



Crowle & Ealand Town Council

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Minutes of the **Annual Assembly** of Crowle and Ealand Town Council held at Crowle Community Hub, Crowle on **14 May 2019**.

Present: Cllr A Rayment (Deputy Mayor), Cllr N Arrand; Cllr M Bailey; Cllr I Mason, Cllr R Pender, Cllr J Ramsden; Cllr J Reed, Cllr Stewart, Cllr Walshe

Apologies: Cllr D Middleton (Mayor), Cllr E Dinsdale, Cllr S Dinsdale, Cllr J Dunn, Cllr H Osborne; Cllr R Oldfield

Officers Present: Kirsty Dunn (Clerk), Vicky Maw (RFO)

Members of the Public: 7

Press Present: None

Public Forum:

The Annual Assembly began at 19.00

001/19 Declaration of Interest: To note any declarations of interest made by Councillors in respect of items on this meeting's Agenda (in accordance with the Council's Model Code of Conduct and the Localism Act 2011).
Nil

002/19 Mayors report 2018/2019

Written by Mayor Debra Middleton

Delivered by Councillor Alan Rayment

Dear Councillors and members of the public,

I do apologise that I am not there to read this myself.

Firstly I would like to wish Cllr Pender, Cllr Arrand, Cllr Ramsden, Cllr Rayment, Cllr Bailey and Cllr Mason my congratulations on their re-election and wish you every success over the next four years. The support I have had from these councillors has been significant and I have appreciated their help and friendship over the last four years.

Over the last two years as Mayor, I have seen lots of changes within Crowle and Ealand all for the better. The 1940s weekend over the last three years has grown from strength to strength. I do hope that our new council will continue to support this wonderful event that brings joy, new people and lots of financial benefits to local businesses in our community. Over the last two years the scarecrow competition which is held over the 1040s weekend has also grown with over fifteen applicants. Hopefully this will be something that will continue to grow.

The Market was handed over to us as a council by the Regen early last year and that has been something I personally have been passionate about rebuilding. I believe this has been a great success. The monthly entertainment has drawn people from afar. Stall holders and councillors, we together,

have worked tirelessly to improve stalls, entertainment, products sold and the very successful coffee shop run by my mum, Gill.

The monthly Council surgery has been reinstated and has been a great success with residents calling in for a chat about issues ranging from unruly teenagers in the market place to street lights not working. We have all worked together as a team to make sure these problems are either solved or reported to NLC to help us resolve.

We have now managed to get on top of all the issues with our Parks and the work done to improve these public facilities has been appreciated by local families who have commented on how nice it is to have things working properly again. A big thank you to George for all his help with this.

Over the last two years we have helped a lot of community events, for example, the Crowle Show, Christmas Carols around the tree, Crowle Colts and St Oswald's Church repairs.

As Mayor I have worked tirelessly to promote local issues and stand up for what matters to the local community, which included flooding, fly tipping and controlling the ever increasing planning application which is frustrating the sewerage and flooding issues, believing our role as a council should be non-political and focussed purely on the good of the community.

In early 2017 we found ourselves in the disastrous situation of the previous clerk embezzling £73,000. I have personally worked very hard with our new clerk Kirsty Dunn and Responsible Finance Officer Vicky Maw to make sure that this could never happen again by putting in a system that clearly defines robust visual, measurable council procedures in our office and our meetings. I wish to thank both members of our great office team for all their help and support they have given me over the last two years. I have worked alongside Kirsty and Vicky in the office on a weekly basis and hope this level of support continues.

To finish, a couple of important issues I think consider further attention following election:

- As individuals who were closely associated with the misappropriation of £73,000 of council funds now find themselves re-elected to this council, the council should consider the actions necessary to continue to protect the residents of Crowle and Ealand against such a shocking situation reoccurring.
- I would also like the council to consider reopening the recent case against one re-elected councillor after previous allegations of inappropriate behaviour against our staff. The council must ensure our staff doesn't face the types of behaviour for which the complaint was made.

I wish you all the best for the future and hope you continue to drive with passion, our goal of making Crowle and Ealand a better place to live.

003/19 Clerks Report 2018/2019

Delivered by Town Clerk Kirsty Dunn

Cemetery (Headstones). The leaning headstone reparation went ahead in the summer without any concern. A new policy was adopted in Nov to cover NAMM regulations and a further overhaul is to take place to ensure contractor working within the cemetery are registered prior to any works.

Councillor Attendance. Please see attached spreadsheet.

Over the past 12 months there have been no co-opted members and 2 Councillor vacancies out of the 15 positions. This increased to 3 vacancies after 1 resignation in Oct. All 9 seats now full via election.

Grass Cutting Agreement. Recently adopted, this programme now puts the onus on this Council for all the Town verges, paths and bridleway cuttings. So far, so good. Yards Apart, the contractor and Town Clerk have a good 2-way line of communication and in this early stage are flexible with the schedule. NLC did omit a number of areas which have now been included into C&ETC AOR and have responded well to last minute changes.

Parks. The RFO led a comprehensive refurbishment programme of Manor & Ealand Parks this past summer. Further works, such as the entrance to Manor Park and repair of swings has taken place since the refurb. Mr Edwards continues to carry out his frequent maintenance inspections which are presented to Council at each business meeting unless urgency depicts otherwise. A maintenance allocation is now in place to counteract repair costs and this remains an ongoing Council issue.

Personnel. All staff have received their appraisals for this year. An additional self-employed contractor has been taken on to assist Mr Edwards (George) in the Maintenance Department, and will cover for George over holiday periods.

Planning Applications. Please see attached list.

Policies & Procedures. Please refer to email with attached policies.

Upcoming Projects. Chapel Restoration and Memorial Wall.

Website. The Council website has been reviewed by a NLC representative and updated where able. It still remains a very non-user friendly site and will need further updating to bring it up to a good useable up-to-date website.

004/19 Responsible Finance Officers Report 2018/2019

Delivered by the RFO Vicky Maw

As a whole the financial current account t position of the Council is healthy, stable and on budget going forward into the financial year 2019/2020.

Insurance claim income has distorted the budget figures over the past twelve months, but some of this income has been used to repair and revamp Manor Park and Ealand Park, the rest, which mounts to £20,835.94 has been earmarked for the chapel renovation project. General reserves are £15,750.

The financial department of Crowle & Ealand Town Council is unrecognisable from that of March 2017. Extensive time by Councillors, the Clerk and myself has been spent creating and developing accounting systems, policies, practices and financial procedures. Loop holes have been closed to ensure accurate accounting takes place by the Responsible Finance Officer, ensuring council funds are protected against fraud and malpractice.

The accounts are audited on a yearly basis by an independent external auditor who works from recognised Parish/Town Council regulations. Not only are the accounts signed off but also council policies, registers and financial procedures are checked and reported upon.

Having had a newly elected councillor in my office this morning questioning the accuracy of the market accounts I would like to take this opportunity to invite all new and re-elected members to make an appointment to come and introduce yourselves. I feel Councillors need to be made aware, understand and carry out financial procedures that are now in place for council meetings and market days, ultimately keeping the council totally financially transparent.

005/19 Invited Service Providers Updates

Ward Councillors Report 2018/2019 – Delivered by Ward Councillor Julie Reed

Much effort has been within the planning department ; development of shop fronts and grants, planning applications, particularly 4R Group, public concerns, and happy to say that a application was dismissed under drainage concerns so the systems is working.

The Leisure Centre was opened and is a fantastic facility which is planned to work hand in hand with health – the only centre of its kind within the Isle. The pool is set slightly hotter for this reason, to conduct therapy and rehabilitation. It is hoped that a self-referral systems will be operable in time allowing patients to quickly access this facility.

Following re-election, Cllr Reeds new cabinet office appointment will be Highways, public transport and connectivity. She looks forward to getting on with the post and thanked councillors around the table for their tireless work.

Humber side Fire & Rescue Service Report – Delivered by Station Manager Tyson Trueman

Crowle has a Fire Team located in the Fire Station, as with most rural departments it is a struggle to man during the day with most residents leaving the village for work. A recruitment drive to tackle recruitment needs within Crowle is planned for the near future. It is a vital but challenging role and offers good pay. Council are requested to promote as much as possible.

Police & Crime Commissioners Office – Delivered by NL Engagement Officer Claire Welford

Role of the PCC is to represent the views of the public to the Chief Constable not be a spokesperson for the police. The role holds the Chief Constable to account for delivering an efficient and effective service. They commission victim services across Humberside including the generic victim support (current supplier Victim Support) but also specialist sexual and domestic abuse services, services for young people and restorative justice services. They will ensure that all partners responsible within the statutory Community Safety Partnership work together and listen to community priorities. To assist with this partnership working Keith Hunter (current PCC) has been giving them an increased budget of which around £130,000 to North Lincolnshire which is ring fenced for community groups to spend to make local improvements. The Neighbourhood Action Teams are a really useful tool for communities to raise issues at and get some support to deal with and they only exist in North Lincolnshire.

