

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF the 251st MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 2009

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

Cllrs Bains, Bennett, Brand, Hollands, Jefford, Martin, Norman, Saxon, Seeley, Shafe, Vassiliou and Wynne-Jones

Voting Members: 13

Public: 3

CC725/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Brading, Dann and Seabourne

CC726/09 Declarations of Interest by Members

Declarations of interest were made by Cllrs Jefford, Seeley and Vassiliou in respect of a budget item regarding a potential S137 Grant to Flowers 4 Croxley under Agenda item CC732/09.

CC727/09 Representations from the Public

Representations were made by a member of the public expressing concern about the TRDC Preferred Options for Housing and in particular the proposals for Killingdown Farm.

CC728/09 Minutes

The Clerk pointed out that under Minute CC716/09 Revision to Standing Orders, it needed to be made clear that under the Terms of Reference for the Finance and Administration Committee item (x) that the words “with the exception of like for like recruitment of staff under the management of the Clerk” was deleted.

It was proposed by Cllr Wynne-Jones and seconded by Cllr Norman that the amended Minutes of the 250th Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 26 November 2009 be accepted. The proposal was agreed and the Chairman signed the Minutes.

CC729/09 Matters Arising

CC713/09 – Croxleyhall Woods). The Clerk confirmed that the site meeting had taken place on Wednesday 16 December.

CC714.4/09 PD1223/09, Little Green Lane Pond (ownership), the Clerk advised that he was still waiting to hear back from Hertfordshire County Council’s land agent but he had also contacted TRDC who were unable to advise.

CC718/09 Policy for Habitual and Vexatious Complainants, the Chairman advised that the policy had now been implemented.

CC730/09 Committee Reports

CC730.1/09 Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 1 December 2009

It was proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Martin that the Minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 1 December 2009 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.

CC730.2/09 Any matters arising

A Cllr enquired about the works undertaken on a hedge in Barton Way and was advised that the works were unauthorised and disciplinary action had been taken on a

member of staff accordingly.

CC730.3/09 Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 2 and Wednesday 16 December 2009

It was proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Hollands that the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 2 and Wednesday 16 December 2009 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.

CC730.4/09 Any matters arising

PD1244/09 (Highways). It was advised that in a few weeks time the roadside gully drains on The Green and other locations are to be cleared.

CC730.5/09 Finance and Administration Committee held Thursday 10 December 2009

It was proposed by Cllr Norman and seconded by Cllr Bains that the Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 10 December 2009 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.

CC730.6/09 Any matters arising

FA564/09 (Monthly Accounts). It was asked whether a Grant was available from Highways in respect of the provision of salt. The Clerk said that as stated in the Minutes he would look into that matter for the future.

CC731/09 Village Hall

The Chairman introduced this item and advised that a representative from the Community Association was unable to attend the meeting but that the Clerk had been provided with a report. The report is attached to these Minutes.

CC732/09 Budget 2010/2011 and beyond

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate.

The Clerk advised that Members had been circulated a draft budget schedule dated 14 December 2009 Version 4 Draft and it was this document they should refer to at the meeting. It was agreed that the budget proposals would be reviewed on a page by page basis and Members should raise any matters similarly.

Page 1 – 4011/101 Rates. It was noted that the Rates for 2010/11 were higher than the current year. The Clerk advised that the budget figure of £4,600 accurately reported that notified to him.

Page 6 – 4711/107 S137 Grant. Cllrs Jefford, Seeley and Vassiliou, having previously declared an interest in this matter, left the Council Chamber whilst this matter was discussed. The Clerk reported that the £3,000 budget figure represented a £1,000 contingency plus £2,000 budget provision for a potential Grant to Flowers 4 Croxley. The Clerk emphasised that this was purely a budgetary provision and that the Flowers 4 Croxley Group, like another group, would have to submit a S137 Grant Application Form in the new financial year for Members to consider on its merits. After a protracted discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Saxon and seconded by Cllr Hollands that the budget provision for this account code be reduced to £1,500 representing £1,000 contingency and £500 for Flowers 4 Croxley. The proposal was unanimously agreed. It was pointed out that the agreed proposal represented the budget figure for S137 Grants and that any Grant Application put forward in the new financial year would be reviewed on its merits and that any shortfall in budget provision versus any Grant agreed by Council would be met from reserves subject to Council agreeing to that action.

Page 7 – Depot Extension. The Clerk explained the background in that space in the Depot was very tight and that the extensive area in the loft which, amongst other things, could be used for office storage (which equally was singularly lacking), was not being utilised. The Clerk added that the budget provision was to undertake a

Stage 1 for the project which would be to have detailed plans prepared for potential extension in the future. This would provide the basis of proper costings and a realistic timeframe to be developed to implement the extension proposal. Following a discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Norman and seconded by Cllr Bains that the Stage 1 financial provision be reduced from £5,500 to £2,000. The proposal was agreed.

Page 10 4605/211 Christmas Lights. The proposal that had been put forward for 4 additional Festive Decorations on the up side of Scots Hill was withdrawn by the proposer so the budget provision was reduced from £9,000 to £7,000.

Page 12 4936/299 School Gardening Clubs. Cllr Wynne-Jones declared an interest being a School Governor at a school beneficiary and Cllr Shafe declared an interest being the Deputy Headmistress at a school beneficiary. Both Cllrs left the Council Chamber when the matter was discussed. Following a discussion it was proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Vassiliou that £2,000 be allocated to this budget item.

It was agreed that subject to the above changes and a pending budget submission for accounts code 4937/299 Development of Play Areas that the modified figures be put forward to Council at their next meeting.

CC733 /09

Correspondence

CC733.1/09

Councillor requested correspondence

There was no Cllr requested correspondence.

CC733.2/09

Other correspondence

Members noted the lists of correspondence which the Clerk stated was not exhaustive.

CC734/09

Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm.