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MINUTES OF the 322nd MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 26 JANUARY 2017 at 8.00PM

Present: Cllr Mitchell in the Chair
David Allison – Clerk to the Council
Ryan Bennett – Administrative Assistant

Cllrs Bains, Baldwin, Gallagher, Hobbs,
Hollands, Ridley, Saxon and Vassiliou

Voting Members: 9
Not Present: Cllr Kaur
Members of the Public: 4
Co-option candidates: 5

CC1688/17 Apologies for Absence
Apologies had been received from Cllrs Edmunds and Wynne-Jones.

CC1689/17 Declarations of Interests by Members
The Chairman recommended that any declarations be made at the time.

At this point it was proposed under Standing Order 9.1.6 that Agenda item CC1690/17 Representations from the Public be moved and taken after item CC1694/17. The proposal was agreed.

CC1690/17 Representations from the Public
This item was discussed later in the meeting – see below.

CC1691/17 Co-Option of Three Councillors for Durrants Ward
The Chairman introduced this item and thanked the candidates for attending the meeting. The co-option and voting procedure had already been distributed to candidates and the details were published with the Agenda and sent to Councillors. The Chairman called for a proposer and seconder for the motion to be discussed.

Resolved:

- That the Agenda item CC1691/17 Co-Option of Three Councillors for Durrants Ward be discussed.

The Clerk then read out the names and addresses of the five candidates. The candidates were Nigel Cole, Sarah Linhart, David Montague, Mark Parker, Marie Stokes, Derek Wallington and Pynee Vuddamalay.

The Chairman called for a proposer and seconder for the candidates to be nominated for co-option.

Resolved:

- That the seven candidates were nominated and seconded for co-option.

The Chairman then called for a proposer and seconder to proceed to co-opt three Councillors from the seven candidates nominated.

Resolved:

- That the co-option of three Councillors from those candidates nominated is carried out using the documented co-option procedure that had been circulated with the Agenda prior to the meeting.

The Chairman then invited the five present candidates to speak and each candidate spoke for up to three minutes.

The results from the votes were as followed:

- Vacancy 1 – David Montague
- Vacancy 2 – Sarah Linhart
- Vacancy 3 – Nigel Cole

The Chairman congratulated those candidates who had been successful and emphasised the great quality of all the candidates who had put themselves up for co-option.

CC1692/17

Minutes

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the 321st Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 15 December 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman

CC1693/17

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1694/17

Committee Reports

CC1694.1/17 Environment and Amenity Committee held on 6 December 2016

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 6 December 2016 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC1694.2/17 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1694.3/17 Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 7 & Wednesday 21 December 2016

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 7 and Wednesday 21 December 2016 be adopted as report of the meeting.

CC1694.4/17 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1694.5/17 Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 8 December 2016

Resolved:

- That the minutes of the Finance & Administration Committee of Thursday 8 December 2016 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC1694.6/17 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1690/17 Representations from the Public

Representations were made from Garry Turner and Barry Grant from the Croxley Green Society (CGS) in regards to agenda item CC1695/17 Budgets, specifically the moving of £3000 from Account Code 4024/102 Subscriptions to Account Code 4711/107 Grants that had occurred at the Council meeting of December 15.

Garry Turner spoke about the wide ranging benefits that the continued level of subscription would bring to the people of Croxley Green. He advised Members that they should be “embracing the economic benefit” that an event such as Croxfest brings to the village. He criticised the Council for recommending that the subscription should be lowered because in the Members judgement Croxfest was attended by a higher proportion from outside the Parish, citing this as “very insular”.

Mr Turner advised members that the CGS had information on the attendance demographics for their events, and would have been more than willing to share this with the Council before they had made the decision to lower the subscription at the meeting of December 15.

Mr Turner asked the Members if it would not have been prudent to consult the opinion of more Croxley Green residents before moving £3000 out of the CGS subscription.

Barry Grant then spoke and reinforced many of the arguments made by Garry Turner. He emphasised that it was a “minor miracle” that these events took place each year and that it was incredible that Croxfest had started up to begin with, given the myriad of obstacles that an event such as Croxfest must overcome.

