

MINUTES OF the 314th MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 31 MARCH 2016 at 8.00PM

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

Cllrs Bains, Baldwin, Edmunds, Gallagher, Hobbs, Hollands, Kataria, Ridley, Saxon, Taft, Vassiliou and Wynne-Jones

Voting Members: 13

In Attendance: District Cllr Peter Getkahn.

CC1582/16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Brand, Greenman and Kaur.

CC1583/16 Declarations of Interest by Members

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

CC1584/16 Representations from the Public

No representations were made.

As Cllr Getkahn was in attendance at the meeting and given he had been a member of the Working Party to discuss the matter of Watford Road parking, the Chairman proposed under Standing Order 9.1.6 that Agenda item CC1588/16 Watford Road Parking be moved up the Agenda and taken next. The proposal was agreed.

CC1588/16 Watford Road Parking

The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Gallagher to elaborate. Cllr Gallagher referred to the paper that had been circulated with the Agenda and summarised the steps that had been taken and the key points made in report.

Cllr Gallagher added that there had been a suggestion about holding a meeting of affected residents to discuss the matter but he considered that this may not be an appropriate measure given the diverse range of views expressed in returned surveys. He added that such a meeting may only highlight the range of differing views and would result in no consensus of agreement.

A member of the Working Party said that he had not been aware of the meeting with District Councillors that had been held but said that there should be no parking on the South side of the road which may be welcomed by residents.

Cllr Gallagher was thanked for all the work that had been undertaken in regard to this matter.

It was commented that there should be a one hour restricted car parking on both sides of the road at different times to discourage the commuter parking. It was also commented that perhaps further thought should be given to increasing bicycle racks provision.

Resolved:

- That the Council noted the progress of the Working Party and that the Working Party prepare a specific proposal for discussion and approval at a future Parish Council Meeting;
- That the Council subsequently writes to Three Rivers District Council setting out the findings with a specific recommendation for action;

- That the Council noted the positive response from County and District Councillors and that the Council sets up a new Working Party with a remit to investigate parking problems in Croxley Green more widely and specifically (in the first instance) those caused by commuters parking for access to Croxley station.

CC1585/16 Minutes

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the 313th monthly meeting of the Council held on Thursday 25 February 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

CC1586/16 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1587/16 Committee Reports

CC1587.1/16 Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 3 February and Wednesday 17 February 2016

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 3 February and Wednesday 17 February 2016

CC1587.2/16 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1587.3/16 Finance and Administration Committee of Thursday 11 February 2016

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 11 February 2016 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC1587.4/16 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

The Clerk apologised for the fact that Minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee meeting held on 5 January 2016 had not been included on the Agenda for adoption as a Report for that meeting. The Clerk added that he had advised Members accordingly by email on 24 March 2016 and that the Minutes of that meeting would be and are presented to Council at this meeting under Standing Orders 9.1.13 and 9.1.14.

Environment and Amenity Committee Minutes of 5 January 2016

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 5 January 2016 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

Any Matters Arising

EA1179/15 DriveSafe . A Cllr asked whether there had been any further interest in this matter. The Clerk advised that there had not and the list of those expressing interest still only contains one name.

CC1588/16 Watford Road Parking

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting, see above.

CC1589/16 Update regarding the Metropolitan Line Extension

The Chairman introduced this item and advised that to ensure all Members were up to date with the Metropolitan Line Extension he wanted Members to see the visual presentation that had been recently given by TfL to TRDC. The Chairman

added that Members had been sent the presentation by email on 17 March.

The presentation slides were shown on screen and Members invited to comment. It was noted that no reference had been made to the new Ascot Road station on slide 4. It was also commented that with the current works in progress adjacent to the Harvester Public House it appears that the public car parking spaces which had been coned off are being used by contractor vehicles. It was also asked whether local business rates were to be reduced as a result of the disruption in the area and that this should be taken up with TfL.

It was requested that the TfL contact details be made available to Members.

[Post meeting Note: The TfL contact is Olivia White, Stakeholder Engagement Manager and can be contacted at London Underground Strategy and Service Development, 5th floor Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ. Tel: 0207 126 4858 / 07711190487 or by email at OliviaWhite@tfl.gov.uk]

CC1590/16 Budget / Projects 2015/16 and 2016/17

The Chairman introduced this item and went through the projects that had been undertaken during 2015/16.

The items for 2016/17 included:

Canal Partnership (£400): Cllr Mitchell

Pram Race (£500): Cllr Hobbs. Cllr Hobbs reported that a provisional date of Saturday 17 September was being considered and he was currently putting together a traffic management plan to see whether road closures can be put into place.

Defibrillator (£2,500): Cllr Hollands

Defibrillator Maintenance (£500): Cllr Hollands

Market (£300): Cllr Mitchell

Poppies on the Green (£50): Cllr Saxon

Website (£1,000): Cllr Taft.

Stained Glass Window at All Saints' Church (£5,000): Cllr Saxon. This would be subject to a Grant application being submitted to Council.

Signs along Ebury Way and Towpath (£1,000): Cllr Bains

Neighbourhood Plan (£15,000): Cllr Mitchell

Sustainability (£250): Cllr Mitchell

Tree Planting (£2,000): Cllr Mitchell. This will be in association with District Cllr Steve Drury for street trees.

Members noted the position.

CC1591/16 Defibrillators in Croxley Green

The Chairman introduced the matter and asked Cllr Hollands to elaborate. Cllr Hollands gave a brief summary of the background in that the Croxley Green Residents Association had received funds from HCC for defibrillators but were having difficulty bringing the project to fruition. Cllr Hollands added that it had been confirmed that the HCC funding can be transferred to the Parish Council and following a meeting with the Residents Association, it was agreed that this should take place. Accordingly, the project would then be taken forward by the Parish Council.

The location at the Baptist Church in Baldwins Lane would remain on the list of potential sites but once quotes for the units had been reviewed the first installation was likely to be at the Parish Council's offices. Additional unit locations were also being looked into.

Resolved:

- That the Council confirmed it was prepared to receive the HCC funding in order to progress the project and install defibrillators.

CC1592/16

Council Website

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk recapped that the Council had decided to upgrade the website to include a virtual noticeboard and a consultation area given that the previous web developer had been unable to make changes to the old site as it was on a content management system platform which they were no longer servicing. The Clerk added that the previous web developer had advised that they would be decommissioning the old system. Accordingly, any upgrading/development with a new web company became time critical.

The Clerk continued that in developing the new website the previous company had been approached for release of the content database but this was not forthcoming so the new web developer, KVA Digital, had to input content manually into the new redesign.

The Clerk added that given that it was unknown as to when the old site would be taken off line and the fact that the Council's Freedom of Information Policy on how decisions are made (Minutes) is only required for the last two years and given the tight deadline for the new site to go live, some historic content could not be put on the new website in the time available.

However, the Clerk had spoken with KVA Digital and it was the intention that they will create an 'archive' folder on each of the areas of Agendas, Minutes and Supporting Papers and the older information progressively uploaded. In response to a question, the Clerk advised that the staff will upload the information given it was already in pdf format.

The Clerk added that there are other areas of the new site that need further content to be written by the Council and uploaded where there had been changes to the structure of the website and this will be undertaken progressively.

Cllr Taft reported that there is agreed budget funding for 2016/17 and that this was to cover further development work on such things as adding a Facebook application to the website and perhaps a 'concerns page' where residents can vote in the form of 'like' or 'dislike' on matters that may be of concern to them.

The Clerk showed Members on screen statistical information about the visitors to the website during March which included such things as their geographical location by postcode and the areas of the site that were visited.

CC1593/16

Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm.