

## CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE  
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER  
ON THURSDAY 30 APRIL 2009

Present: Cllr Shafe in the Chair  
David Allison – Clerk to the Council  
Amanda Taft – Minute Taker

Cllrs Bains, Birch, Brading, Brand, Dann, Hollands, C Jefford, Martin, Saxon, Seeley,  
and Vassiliou

Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllrs Bennett, Norman, Seabourne and Wynne-Jones

In Attendance: There were 5 members of the public present.

AP35/09 The Chairman welcomes members of the press and public

Cllr Shafe, Vice-Chairman of the Council explained that she would be Chairing the meeting as Cllr Norman had expressed his apologies. The Chairman then opened the meeting and welcomed those present to the Annual Parish Meeting.

AP36/09 Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 24 April 2008

The Clerk advised those present that in accordance with good practice, the Minutes of the last Parish Meeting had already been signed off on 26 June 2008, that being the first full Council meeting after the 2008 Annual Parish Meeting.

AP37/09 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

AP38/09 To receive the Chairman's Report

Cllr Shafe delivered the Chairman's Report for the year, see attached.

AP39/09 To receive the following Committee Reports

AP39.1/09 Planning & Development Committee

Cllr Bains, as Chairman of the Committee, delivered his report for the year, see attached.

AP39.2/09 Environment & Amenity Committee

Cllr Seeley, as Chairman of the Committee, delivered her report for the year, see attached.

AP39.3/09 Finance & Administration Committee

Cllr Shafe, as Vice-Chairman of the Committee, delivered the report for the year, see attached.

AP40/09 To receive the Parish Council's Accounts for year ending 31 March 2008

The Clerk advised that in accordance with our statutory requirements the 2008 accounts were made available to the public from 2 June 2008 to 27 June 2008 between 10am and 3pm Monday to Friday inclusive. The Annual Return to the Audit

Commission was signed on 26 June 2008 (Minute CC542/08 refers). In 2007/2008 the accounts showed that taking into account all income and expenditure that we carried forward £217,503 into 2008/2009.

AP41/09 To consider any other interest in the Parish

No items were raised.

AP42/09 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm.



## **The Chairman's Annual Parish Report Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 30 April 2009**

With the closing of another Parish Council year, it is time to reflect upon those objectives and wishes of the community which we all have achieved.

The tone of the year commenced with the Parish's involvement with the Hertfordshire 'Village of the Year' competition, the unexpected Environmental Commendation set a positive note to the community, with the added compliment from the Judges who overstayed their allotted time because they felt at ease in our village.

This alone helped to bring those organisations within our community to share a common goal. The information gained from being involved in the competition has now been incorporated into our existing village register. I am pleased to report that this register is now growing as new organisations and events occur within our community.

The Autumn months brought with it the concerns of the pending 'Ground Maintenance Contract' that encompassed maintenance of the Green and Stones Orchard. As Chairman, I wish to thank the community for their concern and support, this alone gave a positive signal to the Council to explore all avenues so as to retain the maintenance of these important areas. As I am sure most of the community are now aware, the Parish are now in consultation with Three Rivers District Council and are sorting out the details of the continuance of the ground work.

In the closing months of this year, this Parish Council were selected to participate in a programme of mentoring to enable the Parish Council to broaden the community's horizons especially in cultivating a closer relationship with the organisations within the community.

Both the Environmental and Planning Committees have had full agendas, I would like to thank all the Members for their input and leave the details of this year's endeavours to the respective Chairs' reports.

To conclude, this year we are now at the first stages of creating a village hall status in conjunction with the Croxley Green Community Association and the Parish. In closing, I would like to give my personal thanks to all the Members of the Parish Council and a special thank you to our Clerk and members of his staff for all their support to me and therefore the community.

Cllr Norman  
Chairman



## **Planning & Development Committee Report**

### **Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 30 April 2009**

For the last year the Planning and Development Committee has consisted of 5 Parish Council members – Nick Bennett, Jeremy Hollands, Mark Saxon, David Wynne-Jones and myself (David Bains). We are responsible for a number of local issues and meet twice a month.

Our main responsibility is the continued appraisal of and commenting on the property and other planning applications being put forward to Three Rivers District Council for final approval.

Other duties also include running the community bus, and instigating new initiatives – such as working with the other agencies (eg Highways) to instigate new Pelican crossings at points of concern to residents. From our budget we also maintain bus shelters and contribute towards street trees.

