

CROWLE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Joe Tinson

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on: Thursday 9th July 2026, 19:04 at Crowle Parish Hall

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

In attendance: 5 members of the public

07.26.1 To receive and approve apologies for absence

- Apologies were received from Cllr Kennedy (personal), Cllr Denne (personal) and Cllr Linda Robinson (clash of meetings)

07.26.2 Declaration of Interests & Dispensations

- None

PUBLIC SESSION

The meeting was now adjourned for Public Question Time

- Complaint – An allotment holder was unhappy about youths climbing the fence from the mud track, entering their allotment, damaging crops and using their water tap; with this happening at least three times. Although they were not too fussed about the damage, they were more annoyed with the disrespect and lack of supervision
 - Robert Moore and Cllr Kennedy were notified before the meeting and the culprits had been identified and their parents informed
 - The allotment holder was urged to access damages and report back the cost
 - Cllr Dawson-Jones apologised
 - Cllr Smith suggested if there was any more issues the mud track should be closed, for a week to begin with
 - Cllr Dawson-Jones asked if a camera could be installed, Robert Moore suggested adding a battery powered wildlife camera
 - A member of the public asked how a closure of the mud track could be enforced
 - Robert Moore suggested adding signs and to add to the WhatsApp group, if a closure was not respected, to step it up
 - Cllr Bott believes that some parents would complain about the closure as not all children who use it have done anything wrong
 - Cllr Smith suggested asking for parental supervision for the mud track
 - Cllr Smith suggested using anti climb paint on top of fence
 - **Action** – Robert Moore to liaise with Cllr Kennedy to go out to parents and write something for the Cryer
 - **Action** – Robert Moore to add signs to fence to say “Do Not Climb”

07.26.3 Chair’s Welcome and Remarks

a) Chair updates

- Cllr Dawson-Jones did not have any updates this meeting

b) **Action List**

- Cllr Smith said he still could not access the list but would try again from the WhatsApp link
 - If he still cannot access it the Clerk will provide an offline version
- Cllr Dawson-Jones thanked councillors for the progress
- She also warned the Clerk about duplicates
- Cllr Robinson gave a written report that had information about her actions:
 - Road adoptions – She found that this is down to the Section 38-278 team and can be a slow process

07.26.4 Minutes

- It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th June 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record. The Chair signed the minutes at the end of the meeting

07.26.5 District and County Councillor Reports

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

- **We Are Wychavon Support Fund**
 - First phase of £5 million support fund
 - Free swimming for under-16s.
 - Free swimming for over-60s
 - Free learn-to-swim sessions for all ages
 - Reduced fares on the Worcestershire On Demand bus
 - One hour's free parking
 - Support for businesses to create apprenticeships
 - Targeted support to help tackle youth unemployment
 - Funding for families facing financial hardship who do not qualify for existing support
 - Enhanced speech and language support for children
 - New Ward Budgets enabling councillors to support small-scale community projects that do not qualify for existing grant schemes

b) **County Council** – Cllr Linda Robinson provided a written report, the highlights were:

- **Rise in measles**
 - Reports of measles have risen in Worcestershire recently
 - "Residents are being encouraged to ensure they are fully protected against measles by checking their vaccination status and arranging an MMR vaccination through their GP if required"
- **Accessible days out in Worcestershire**
 - "Many local venues have taken part in [Visit Worcestershire's](#) Accessibility Champions programme, helping teams build the knowledge, confidence and practical changes needed to create truly welcoming spaces"
- **Project Gigabit gets underway**
 - "The rollout of next-generation broadband in Worcestershire has reached an important milestone, with the first homes and businesses

now connected through the Government's Project Gigabit programme, which builds on commercial deployments across the county."

