

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF the 266th MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 30 JUNE 2011

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

Cllrs Baldwin, Brading, Brand, Edmunds, Getkahn, Isard-Brown, Martin, Ridley,
Seeley, Shafe, Vane and Wynne-Jones

Voting Members: 13 reducing to 12 after item CC930/11

Public: 13

CC922/11 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Dann and Jordan.

CC923/11 Declarations of Interest by Members

The Chairman declared an in interest in CC936/11 (Application for Grants from Croxley Green Society) and advised that Cllr Shafe would chair the meeting during that item. Cllr Brand declared an interest in CC935/11 (Application for a S137 Grant from Croxley Guild of Sports and Social Club). The Chairman recommended that any other declarations be made as necessary throughout the meeting.

The Chairman stated that following CC924/11 (Representations from the Public), two items would be moved up the agenda in order; CC936/11 (Application for Grants from Croxley Green Society) and CC938/11 (Former Yorke Road School Site – Part Demolition).

CC924/11 Representations from the Public

Representations were made by three people.

Mrs Rosemary Hanscomb made representations about item CC938/11:-

Eleven photos of Yorke Road School were handed to the Clerk, they showed the building before, during and after the recent part demolition. A history of the building was given and Leukaemia Research (LR) was criticised for the way in which they had acted over the deterioration and recent part demolition of the building.

Mr Barry Grant made representations about item CC936/11 and CC938/11:-

Cllrs were advised that LR were going to issue a statement about Yorke Road School but as yet this had not happened.

Representations were also made in support of the Croxley Green Society's grant application for this year's Revels.

Mr Mark Saxon made representations about item CC936/11, CC938/11 and CC940/11:-

It was advised that the licence for Croxfest was now posted on the Green and the decision would be made on 11 July. Preparations for the event were well underway. The charities that would benefit were Help for Heroes and the Peace Hospice. It was pointed out that the event would be promoted as 'Croxfest in partnership with Croxley Green Parish Council'.

Cllrs were advised that Mr Saxon fully supported Cllr Edmunds proposal regarding Yorke Road School.

Regarding the Council's Responsibilities it was pointed out that things are not always as straightforward as who does what because while lampposts are the responsibility of Hertfordshire Highways, there are some that are the responsibility of the Parish Council.

CC936/11

Applications for Grants from Croxley Green Society

The Chairman stood down and Cllr Shafe as Vice Chair chaired this item. Members were reminded that the Finance and Administration Committee had decided to award an S137 Grant of £1500 in respect of the Revels 2011 and to award an S145 Grant of £2500 in respect of Croxfest 2011 subject to ratification by Council.

It was asked that if Croxfest was not awarded a licence that any grant provided be returned and this was confirmed. It was also asked if the application for Croxfest was a one-off and this was also confirmed as the event will be self funding in future.

Resolved

- That the Croxley Green Society be awarded a one-off S145 Grant of £2,500 in respect of Croxfest 2011 on the condition that if, for any reason the event is not held, the money is returned to the Parish Council and the proposal was agreed.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the balance of money in the Revels account and it was considered that it was not good practice for the Parish Council to give retrospective grants and instead the application for grant funding should be submitted prior to the event or even proposed during the budget rounds.

Resolved

- That the Croxley Green Society be awarded a S137 Grant of £1,500 in respect of the Revels 2011 and the proposal was agreed.

CC938/11

Former Yorke Road School Site – Part Demolition

The Chairman introduced this matter and it was advised by a Cllr that the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) was satisfied that there had been no collusion between TRDC and Leukaemia Research (LR). In respect of the demolition proceedings by LR, the Building Control officer knew that LR wanted to demolish the Former Yorke Road School but did not think to advise TRDC's Planning Department. A Stop Order was presented to the CEO but he did not sign it although he did get LR to stop voluntarily. The building is very much at risk but LR can finish the demolition if they go through the proper procedures.

A member of the public stood up and advised those present that she had a meeting with LR the next morning regarding the purchase of the property for commercial use. This person added that she had approached LR six months ago but was told that they were not in a position to lease or sell the building. The person then asked that the Parish Council do not take any action until after her meeting on 1 July 2011.