Over the last year we have seen a downturn in the number of properties being extended or redeveloped, but have maintained our consistency in commenting appropriately on the more contentious ones. In most cases our sentiments have been echoed by Three Rivers Planning, in that they have agreed with our views and rejected where we have rejected. This has led to several undesirable conversions and new developments being rejected, the most notable of which has been the Tesco application where we have maintained our continued opposition – very much agreeing with the residents' majority in Croxley. Unfortunately this matter has now gone to appeal, which takes it out of our hands to some extent.

A recent controversial decision by TRDC was the erection of the Station Radio Mast for Vodafone. The Parish Council (and TRDC) were unable to object on planning grounds to this mast, because it constitutes 'permitted development' under Government planning guidelines, although many residents do have concerns on the basis of health considerations. The Parish Council did, however, get the resulting lost Christmas lights moved to a different lamp post in the Watford Road – at the mast contractors expense! Recent press articles, notably in My Croxley News, have been outrageously inaccurate in reporting this matter.

As a committee we are also involved in consultation documents with other external bodies, making the job of serving on this committee an interesting and enjoyable one.

In conclusion our committee members form a core of level headed, supportive community servants within our Parish Council, who will always do their best to promote the best interests of both local businesses and residents.

I would like to thank Cllr Jeremy Hollands for standing in for me on the occasions I have been unable to Chair.

Cllr Bains  
Chairman, Planning and Development Committee



## **Environment & Amenity Committee Report Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 30 April 2009**

Organised by Cllr Jefford our first E & A project of 2008/09 was our community tea for our more mature residents. This was held at the Community Centre (which is now our village hall), thank you to everybody who helped to make the afternoon a great success.

We also had a very successful outing for our senior citizens in December when the Parish Council provided a coach which took them all up to see the Christmas lights and a stop for approximately half an hour at Somerset House to see the ice skating and have a chance to have a cup of coffee. We received many letters of thanks from those who took part saying how very much they enjoyed the afternoon/evening.

Croxley Gardening Club very kindly took over the pre-judging for the annual garden competition and the results have been distributed among the Council last year after the event. Due to the flooding which occurred at the Community Centre, the actual Garden Competition evening could not be held until February 2009. Thanks in particular to Cllr Jefford who organised this event.

February 21<sup>st</sup> saw the quiz night take place when the amount of £863.42 was raised for Herts Air Ambulance. A great deal of hard work went into this particular evening and many thanks to all the Cllrs, friends and acquaintances who came along on the Saturday afternoon to help get things ready and tidied up afterwards. As usual Cllr Birch and her table won hands down and next year tickets to be on Cllr Birch's table will be charged double!

In the year of their existence, Flowers 4 Croxley have gone from strength to strength and are now in partnership with the Parish Council under the auspices of the E & A Committee. We have received a lot of congratulatory comments with regard to the lovely Spring display of the daffodils planted by the school children of the area. We hope this year to make even more areas of Croxley look more attractive.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone on the E & A Committee for all their help and support and to include in those thanks our Clerk and Amanda Taft for all their help. Our two Rangers, Carl and Andrew have also been very supportive and helpful.

Cllr Seeley  
Chairman, Environment and Amenity Committee



## **Finance & Administration Committee Report Annual Parish Meeting - Thursday 30 April 2009**

During the year the Council adopted the new format of receiving monthly management account reports that enables Members to analyse the budget expenditure on a month by month basis with accumulative figures for the year also included.

The Council, yet again, has all of its accounts up to date to 2007/08 which have been externally audited and we are grateful to the hard work of our Clerk in making this be the case. The annual accounts for the year 2008/09 are in the course of preparation and will be externally audited shortly.

The Council has been proactive in procuring sources of grants to enable projects within the community to be progressed, thereby limiting the impact upon the Parish budget.

Likewise, certain grants have been afforded to certain organisations within the village to assist in promoting these bodies.

To assist in the Parish Council's finances, external work has been approved by Council to raise the profile of the Council's capabilities, but with the bonus of an added income, that can be used for the benefit of the community.

The budget for 2009/10 was compiled by each committee and then duly approved by full Council to make the precept reflect the present financial market but to still give a good service and value to the community.

Cllr Norman  
Chairman, Finance and Administration Committee