

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF the 274th MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 29 MARCH 2012

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

Cllrs Baldwin, Brand, Edmunds, Getkahn, Jordan, Martin, Mitchell, Ridley, Seeley, Shafe, Vane and Wynne-Jones

Not Present: Cllr Brading

Voting Members:13

In Attendance but non-voting: County Councillor Drury

Public: 1

CC1040/12 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Dann and Isard-Brown.

CC1041/12 Declarations of Interest by Members

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

CC1042/12 Representations from the Public

Representations were made by the Chairman of the Residents Association regarding Croxley Community Plan. Cllrs were reminded that the Parish Council are acting jointly with Croxley Green Residents Association to form a Community Plan and that a well thought out questionnaire would assist in delivering goals and planning for the future. Cllrs were advised that the Steering Committee had compiled a draft questionnaire and a copy was available for Cllrs to take away after the meeting in order that they come back with ideas and suggestions before the questionnaire is finalised.

CC1043/12 Minutes

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the 273rd monthly meeting of the Council held on Thursday 23 February 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

CC1044/12 Matters Arising

CC1035/12 (Matters Arising: CC1025.2/12 Matters Arising; EA827/11 Nectar/Oasis Areas and EA820/11 Bee Keeping). The Clerk was asked for an update and he replied that as well as Natural England and the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Buglife had also sent leaflets and information.

CC1038/12 (Councillors' Surgeries). A Cllr stated that a letter had been read out but had not been mentioned in the Minutes. The Clerk stated that it would have been helpful had this been pointed out before this meeting and added that it did not affect the content of the Minute or the resolution. The Chairman agreed and pointed out that the Minutes are not a verbatim report of discussions. The Clerk was then asked if there was a contingency plan in the event that a Cllr is unable to attend the surgery to which he replied that a Cllr had offered to cover any absences if necessary. The Clerk was then asked how the Surgeries would be publicised and it was advised that dates had been included in the Spring/Summer edition of the Parish Pump, on our website and posters had been created and circulated.

- CC1045/12 Committee Reports
- CC1045.1/12 Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 7 February 2012
- Resolved:**
- that the Minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 7 February 2012 be adopted as a report of the meeting.
- CC1045.2/12 Any matters arising
- EA852/12 (Tree Work on the Metropolitan Line Embankment). A Cllr asked why his comments had been quoted in the third paragraph of the Minute. The Chairman pointed out that the Committee Report had now been signed off by the Committee and if there was something in the Minutes he was unhappy with he should have contacted the Clerk when the Minutes were issued and before the minutes were signed. It was pointed out that the Cllr was not even named in the Minute.
- CC1045.3/12 Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 1 February and Wednesday 15 February 2012
- Resolved:**
- that the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 1 February and Wednesday 15 February 2012 be adopted as reports of the meetings.
- CC1045.4/12 Any matters arising
- PD1773/12 (Watford Road Car Parking). The Clerk was asked for an update and he advised Members that he was in liaison with TRDC as they are currently dealing with matters involving the car park adjoining the Red House and a joined up approach is needed.
- CC1045.5/12 Finance and Administration Committee held Thursday 9 February 2012
- Resolved:**
- that the Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 9 February 2012 be adopted as a report of the meeting.
- CC1045.6/12 Any matters arising
- There were no matters arising.
- CC1046/12 Community Plan
- The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Jordan to elaborate. Cllr Jordan reiterated the points made during public representations emphasizing the need for Cllrs to stimulate networking and take a copy of the draft questionnaire to read and comment upon.
- Cllr Jordan pointed out that the Community Plan was a project in association with the Parish Council and that the Council could then put together a Neighbourhood Plan. It was suggested that the draft questionnaire could be looked over by Development Officers at TRDC who may be able to identify areas that could be strengthened or were missing. Cllr Jordan pointed out that once all comments on the draft questionnaire had been assimilated it would be appropriate for the draft final version to be discussed by the Council.
- The Chairman added that this was a very important project and Council voted in favour of a Community Plan adding that the more input there was, the greater the influence would be on the community.

CC1047/12

Part-time streetlights in New Road

This item was introduced by the Chairman who asked Cllr Getkahn to elaborate. Cllr Getkahn reminded those present that this matter had been referred from the Planning and Development Committee for ratification. He added that the part-time street lighting had created an unsafe environment for pedestrians and had increased the fear of crime. Another Cllr pointed out that there were many residents in favour of the part-time lighting and Herts Constabulary had actually reported continuing falls in crime levels. There was a general consensus that there had been a lack of consultation and information about the part-time street lighting.

Cllr Drury advised that a group of consultants had decided which lights would be switched off, adding that different areas were being dealt with at different times and that there would be a review of the whole county in June 2013. Cllr Drury agreed that the lack of consultation was appalling, and advised that he had been presented with a fait accompli. However, he pointed out that he had received very few complaints; the last complainant asked why their light was still on all night!

The recommendation from the Planning and Development meeting of 21 March was proposed and seconded but a counter proposal was proposed and seconded that the first part of the recommendation, namely that the Committee recommend to Council that the Council writes to HCC that the lighting in New Road be re-instated immediately, be deleted. Members voted in favour of the counter proposal.

Resolved:

- That the Council points out its concern about the policy and its implementation which could be considered negligent
- That the Council requests a copy of the Risk Assessment and supporting statistics and request details of the potential cost savings within Croxley Green, the cost of implementing the scheme and request what alternative options were considered

The Chairman thanked Cllr Drury for attending and answering questions. The meeting was suspended at 9.10 for five minutes.

CC1048/12

Oak Tree on The Green

The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Martin to give a verbal report. Cllr Martin advised that she had met with Julie Hughes of TRDC at the beginning of March and they had agreed a site at the bottom end of the Green by All Saints' Church. The tree, a traditional English oak tree, will be planted in the Autumn. The Chairman thanked Cllr Martin for her work.

CC1049/12

Picnic in the Park

The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Martin to elaborate. Cllr Martin stated that this was an idea she had had to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Monday 4 June and now she would like offers of help from other Cllrs. Cllr Martin advised that funding would be by way of a grant from Cllr Drury (the £990 grant is for three items; the sharing of which will be discussed during the Finance and Administration meeting to be held 12 April 2012).

Resolved:

- that the Parish Council lead the organisation of a community 'Picnic in the Park' on Monday 4 June to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Cllr Ridley then put forward a counter proposal that the Parish Council lead the organisation of a community 'Picnic in the Park' on Monday 4 June to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee but that we liaise with other organisations to see what they are doing. He then withdrew this proposal.

It was agreed that Cllrs contact Cllr Martin with suggestions of ideas for this event and offers of help.

CC1050/12

Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.33pm.