However, it was also considered that LR had acted against the law and regardless of any commercial proposal, the Parish Council should complain to the Charities Commission as the letter would not be considered for three weeks and the letter and wording should be agreed and sent. It was further added that LR should not be allowed to run roughshod in the way that they have and we should not allow it to go on unchallenged and unreported.

Another member of public, a neighbour of the school advised that LR had not undertaken a bat check nor had they turned the gas off before they began the demolition. The neighbour believed LR had been totally irresponsible and believed that due to the heavy equipment still on site, they would be back any day to continue with the demolition.

It was agreed that the word 'illegally' on the supporting paper should read 'unlawfully'.

A recorded vote was requested. Cllrs Baldwin, Bennett, Brading, Getkahn, Isard-Brown, Martin, Seeley, Shafe and Wynne-Jones voted for the proposal. Cllrs Brand, Edmunds, Ridley and Vane voted against the proposal.

Resolved

- That the Parish Council write to Steven Halls, CEO of TRDC, supporting his letter regarding this matter
- That the Parish Council write to the Charities Commission (CC) and bring this situation to its notice in respect of the three areas mentioned:
 1. Where a charity has acted unlawfully
 2. Serious non-compliance in a charity that damages or has the potential to damage its reputation and/or the reputation of charities generally
 3. Serious non-compliance in a charity which, left unchecked, could damage public trust and confidence in the CC as an effective regulator.

The letter will not be sent until after the meeting on 1 July 2011.

CC925/11

Minutes

Resolved

- that the Minutes of the 265th monthly meeting of the Council held on Thursday 28 April 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

CC926/11

Matters Arising

CC912.2/11 (Matters Arising; EA750/11 British Waterways Adopter Scheme). The Clerk was asked for an update. He replied that he had had a meeting with the Rangers and Karen Fishwick and a list of tasks (to be carried out by the Parish Council and volunteers) had been produced. A walk along the stretch of waterway concerned had been scheduled in the July active works list.

CC912.2/11 (Matters Arising; EA751/11 Posts on the Green). The Clerk was asked for an update and he advised that the matter was in hand and that he was in the process of obtaining quotes to get the best value.

CC914/11 (Special Resolution regarding the Council's Habitual or Vexatious Policy). One Cllr disapproved of the word 'reluctantly' in the proposal however the Clerk advised that the Minutes had been agreed. The Clerk was asked if a letter had been sent to the person concerned and if it had not, it was requested that one be sent.

CC927/11

Minutes of the APM

Resolved

- that the Minutes of the APM held on Thursday 28 April 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

CC928/11

Minutes of the AGM

Resolved

- that the Minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 12 May 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

CC929/11

Extraordinary Meeting 26 May 2011

It was asked if the words 'would be a breath of fresh air' could be added to the representations made by the third member of public (page 2, paragraph 4).

The Clerk was asked why some representations were verbatim whilst others were a précis of what had been said. The Clerk explained that if a copy of the representations are given to the office then they can be copied word for word but if verbal representations only are made then the representations are recorded as fully as notes allow. The Clerk added that under new Standing Orders, we will be progressing to having a record of public representations made during the meeting.

The Chairman was criticised by Cllr Brand for the way in which he handled the meeting. Cllr Brand believed that the person who made the second representations 'was a complete disgrace in respect of his attack on me' and he believed it to be a disgrace that the Chairman 'allowed it to go on'. The Chairman advised that public representations is the opportunity for members of the public to state their views and he has no control over the views of others.

Cllr Ridley objected to the second member of the public's representations in respect of 'you charged the council tax payers of Croxley Green £10,000 the last time you sat on the Council' (for a kick wall in Barton Way) as the money is still held by the Council in Reserves. The Chairman again stated he had no power over public representations and moved the meeting on.

Resolved

- that the amended Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Thursday 26 May 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

CC930/11

Matters Arising

See CC929/11.

Cllr Vane left the meeting at this point.

CC931/11

Committee Reports

CC931.1/11

Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 5 April 2011

Resolved:

- that the Minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 5 April 2011 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC931.2/11

Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC931.3/11

Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 6 April, 4 May and 18 May and to note that the meeting scheduled for 20 April was cancelled

Resolved:

- that the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 6 April, 4 May and 18 May 2011 be adopted as a report of the meeting. It was noted that the meeting scheduled for 20 April 2011 was cancelled due to the fact that planning applications requiring the Committee's attention were not available on the TRDC website.

CC931.4/11

Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC931.5/11

Finance and Administration Committee held Thursday 14 April and 12 May 2011

Resolved:

- that the Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 14 April and 12 May 2011 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

- CC931.6/11 Any matters arising
FA708/11 (Monthly Accounts (month 12)). The Clerk was asked if the accounts included delivery of the Parish Pump and he advised that they did not. The Clerk was then asked if the Rangers purchase all fuel from the Shell garage which he confirmed to be the case.
- CC932/11 Annual Return – External Audit
The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk pointed out that under the entry for 31 March 2010 on Section 1 (Accounting Statements), box 9 had been changed from £317,804 to £259,847 as our asset values have been restated from the insured value to the cost value.
Resolved:
- That Council note and ratify the amendment to the Annual Return which has restated our asset values for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2010 from insured value (£317,804) to cost value (£259,847) and the proposal was agreed.
- CC933/11 Internal Audit Report for the year ending 31 March 2011
This item was introduced by the Chairman and the Clerk advised that the Audit Report was to be received and noted. The Clerk added that there was only one recommendation and Members noted this information.
- CC934/11 Notification of Changes to Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
The Clerk advised those present that this item was on the agenda in order to give notice of potential changes to Standing Orders and it would be adjourned to the next Council meeting. The Clerk was asked what Cllrs should do if they wish to have anything amended. The Clerk asked for comments to be sent to him as soon as possible. Another Cllr suggested a deadline be set and it was agreed that comments on Standing Orders be sent to the Clerk by Friday 22 July.
- CC935/11 Application for a S137 Grant from Croxley Guild of Sports and Social Club
The Chairman introduced this matter and Members were reminded that the Finance and Administration Committee had decided to award an S137 Grant of £2500 to Croxley Guild of Sport in respect of the permanent cricket pitch subject to ratification by Council.
Members discussed this matter and asked if the sum could be increased to £4000 as the money will be returned if the other £6000 funding cannot be secured by the Guild of Sport. The Clerk advised that the application was for £2500 and the agenda item was to discuss and ratify the decision to award £2500.
Resolved:
- That the sum of £2500 be given by way of an S137 Grant from the 2011/12 budget to Croxley Guild of Sport for a permanent cricket pitch on the condition that the Guild raise the remaining £6000 from other sources and that the funds are not to be released until the other £6000 funding has been secured. The proposal was agreed.
- CC936/11 Applications for Grants from Croxley Green Society
This matter was moved up the agenda – see page 2.
- CC937/11 Village/Community Plan
The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk was asked for an update on the progress. The Clerk informed Members that the Community Plan was launched at the Revels by Croxley Green Residents' Association and that the Parish Council also

distributed leaflets. He added that a Steering Group would shortly be formed. The Clerk was asked about future dates and which Cllrs would be on the Steering Group and a Cllr advised that the inaugural meeting would be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13 July 2011 and all were welcome to attend and anyone can put themselves forward for the Steering Group.

Resolved:

- That the Parish Council enters into partnership with the Residents' Association to jointly develop a Community Plan.
- That the Community Plan be a standing agenda item on the first Planning and Development meeting of the month and the proposal was agreed.

CC938/11 Former Yorke Road School Site – Part Demolition

This matter was moved up the agenda – see pages 2-3.

CC939/11 Chairman's Charity

The Chairman asked Cllrs to put forward suggestions for a local (Croxley) charity but not one which is aimed at one person solely. He also asked for suggestions for Cllr organised fundraising events. The deadline for suggestions is Friday 8 July.

CC940/11 Council's Responsibilities Web Page

The Chairman introduced this matter and those present were referred to the 'Who is Responsible for What in Local Government' diagram that had been circulated with the agenda. It was advised that in the past this had been published in the Parish Pump magazine and the proposal was to put the document on the website in order that residents could see at a glance who is responsible for what. It was acknowledged that the document would need to be updated. The Clerk informed Cllrs that the Parish Council is a facilitator for enquiries and regardless of which tier of government we would either direct the resident or deal with the matter on their behalf.

Resolved:

- The Parish Council creates a Council's Responsibilities web page on the website to assist residents when reporting faults or problems to the relevant authority and the proposal was agreed.

CC941/11 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00pm.