Keith's Aims:

- Increase levels of police staff. Humberside Police had 1420 three years ago the police officer levels are now 1900.
- Improve community policing. Barton and Epworth police stations now have response officers coming on shift there. These are the officers who respond to calls.
- Enable a culture shift within Humberside Police. Humberside Police have received its first Good Grading Across all areas from HMICFRS which is an amazing achievement as four years ago they were Requires Improvement.
- Ensure best use of funds. PCC has invested in the 101 system to ensure it is fit for purpose as the first contact with the public. It is now one of the best in the country with over a dozen forces coming from across the county to learn from us. The Force control room deal with on average 1500 calls per day of which 400 are 999 calls. Of the 1100 calls received on 101 the abandonment rate is around 10%.

For the future Keith will be looking at how we can balance community priorities with the national and demand driven priorities. Also look at how we can ensure whole communities know where to go to get issues resolved first time, rather than been passed between services.

Community Engagement Role

- To talk about the role of the PCC and the office to raise awareness.
- To take feedback positive and negative about services we commission.
- To work with partners to ensure they are working together tackling community safety.
- To be a single point of contact for the public if they are unsure about how to tackle their issue.
- To ensure the community voice is heard around issues and that agencies have given the issue fair consideration (this doesn't always mean a resolution to the problem).

Regeneration Project Ltd – Delivered by Manager Lisa Pearce

Most people are aware that Regen have the second hand shop but may be unaware that there are 40 volunteers in the books. Other areas that Regen maintain are numerous; a few listed for information:

All flowers throughout Crowle & Ealand – the newest being the planters around the Ealand signs.

Maintain the hedgerows along the A161 to allow the wildlife and daffodils to flourish.

Regen walk for all community, including families.

Maintain both war memorials.

Annual Brass band concert.

Regen news (3 times per year) and service directory, which is currently undergoing a validity review.

Link up with Council market for craft events.

Donated to various groups; Colts, Crowle Day, Islanders, Crowle Lights, CEPFA to name a few.

Sing-a-long has been successful and will be repeated.

Memorial tree is hopefully going to progress and be placed in the region of the market place.

Work experience will be going ahead for the first and some volunteering within the shop has been offered to local Job Seekers.

Best Kept Village, alongside C&ETC will be going ahead again this year.

Cllr Mason asked if there was any need for a Food Bank. Lisa said at this time, it is not required but situation is constantly reviewed.

006/19 Questions from Members of the Public

Gill Thompson – Crowle Resident and Market Stall Holder

On behalf of all stall holders and customers, Gill was saddened that Cllr Debra Middleton was not present and therefore unable to receive the thanks and gratitude in person. Gill wanted to thank Debbie for all her hard work and dedication with the Market and was sorry that she was not on the council this time around.

Mr John Ramsden – Ealand Resident

John requested asked the Ward Cllr if they voted for the reduction of councillor numbers and if so, why? Cllr J Reed, said she did vote for the reduction. She believes the democratic system afforded to this country allows people to vote accordingly. The oversized council numbers has meant no election has been required for a number of years, allowing constant roll-on with current members and co-options. The public have the right to decide who represents them and the news format facilitates elections and public choice.

Cllr R Stewart agreed with this statement, reiterating that this council had operated with a deficit of 2-3 councillors for a number of years.

007/19 Any Other Business

Cllr J Ramsden reiterated Gill's thoughts, expressing his disappointment at Cllr Middleton not being re-elected. She was a dedicated councillor who took over Chair at a very difficult time and brought this Council through it

efficiently. He requests a letter of thanks be sent to ex-Mayor Middleton thanking her for her time in office. His thoughts were reaffirmed by Cllr I Mason and full council agreed with the letter request.

Mrs Lisa Pearce looks forward to this Council working together for the benefit of the benefit of the Town.

008/19 Annual Assembly Date 2020

The next Annual Assembly will take place on Tuesday 12th May 2020, 7pm in the Community Hub.

The Annual Assembly closed at 19:49pm

Signature: Original signed R PENDER

Designation: Mayor

Date: 9 Jun 20