- For more information, visit [here](#)

07.26.6 Land & Highways Management Matters

a) Parking issues in Crowle and ongoing management

- No update

b) Community Recreational Facilities Project

- Only one child has come forward to join the playground steering group
 - **Action** - Cllr Denne will ask Scouts and the football club, asking for only parishioner children
- The first planning application has been submitted and they have requested two things:
 - The scale of the drawings needed updated and has been done
 - A survey needs to be conducted, hopefully ecologist can get it done next week
- The new survey has been instructed
- Robert Moore and Cllr Denne are looking at grants
- A parishioner who dug the power cable for the field has contacted Cllr Bott to request digging the pond

c) Flooding on OTR and Lower Crowle

- No update
- It was noted that the drains on Old Turnpike Road are blocked and need clearing

d) Parish Paths Warden

- No update

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

i. Lower Crowle junction

- Cllr Robinson has spoken with Barry Barnes from Highways, who has been to look at the damage
- Due to land ownership, it makes it complicated to resolve
- He has asked Highways to go out and break up the surface and have it swept
- **Action** - Cllr Smith will look out for when this has been done

ii. 30mph sign placement

- Cllr Robinson contacted Barry Barnes and has had it confirmed that the 30 mph signs are in the wrong place and he is looking into it

iii. School Lane blocked drain

- No update
- **Action** – Clerk to check if this has been done

iv. VAS solar upgrade

- The council have received a quote for two solar VAS for £4679,98 minus VAT
 - The consensus from the council is the price is too high

- **Action** – Cllr Rowley to enquire how much her parish paid for theirs
- **Action** – The Clerk to write a letter to highways explaining the Parish Council's issues and see what they suggest
- **Action** – The Clerk to tell the Lengthsman he does not have to keep charging the batteries for the current VAS
- **Action** - Cllr Robinson to find out if solar VAS need new poles and if they would cost the council anything

v. Bus stop seat

- Barry Barnes from highways can put in in a concrete plinth free of charge
- **Action** – The Clerk to go back to Cllr Robinson/Barry Barnes with the correct placement for the concrete
- **Action** – The Clerk to liaise with the Parish Hall Trust to get the cost of a bench, with the possibility of ordering a bench at the same time as the Parish Hall Trust to save on delivery cost

vi. Grit bins

- **Action** – The Clerk to order some grit bins before winter and confirm appropriate locations with Lengthsman and Robert Moore (one for outside the Hall, one by the bench at the top of Froxmere Road and one at the bottom of Church Road near the Post Office)

vii. Resurfacing

- Cllr Robinson has agreed to use some of her Highways divisional funding for footway resurfacing at Crowle Green from Netherwood Lane towards the post office. This will likely take place over the winter.

viii. Bredicot Lane footpath issues

- People are walking on the road rather than using the footpath as the camber is too steep and it is uneven
- **Action** – The Clerk to report the issue to highways

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

i. Bollards on green space on Pear Tree Way

- Cllr Rowley contacted the Parks Officer for Wychavon
 - The Parks Officer apologised for not contacting the Parish Council about the work being carried out
 - The bollards were confirmed to be put in place to stop people being able to drive on to the green, there have been numerous other places where bollards have been placed so the District Council did not want people to look for other suitable places
 - They are looking to improve the aesthetics of the bollards

- **Action** – Cllr Rowley to see if the land will be available to the Parish Council when the District Councils unify, although the PC will need to decide if they want to take on the land and associated maintenance
- ii. Noticeboards
- Robert Moore and Cllr Smith planning to get it erected next week, weather permitting

07.26.7 Correspondence

a) Correspondence since last meeting

- No new correspondence received since last meeting

07.26.8 Planning

a) New applications / decisions for information

- i. W/26/00869/HP – 24 Pear Tree Way – Rear orangery extension – **Approved**
- ii. W/26/01262/HP – 67 Froxmere Road, Crowle – Single storey side extension, new hipped roof and render facade to the existing rear extension and installation of UPVC windows – **Approved** (after the agenda was written)

b) Major applications

- Since the agenda was sent out W/26/00314/RM was submitted for 65 homes
 - This application deals with the technical details consent that is needed on various aspects prior to building work starting, which includes highways access, planting and housing positioning. There were issues raised with the original plans by several parties, and documents aiming to address these have now been published
 - The council have already raised an objection and have no new points to make, as the previous ones will be considered before approval
 - Cllr Wall spoke with National Grid and was informed that the village has no more capacity for more homes (including Spitfire) until National Grid can put in a cable from near the motorway
- Cllr Rowley advised that only applications made under the previous SWDP may still be approved under that process even though the SWDPR is now in effect
 - **Action** – Cllr Rowley asked to double check this and confirm
- At this time, applications for major planning (over 10 homes) can bypass Wychavon and be referred directly to the government as they have refused over 10% of applications

