, the SWDP Review will be starting again in October 2026 following a new, quicker process, which should be completed within 30 months

- As the new SWDP has been adopted the Crowle Parish Neighbourhood Plan can now go ahead but will need reviewing again as and when the Local Plan changes
- b) **County Council** – Cllr Linda Robinson’s report highlights were:
- Walking month –
 - This is happening in May and Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire are running Walk This May Challenge 1-14th May. More details can be found here: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/healthwalks
 - Switch Together extended –
 - Switch Together (formally Solar Together) has a new deadline to sign up of 26th April. This scheme allows residents to get solar panels and batteries at a more affordable rate. More information can be found: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/switchtogether
 - Charge into change –
 - Residents are urged to not put electrical items and batteries in their household bins as this can cause fires in waste vehicles and recycling facilities
 - Small electronics and batteries can be left on top of the black bin in a bag and they will be disposed of properly by the refuse collectors
 - Cllr Robinson was asked when food waste would be collected again as it should have started in April
 - She does not know when it will start but knows it has been delayed in Wychavon as there is currently nowhere for this to be processed and plans for a biomass plant locally have been delayed

04.26.6 Land & Highways Management Matters

- a) **Parking issues in Crowle and ongoing management**
- No new issues were reported
- b) **Review of community recreational facilities and parish consultation**
- The councillors were asked if there were any concerns or improvements for the project boards that are for the events
 - It was asked if a range of how much something would cost could be used rather than stating “unknown”
 - **Action** – If councillors have any more suggestions to get them to Rob Moore by next Tuesday
 - The Parish Council wishes to thank Rob Moore and Cllr Denne for creating and delivering the leaflets, as well as Cllr Dawson-Jones for checking them
 - Thanks were given to Cllr Robinson for her donation to Phase 1 of this project that will support the rewilding
- c) **Flooding on OTR and Lower Crowle**
- No update from Cllr Robinson. It is proving difficult to find anyone to take responsibility for the issues
 - **Action** – Linda Robinson to contact Barry Barnes of highways to chase
 - Lengthsman update
 - It is not within his responsibilities to clear the road but suggests that Severn Trent should be hiring a kerb sweeper to remove the hardcore and mud from the road
 - He will check if the carriageway is damaged and report if needed

- He suggests the ditches also need to be cleared by the landowner

d) **Parish Paths Warden**

- Cllr Dawson-Jones recently attended the Worcestershire CALC meeting online where Barry Barnes and Rachel Benson were attending from Highways
 - They informed that there is currently no training for parish path wardens following staff changes but they are hoping to get this restarted later this year
 - **Action** – Cllr Dawson-Jones will send over the presentation from the session to all councillors when available
 - It was noted that tree warden training is still happening, although another parish council had experienced issues with that too

Action – Cllr Smith will contact the interested volunteer and see if they are still interested. They will be asked if they want to walk the paths and report any issues, being clear that no other actions are to be taken until the training has been completed

e) **To discuss any other highways related matters and agree any actions necessary**

- **Action** – Clerk to find out how highway's determine which road closure notices come through to the clerk email and to make sure it is correct
- Thirty mile an hour speed limit will be extended at the Parish Hall end of Church Road on 23rd April

f) **To discuss any other land management matters and agree any actions necessary**

- Parish garden – Thanks were given to Cllr Robinson for her donation to pay for an item to be added to the Parish garden in October 2026

04.26.7 Correspondence

a) **Correspondence since last meeting**

- i. Weedkiller use –
 - A member of the public was concerned of the use of weedkiller in a field by the church where signs had been put up. They wanted to know if the Parish Council had been informed, how much had been sprayed and when it was safe to go back through the field
 - They were informed by the clerk that the Parish Council had not been informed but it is not necessary for the landowner to do so. The use of weedkiller is permitted by law if the instructions for use are followed, so the signs were not needed but a useful extra
- ii. Noise complaint –
 - Lawrence Wall talked to a parishioner about a noise from a suspected engine. The Parish Council do not have any powers to deal with noise complaints, but support and signposting was provided

04.26.8 Planning

a) **New applications / decisions for information**

- i. W/26/00518/PIP - Rose Cottage, Netherwood Lane - Permission in Principle for the erection of 1 self-build dwelling – No objections or comments to be raised by the council
- ii. W/26/00186/HP - 1 Conference Grove, Crowle - Single storey rear extension – **Approved**

- iii. W/25/01917/FUL - Summerfields, Church Road - Demolition of link attached garage and annex and erection of 2no. dwellings, alterations to existing accesses and new landscaping. New garage/carport to serve existing dwelling at Summerfields. External alterations to existing dwelling – **Approved**
- iv. W/26/00007/HP - Little Orchard, Church Road - Demolition of part of outbuilding; conversion and alterations to form therapy pool room; and flat roof garden room link to main bungalow. Installation of rear dormer and first floor side window – **Approved**
- v. W/25/02098/HP - Manor House, Froxmere Road - New Padel Court in the rear garden - **Approved**

b) **Major applications**

- There were no new applications for consideration

c) **SWDPR update**

- **Action** – Cllr Rowley will investigate whether the Gleeson Phase 2 housing development proposal will be rejected now the SWDP has been adopted
- **Action** – Cllr Rowley will investigate and report back on the latest situation in relation to the drainage conditions relating to the Piper Summerfield

d) **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

- Cllr Denne provided a written report to advise that:
 - Now the SWDP has been adopted, the Parish Council need to revise their Neighbour Plan to submit to Wychavon District Council for consultation to be done and the plan to be “made”
 - The council’s consultant is making the revisions necessary and ready for approval for the next meeting on 14th May

e) **Sewerage Action Group**

- No update
- Cllr Robinson informed the council that Severn Trent are holding a open day on 25/04/2026 and she will be attending
 - **Action** – Linda Robinson to send details of the open day to the council so they can attend

04.26.9 Parish Hall Matters

a) **Parish Hall Trust Updates**

- No updates
- Food Traders
 - The pizza van has sent over their licences and are planning to start trading in early May
 - Manny Eats has not been on site for a few weeks due to low customer numbers
 - A fish and chip van may be coming over the summer

04.26.10 Finance & Risk Management

- It was **RESOLVED** to approve payments, receipts and reconciliation against bank statements for March (appended to these Minutes at Appendix 1)
- The clerk now has access to the bank account and can set up payments for approval
- The bank mandate has been updated to remove former councillors and is now fully up to date

- The address on the bank account has now been changed to the Parish Hall
- VAT has not been reclaimed since January 2025
 - **Action** – Clerk to claim VAT via the online form that is now set up
- Wychavon have charged the Parish Council business rates for the Jubilee Playing Field
 - This is being queried (phone call booked for Monday 13th April) as the Parish Council do not normally pay this and have had payments refunded in the past
 - The latest bill will be paid though and if necessary, claimed back to make sure no action is taken against the Parish Council for non-payment

04.26.11 Police and Crime

a) Police and crime related issues

- An arrest was made in relation to one of the Church Road burglaries and we were advised that the perpetrator pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three years in jail

b) Speed enforcement and SmartWater schemes

- A Facebook post was made to remind parishioners to register their SmartWater
- **Action** – Cllr Dawson-Jones to send Rod Smith contact details for SmartWater
- **Action** – Cllr Smith will find out how many need to register for the village to be called a SmartWater village

04.26.12 Field Management Group Updates

a) General updates

- Cllr Denne provided a written report in advance of the meeting:
 - Stephen and the Field Caretaker, David Steade, have reviewed the recent ROSPA report for the playground and have noted some non-urgent actions
 - With drier and warmer weather in prospect, volunteer Ian will hopefully continue painting the woodwork on the playground (the current play equipment is not due for replacement for five years under the masterplan and this will help with maintenance and looks brighter too)
 - The two new picnic table/bench sets are expected to be delivered later this month
 - The Tennis Club have decided to ‘retire’ and they will donate their remaining funds of c£1600 to the Parish Council for courts refurbishment budget
 - The Searchers football club have agreed to pay a donation of £1522 to the Parish Council to help with costs of maintaining the Jubilee field, this has included over-seeding, rolling and surface slitting
 - Crowle Scouts have asked to use the top half of the back field for camping over a weekend in July
 - Ian Firkins has advised that he does not wish to cut hay on the bottom half of the Back Field this year
 - **Action** – Cllr Smith may know someone who is interested and will contact Cllr Denne with details if so

04.26.13 Community Events

a) Crowle 10K update – Cllr Steve Bott

- Parking may not be available on the usual field given a sale is pending, so alternative options were considered e.g. parking on the Jubilee field, although this would change the route of the race which would not be official, therefore this could cause some complaints from runners
- Normally Crowle Scouts volunteer to marshal the car park but are unable to do it this year

