

MINUTES OF the 300th MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2014 at 8.00PM

Present: Cllr Mitchell in the Chair David Allison – Clerk to the Council
Amanda Taft – Administrative Officer

Cllrs Baldwin, Bennett, Brading, Edmunds, Isard-Brown, Martin, Ridley, Seeley, Shafe and Wynne-Jones

Voting Members: 11

In attendance: PCSO Steve Jacob and PCSO Aaron Smith

CC1415/14 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Brand, Dann, Getkahn, Jordan and Vane

CC1416/14 Declarations of Interest by Members

The Chairman recommended that any declarations be made at the time.

CC1417/14 Representations from the Public

There were no public present.

The Chairman proposed under Standing Order 9.1.6 that Agenda item CC1423/14 be moved forward on the Agenda. The proposal was agreed.

CC1423/14 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk reminded members that they had been invited to submit questions for the PCSOs prior to the meeting. The Clerk stated that five questions had been submitted and Inspector Winder had responded to these questions. The PCSOs said that they would also make some comments.

Question 1 - Do you police the students leaving Rickmansworth School at 3.20pm?

Inspector Winder's reply - PCSOs routinely patrol outside schools at the beginning and the end of the school day. We find it a very good way to interact with a large section of the community ie children and their parents and also to monitor safety issues around the schools. The presence of a uniform can also provide reassurance to parents and children and help to prevent poor driving by passing motorists. This will not be every day as it will of course depend on whether the PCSOs for the area are on duty, how many schools they have on their patch and what other duties they have that day.

Question 2 - Are you allowed to hand out ASBOs for antisocial behaviour?

Inspector Winder's reply - ASBOs are no longer in use as they have been replaced by other powers. They were rarely used as there were other measures open to police which usually had the desired effect before getting to an ASBO. The mere presence of a PCSO will dramatically reduce the frequency of anti social behaviour. PCSOs will quickly learn who their local trouble makers are and are then able to target them directly or perhaps through their parents or the housing association. This local knowledge is one of the great assets of a PCSO dedicated to a particular area.

Question 3 - What is your system for covering hot spots in Croxley? Eg the skate park, Barton Way recreation ground etc.

Inspector Winder's reply - Hot spots will be identified by a number of methods, this will include monitoring crime statistics, listening to local people and the PCSOs own

experience and local knowledge. Once identified then they will receive greater attention from the PCSOs during their patrols but keeping in mind that they have other duties such as patrolling outside schools as mentioned earlier.

The PCSOs added that there are no real hot spots in Croxley Green and over the past ten years, antisocial behaviour has fallen considerably. They also advised that . they try to visit every play area at least once per shift.

Question 4 - Do many members of the public contact or approach you? If so why?

Inspector Winder's reply - The public will speak to PCSOs all the time. Some will approach us directly, some will phone or write. A large part of a PCSOs job is to make themselves accessible by being in places where there are large numbers of people such as community events, outside schools or shops. The bigger challenge is accessing those harder to reach people in order to seek their views and concerns. Some people will want to tell us about what is concerning them such as antisocial behaviour however others just want a friendly and reassuring face to speak to. Common issues that people are concerned about are speeding, dog fouling and parking.

Question 5 - What powers do you have in regard to parking offences?

Inspector Winder's reply - We have powers to issue tickets for causing an obstruction however we will not routinely do this if there is another solution. The advantage of having local knowledge is that we may know who the vehicle belongs to and require them to move it (obviously if they do the same again the next day then they will then get a ticket). Local knowledge will also allow us to be aware of how much of an obstruction the vehicle actually is, eg is it on a bus route and would therefore obstruct the buses? Having said all this we have issued quite a few tickets lately for blatantly inconsiderate parking.

The PCSOs added that cannot do anything about vehicles parked on yellow lines as that is a matter for the Parking Shop. However, if anyone is concerned about vehicles parked near junctions, over dropped kerbs or obstructing the pavement then they should report it through the 101 telephone number.

The PCSOs then gave an overview of recent crime statistics adding that if someone believes they are a victim of crime then this is now included in the figures. These statistics are attached to the minutes.

The Chairman thanked the PCSOs who then left the meeting.

With regard to the Service Level Agreement, the Clerk advised that there had been no changes.

Resolved:

- That the continuation of the provision of two PCSOs (one funded) for Croxley Green at a cost of £28,500 per year was agreed;
- That the signing of the Service Level Agreement was delegated to the Clerk.

CC1418/14

Minutes

Regarding item CC1403/14 (Matters Arising; CC1397/14 Part Two Matters), Cllr Edmunds stated that he wished the final two words 'at all' to be changed to 'in such detail'.

Resolved:

- That the amended Minutes of the 299th monthly meeting of the Council held on Thursday 30 October 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

CC1419/14 Matters Arising

CC1403/14 (Matters Arising; CC1390/14 Project Updates 2014-15, Bird Boxes). The Clerk was asked for an update and he replied that the rangers would be making the bird boxes over the winter.

CC1404.2/14 (Matters Arising; EA1067/14 Ponds and S137 Grant Application). The Clerk was asked if he had heard back from TRDC regarding land ownership to which he replied that he had not.

CC1404.2/14 (Matters Arising; EA1066/14 Car Parking and Posts on The Green). The Clerk was asked for an update to which he replied that TRDC were making a mock up sign for discussion and looking into costs for the posts and he was unaware of their timescale.

CC1420/14 Committee Reports

CC1420.1/14 Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 7 October 2014

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 7 October be adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC1420.2/14 Any Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1420.3/14 Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 1 October and Wednesday 15 October 2014

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 1 October and Wednesday 15 October 2014 be adopted as a report of the meetings.