c) SWDP update

- Cllr Rowley repeated that there is now a five year housing plan in place as well as the SWDP will need to be revised due to new government housing targets

d) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

- No update

e) Sewerage Action Group

- Cllr Rowley informed that Spitfire Homes are keeping their waste treatment that has already been approved, even though Severn Trent said it was not needed

- Cllr Rowley confirmed that Summerfield Homes have a septic tank and should not be using the mains waste water pipe
- Cllr Rowley informed that Piper Homes were told they could use the mains, then told they could not by Severn Trent, therefore they complained and the new site owners will be allowed to use the mains
- Question from parishioner – Is it possible to put a camera by the brook to see when Severn Trent are dumping waste
 - Answer - They have their own camera and know themselves, but it is not made public. Someone could make a freedom of information request

07.26.9 Parish Hall Matters

- It was confirmed the new planters will be grey
- Before an order for planters and benches is put in by the Parish Council, the Parish Hall Trust need to discuss how many benches they need
- Car park – Chequers banner
 - The Chequers pub in Crowle have requested a banner to promote their BBQ
 - **Action** – Robert Moore to meet with them to discuss where it could go

07.26.10 Finance & Risk Management

- a. It was **RESOLVED** to approve payments, receipts and reconciliation against bank statements for June (appended to these Minutes at Appendix 1)
- b. **Lengthsman over budget – update**
 - The Clerk had a reply from the Lengthsman scheme, but they do not know fully how the budget is worked out
 - They said it is an old calculation and the County Council decide if it will go up once a year; this year they did not increase it
 - It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council will continue to use extra money outside of the scheme to keep the Crowle Lengthsman working all year. This will be added into the next budget
- c. **National Grid excavation – update**
 - No update
- d. **Facilities project revised budget**
 - No new or revised budget was brought to this meeting
 - **Action** – Robert Moore will get a revised budget out to the council in time for the next meeting
 - Robert Moore said that the project is currently under budget as £1500 was donated by the Tennis Club to go towards the project
 - The new survey was authorised as this was part of the budget that was agreed at a previous council meeting
- e. **Crowle Men's Shed – grant proposal**
 - Although this grant application was sent in after the deadline there was still £500 left from last year
 - It was **RESOLVED** to give £500 (maximum for one application) to Crowle Men's Shed

07.26.11 Police and Crime

- a) **Police and crime related issues**
 - No update

b) **Speed enforcement and SmartWater schemes**

- No update

07.26.12 Field Management Group Updates

a) **General updates**

- Cllr Denne provided a written report in advance of the meeting:
 - **Bush cutter/Strimmer request**
 - The Field Caretaker requests a budget of about £250 to purchase a brush cutter/strimmer. This will be used for “keeping on top of areas such as the Bike Track perimeter and also ‘edge areas’ around the fields beyond the reach of the contractor’s mowers.”
 - It was **RESOLVED** that one could be purchased but with a budget of £500 to ensure the equipment is of good quality
 - **Height barrier**
 - Top Cut Mowing have complained that the height barrier locking bar is too stiff
 - The Field Caretaker has offered to be on site next time and he has greased the bar
 - **Action** – The Clerk to ask other users of the height barrier to see if they have had any trouble
 - **Dog waste bags**
 - The Field Caretaker has been in contact with the provider and suggested the place to put the dispenser on the field

b) **New tables construction – update**

- Cllr Denne provided a written report in advance of the meeting:
 - These were delivered on 29/06 but when putting the tables together it was discovered that there were missing parts (these are being delivered 03/07)
 - “A small supply of tokens will be provided by the suppliers for use on the game-tops, but these will surely soon be lost. ‘Dice-poppers’ have been suggested, but we need to see if these would be suitable for outdoor use and could be fixed to the tabletops for longevity; in lieu of counters on the snakes & ladders game etc, coins can be used.”
 - “The old tables have been placed outside the Play Area opposite the Tennis Courts for the time being. The Scout Group are considering their possible interest in inheriting these (albeit that their new designated area to be created via the Facilities Review won’t be ready for some time).”