- Without marshals for the car park race marshals may need to do it
- **Action** – Cllr Bott will draft a message to local groups and send over to Cllr Dawson-Jones who will pass this on to local groups
- **Action** – Cllr Kennedy will see if Friends of Crowle School or Crowle Table Tennis Club are able to help out
- Entries are 75 short of breaking even as at today but this usually picks up around now
- As the race does not get as many runners as in previous years, it may only generate £2000 surplus for the Parish Council (with half of this going to local groups that help out). Is the race still a viable investment for the council?
- - At previous meetings it was agreed the 10k can still go ahead if it can breakeven, Cllr Bott is happy to run the event and there are enough volunteers
 - It was agreed to have another conversation about the future of the 10k at the meeting after the event
 - **Action** – Cllr Bott to send the clerk a social media post to be put on the council’s Facebook page. The clerk will also make this post WhatsApp friendly and send over to Cllr Dawson-Jones to post on local WhatsApp groups
- Cllr Wall confirmed he has ordered the barriers
- A pizza van has asked if they can trade at the 10k. Following the recommendation of the 10k working group, it was **RESOLVED** to decline this request on the grounds that it is a late request and the unknown impact on other community-run food vendors

b) **Wychavon Games – Cllr Lawrence Wall**

- The article in the Cryer received one response
- **Action** – Cllr Wall to contact people and groups who took part or were interested in entering last year to see if they want to enter this year
- **Action** – Cllr Wall will talk about the games at the APM next week

04.26.14 Communication and Information Provision

a) **To discuss any other issues relating to the Crowle Cryer, website or social media page**

- New noticeboards
 - **Action** – Cllr Smith to arrange with Rob Moore and Mike Coleman to put up the two noticeboards
- New publication
 - Someone from Tibberton Parish Council contacted us about being part of a shared monthly magazine
 - This was sent to the Cryer group and was rejected on the grounds Crowle already have the Cryer and it is the wrong time of year as we have only just taken all the advertisement revenue for the financial year
- Crowle Cryer
 - Most advertisement slots have been filled for the new budget year
 - The budget article will go into the May addition

b) **Assertion 10 – IT policy**

- Approval of the new IT policy to help make the council compliant with this year's AGAR was held over until the next meeting.

03.26.15 Councillor Updates and Items for Future Agendas

- The APM is next Thursday 16th April
 - Cllr Kennedy and Cllr Smith gave their apologies
- It was confirmed that the next parish council meeting will be on 14th May 2026

The meeting ended at 21:19

Signed _____ Chair Date _____

Appendix 1**Bank Reconciliation:****Payments****Mar 2026**

02/03/26	PAYE Cloud Ltd (payroll)	21.48
02/03/26	Business Mid Space (Tiem)	66.00
09/03/26	Active Training	1,878.24
18/03/26	Jeremy Moore Lengthsman	264.00
19/3/26	Jeremy Moore Lengthsman	176.00
19/3/26	RBVE - Royal British Veterans Enterprise	350.00
19/3/26	Crowle Parish Hall Trust	215.00
25/3/26	Paypal - Lebara phone contract	4.50
25/3/26	HMRC	278.94
25/3/26	Droitwich S&P	90.00
25/3/26	Nick & Sharon Brett	107.70
25/3/26	Crowle Players	250.00
27/3/26	Business Mid Space (Tiem)	78.00
27/3/26	Joe Tinson - Salary	891.90
27/3/26	Top Cut Mowing	288.00
27/3/26	David Steade - Salary	229.82
27/3/26	Business Mid Space (Tiem)	66.00
27/3/26	Top Cut Mowing	595.50
30/3/26	Fizz Bewley Touch	100.00
30/3/26	Andy Loos	305.76
30/3/26	Nicholas Ridley	100.00
30/3/26	Worcestershire CALC	48.00
31/3/26	Unity Bank	7.00

Receipts**Mar 2026**

2/3/26	Paws and Pooches Ltd - cryer ad	70.00
2/3/26	Stripe Payments	1,048.07
4/3/26	Springridge Nurser - cryer ad	70.00
6/3/26	Pow + Con El Ltd - cryer ad	70.00
18/3/26	Worcestershire CC	5,000.00
23/3/26	S Handley - Sarah Cleans - cryer ad	70.00
23/3/26	Credit - 59	0.00
30/3/26	Stripe Payments	1,758.31