

# CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON THURSDAY 10 JANUARY 2013

Present: Cllr Bennett in the Chair David Allison – Clerk to the Council

Cllrs Baldwin, Brading, Brand, Dann, Edmunds, Getkahn, Isard-Brown, Jordan, Martin, Mitchell, Ridley, Seeley and Shafe.

Voting Members: 14

Members of the Public: 6

CC1171/13/S Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Vane and Wynne-Jones

CC1172/13/S Declarations of Interest by Members

The Chairman recommended that any declarations of interest be made, if necessary, throughout the meeting.

CC1173/13/S Representations from the Public

There were no representations from the public.

CC1174/13/S Budgets 2013/14

The Chairman introduced this matter and stated that due to changes being made by central government to the council tax benefit system, TRDC have had to make changes to the way the local tax base is calculated. The Chairman continued that this has a direct impact on the Band D equivalent tax base for Croxley Green upon which the Council's precept is calculated. The Chairman added that with the changes, the tax base for Croxley decreases which therefore has a direct effect on the income the Council can raise from residents. However, central government is providing a grant to TRDC to make up for the changes and in turn TRDC will be making a grant available to this Council so there would be no potential loss of income from the current year as a result of the changes. There is no guarantee that the grant from TRDC will be available in subsequent years.

The Clerk explained that the current year (2012/13) Precept of £258,242 was based on a Band D equivalent of 5455.75 houses making the charge per household £47.33. However, with the tax benefit changes the Band D equivalent for Croxley for the current year (2012/13) decreases from 5455.75 to 5153.76 and at the current charge per household of £47.33, this would have made this year's Precept £243,927 namely £14,315 less. Accordingly, TRDC will provide a Grant of £14,315 for next year (2013/14) to make up the shortfall.

The Clerk continued that with the small growth in houses in Croxley the Band D equivalent for 2013/14 increases from 5153.76 to 5336.26 which with no increase next year of the charge per household of £47.33 would make the Precept £252,565. The Clerk added that with the Grant from TRDC of £14,315 the total income for next year could be £266,880 and the budget discussions should be put into this context.

The Clerk then presented on screen for Members the draft budget details which had been circulated in advance (version 5 dated 13 December 2012). The Clerk pointed out the draft budget was showing a potential requirement for income as £280,491 and accordingly there would need to be reductions in the budget to bring this down to £266,880 based on the current charge per household.

The Chairman stated that he would like to go through the budget, page by page and

look at all items Cllrs would like to adjust. A summary of the changes are shown below:

**Salaries** (4001/101, page 1) – reduced from £69,000 to £67,000

**Training** (4008/101, page 1) – reduced from £1,500 to £500

**Chairmans Allowance** (4201/102, page 3) increased from £250 to £500

**Training** (4008/103, page 4) – reduced from £1,500 to £500

**Health & Safety** (4017/103, page 4) – reduced from £1,100 to £750

**Equipment Purchased** (4046/103, page 4) – reduced from £1,500 to £500

**Tfr to Vehicle Replacement Fund** (4823/199, page 7) – reduced from £5,000 to £4,000

**Tfr to Equipment Replacement Fund** (4824/199, page 7) – reduced from £4,000 to £3,000

**Rickmansworth School Pool** (page 7) – it was agreed that the budget provision of £5,000 be removed and that any request for financial support from the school would be considered under an S137 Grant application in which there was already a draft budget provision of £1,000 (page 6, Accts code 4711/107).

**Stones Orchard Hedging and Trees** (page 9) – after some discussion it was agreed to reduce the collective £10,000 to £3,000 and to rename the item “Stones Orchard Fund”.

**War Memorial** (4932/299, page 12) – increased from £0 to £200

**Salt Bins/Salt** (4043/301, page 13) – reduced from £500 to £200

**CMS Grant for Footpath Maintenance** (page 13) – it was pointed out that account code 4047/301 showed expenditure of £1,000 and that there should be a counter entry from CMS as income of -£1,000.

With the changes made above the Clerk stated that the revised income figure now stood as £262,291 representing £4,589 (1.72%) below the maximum income of £266,880 which could be achieved with no increase in the charge per household.

**RESOLVED:**

- That the figure of £262,291 be agreed and that this figure goes forward to the Council meeting to be held on Thursday 31 January to ratify the Precept for 2013/14.

CC1175/13/S Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.08pm.