Councillors then debated the points raised by Mr Turner and Mr Grant.

A Councillor emphasised that Members were “guardians of public money” and as such they must make sure they know how public funds were being spent by the CGS, and at present Members had not seen any accounts from them.

Another Councillor made reference that many of those who attended Croxfest did not realise that it was able to be staged with a rather substantial contribution from public funds, and that references to the Parish Council’s funding were hard to find during the event itself.

A Councillor then reaffirmed that they were not removing the £3000 subscription from the Council’s budget, merely moving it into Grants, and as such the CGS would be able to apply to the Parish Council for more funding in the near future.

CC1695/17 Budgets & Precept 2017/18

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk referred to the draft budget schedule version 10 dated 16 December that had been circulated with the Agenda.

At this point a Councillor proposed that £3000 is re-assigned to Account Code 4024/102 Subscriptions from Account Code 4711/107 Grants, for this year, and that the CGS provide CGPC with their account information.

A recorded vote was requested.

Given the developing nature of the discussion the Chairman of the meeting, Cllr Chris Mitchell, declared a non-pecuniary interest and would abstain from any voting on the matter.

1. That £3000 is re-assigned to Account Code 4024/102 Subscriptions from Account Code 4711/107 Grants, for this year, and that the CGS provides CGPC with their account information.

Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
Bains	x		
Baldwin	x		
Gallagher		x	
Hobbs	x		
Hollands	x		
Ridley		x	
Saxon		x	
Vassiliou		x	

Given that the vote ended in a 4-4 tie, the Chairman of the meeting has a casting vote. As Chairman, Cllr Chris Mitchell, had removed himself from the voting procedure the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Jeremy Hollands, had the casting vote.

Cllr Jeremy Hollands cast his deciding vote **in favour** of the proposal.

Members had no further points to discuss on the budget, and as such it was proposed that Members voted on the setting of the Precept and Budget for 2017/18.

A recorded vote was requested.

2. That for 2017/18 the Croxley Green Parish Council Precept be set at £286,944 and Budget set at £292,560

Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
Bains	x		
Baldwin	x		
Gallagher	x		
Hobbs	x		
Hollands	x		
Mitchell	x		
Ridley		x	
Saxon	x		
Vassiliou	x		

Resolved:

- That £3000 is re-assigned to Account Code 4024/102 Subscriptions from Account Code 4711/107 Grants, for this year, and that the CGS provides CGPC with their account information.
- That for 2017/18 the Croxley Green Parish Council Precept be set at £286,944 and Budget set at £292,560.

CC1696/17

The Hazel Seeley Award

The Chairman introduced this item and advised members that at the F&A meeting of January 12 the committee resolved to make a recommendation to Council that Mr Keith Alford and Mrs Pauline Batten be awarded the Hazel Seeley Award 2017.

Resolved:

- That Mr Keith Alford and Mrs Pauline Batten are awarded the Hazel Seeley Award 2017.

CC1697/17 Watford Road Car Parking

The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Vassiliou to elaborate. Cllr Vassiliou told members he thought it necessary to reconvene the Watford Road Car Parking working party as despite their previous efforts no measures had yet been put in place by Three Rivers District Council.

The Clerk advised Cllr Vassiliou that he had received an e-mail from TRDC that their Croxley Green Area-wide study is under way and that they expect to consult residents, local businesses and other stakeholders with addresses in Croxley Green during February. The Clerk also advised Members that he was unsure what new actions could be undertaken by the working party that they had not already done.

CC1698/17 Confirmation of Appointment of Administrative Assistant

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

At this point Cllr Saxon asked whether it was necessary to move the meeting into a Part 2 as the agenda item related to a member of staff.

The Clerk advised Members that he felt it was not necessary to do so as the item only referred to the confirmation of the Administrative Assistant appointment and that no personal details would be discussed, and that in previous occasions of employee confirmation they had not moved into a Part 2.

The Clerk then informed members that the Administrative Assistant, Ryan Bennett, has completed his three month probationary period and that a formal letter had been sent to him confirming his appointment.

CC1699/17 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.21pm.