c) **Mud track safety – update**

- No update

d) **Back field mowing – update**

- After the last meeting when it was decided to stop the mowing of the back field Top Cut Mowing suggested it should still be mowed
- However, with the recent hot weather and no rain the grass has not been growing anyway

- It was **RESOLVED** that the mowing of the back field will only start again when the grass starts to grow again and it will then be mowed every fortnight. The Searchers have offered to pay for half of these costs

07.26.13 Community Events

a) **Crowle 10K update – Cllr Steve Bott**

- The date for next year is 09/05/27
- **Action** – The Clerk to contact Cllr Bott to arrange time to go over the 10k running and its finances
- Question – it was asked what is happening with the old car park field and has it been sold to Spitfire Homes
 - **Action** – Cllr Bott will find out through his connections

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

- No update

07.26.14 Communication and Information Provision

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

• **Microsoft Publisher ending support**

- As Microsoft is ending support for Publisher later this year a proposal for the use of Canva for the Cryer, as well as some training for the editor was put forward
- It was **RESOLVED** to use Canva for the Cryer and for the editor to have some training (around £300), but the free version will be trialled to see if it is possible to use that rather than paying for software

• **Gov.uk domain**

- **Action** – Cllr Dawson-Jones to send over contact details for switching to gov.uk to the Clerk

07.26.15 Councillor Updates and Items for Future Agendas

- It was confirmed that the next parish council meeting will be on 10th September 2026

The meeting ended at 20:35

Signed _____ Chair Date _____

Appendix 1**Bank Reconciliation – June 2026:**

	Opening Balance Current Acc	90,258.96
add	receipts for period 01/06/26 to 30/06/26	378.00
less	payments for period 01/06/26 to 30/06/26	-10,637.96
	balance per cash book	79,999.00
	Bank Statement Current Acc	79,999.00
less	unpresented cheques	0.00
	balance C/F	79,999.00

Payments In

Date	Supplier	Reference/Reason	Receipts
08/06/2026	Sarah Handley	Cryer ad	14.00
10/06/2026	Exclusive Gym	10k payments	100.00
23/06/2026	Worcestershire CC	Lengthsman June 26	264.00

Payments Out

Date	Supplier Ref	Supplier	Payments
01/06/26	CROWLEPAR	Public Works Loans	1,578.69
01/06/26	PCL-MT000093	PAYE Cloud Ltd (payroll)	27.36
05/06/26	ZA410821	ICO	47.00
10/06/26	Expenses - Plannin	Robert Moore	1,921.00
12/06/26	CROWLEPAR	Public Works Loans	2,686.68
12/06/26	E-CROW0916	St Johns Ambulance	770.00
17/06/26	24219	Pace Print Design	275.50
17/06/26	Lengthsman Jun 26	Jeremy Moore	264.00
17/06/26	10119	Worcestershire CALC	48.00
17/06/26	Delivery Expense	David Steade	20.40
19/06/26	INV-683604010A60C	England Athletics	150.00
23/06/26	59GJ222GH9XAQ	Paypal - Lebara phone contract	4.50
29/06/26	INV-10155	Ocean Blue Digital	247.50
30/06/26	Salary Jun 26	David Steade	203.62
30/06/26	064PB00194941	HMRC PAYE	305.14
30/06/26	CLP0432588	Wychavon Credit Account	240.29
30/06/26	INV-0628	Business Space Midlands (Tiem)	66.00
30/06/26	Salary Jun 26	Joe Tinson	891.90
30/06/26	14706	Top Cut Mowing	613.38
30/06/26	14725	Top Cut Mowing	270.00

30/06/26		Unity Trust Bank - Service Charge	7.00
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