CC1420.4/14 Any matters arising

PD2390/14 (Planning Applications). It was pointed out that application 14/1736/FUL had been refused at TRDC's Planning Committee following representations from the public at the Parish Council meeting and the Parish Council's decision to object to the application.

CC1420.5/14 Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 9 October 2014

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 9 October 2014 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC1420.6/14 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1421/14 Budgets 2015/16

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk reminded Members that the Council's Finance Regulations now require budget proposals for 2015/16 to be submitted by the end of November and he would be circulating copies of all budget submissions to Councillors on Monday. He added that a complete review will occur at the Committee and Council meetings in December.

The Clerk advised that TRDC have an Extraordinary meeting on 1 December to consider the tax base which has provisionally risen by 54.76 to 5472.08 but this would be subject to confirmation following the TRDC meeting. The Clerk read through the submissions that had been received so far for 2015/16:

Planning and Development Committee

Cllr Jordan - £23,000 for the Neighbourhood Plan and printing of the Community Plan

Finance and Administration Committee

The Clerk - £490 for a new gazebo

The Clerk - £160 for 4 folding tables

Environment and Amenity Committee

Cllr Wynne-Jones - £150 for bird boxes

Cllr Edmunds - £200 for the Dog Show

Cllr Brand - £500 for Picnic in the Park

Cllr Bennett - £230 for poppies on lampposts on the Green (Remembrance Day)

Cllr Seeley - £1200 for the senior citizens outing

Cllr Edmunds – £1,000 for Stones Orchard hedge

Cllr Dann - £500 for consultancy re Stones Orchard hedge

Cllr Dann - £1,000 for information boards for Stones Orchard

Cllr Edmunds - £150 for the Wassail

Cllr Bennett - £5,000 for stained glass windows in All Saints' Church

Cllr Ridley - £1,000 for a commemorative service for WW2 VE and VJ Day

[Post meeting note: as at 30 November further submissions were submitted as follows:

Cllr Mitchell - £500 for the volunteer programme at the canal (E&A)

Cllr Mitchell - £600 to pilot a virtual notice board for Croxley Green (E&A)

Cllr Mitchell - £250 for promoting sustainability (P&D)

Cllr Mitchell - £300 to keep trying to set up a producers market (P&D)

Cllr Mitchell - £2,000 for street tree planting (P&D)]

CC1422/14

Local Area Forum

The Clerk advised that the Local Area Forum had been postponed and as yet no new date has been set.

CC1423/14

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)

This matter was discussed after item CC1417/14.

CC1424/14

Communications

The Chairman introduced this item and referred Members to the supporting paper adding that there is no one place where all events in Croxley Green are listed. He advised that My Croxley News is considering including a 'what's on' page and currently anybody can put events on the Watford Observer. The downside of the Parish Council website is time and responsibility. A discussion followed about how all events could be listed in one place and suggestions included notice boards (on The Green, next to the Red House, at the station and the top and bottom of Baldwins Lane), a Facebook page with administrators around the village and the pros and cons of each suggestion was commented upon.

It was then suggested that possibly a second Parish Council website could be set up for events in Croxley Green and access could be given to various organisations in the village. The Clerk pointed out that he would be responsible for this and he would not be happy for third parties to have access to such a site and it was then suggested that it could be called a community notice board with a disclaimer. The Chairman stated that he would submit a budget item to pilot a web-based community notice board for Croxley Green and encourage community involvement.

Resolved:

- That the Parish Council pilots an online community notice board for Croxley Green.

CC1425/14

Local Business Awards

The Chairman referred members to his supporting paper and said that he would like to support and make people aware of local businesses and he thought that some type of annual awards competition may be a good idea. It was asked if this would be an award or a competition and how would local businesses be judged. Cllr Edmunds explained that following the support given to the Parish Council's Dog Show by Croxley Hardware, a letter of thanks had been sent and this was a way of recognising a local company who had done something special to help the Parish Council or local community. It was suggested that the public could be invited to nominate a local business on a slip in the Parish Pump with details of why they are putting forward the nomination. It was pointed out that the Sportsman pub is a fine example of a business that has supported Parish Council initiatives. It was suggested that a small working party could be set up to thrash out the detail of this project.

Resolved:

- That the principle of a local business service recognition award scheme is agreed;
- That a working party is set up to put a recommendation to Council for agreement.

Cllrs Shafe and Wynne-Jones wanted to be involved in this project and it was suggested that the five Councillors who had expressed apologies should be given a week to decide if they would like to be part of the working party.

CC1426/14

Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.32pm.

Croxley Green

Croxley Green North Croxley Green Croxley Green South

	2013-2014	2014-2015	Up-down	2013-2014	2014-2015	Up-down	2013-2014	2014-2015	Up-down
Violent Crime	3	9	6	6	23	17	12	15	3
Robbery	0	0	0	1	0	-1	2	1	-1
Burglary Dwelling	3	1	-2	11	5	-6	5	4	-1
Burglary Other	2	0	-2	8	0	-8	6	5	-1
Theft of a Vehicle	2	1	-1	1	0	-1	1	0	-1
Theft From a Vehicle	4	2	-2	5	3	-2	2	1	-1
Vehicle Interference	1	0	-1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Theft From Person	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Theft Other	5	3	-2	5	13	8	18	31	13
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Criminal Damage Other	7	3	-4	17	15	-2	14	4	-10
Drug Offences	6	8	2	5	12	7	2	3	1
Other Offences	1	1	0	5	13	8	1	8	7

Overall Crime	33	28	-5	65	85	20	63	73	10
ASB Incidents	18	18	0	47	42	-5	25	41	16