

**CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER  
ON THURSDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2011

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

Cllrs Dann, Jordan, Seeley, Shafe and Wynne-Jones

Voting Members: 6

In Attendance: Cllrs Brand and Ridley

Public: 1

FA741/11 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies to note.

FA742/11 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

FA743/11 Representations from the Public

Representations were made by Mr Saxon in respect of two items; FA750/11 and FA747/11.

Regarding the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), Mr Saxon pointed out that since the scheme began some 3 to 4 years ago, the residents of Croxley Green pay £29,000 per annum on a buy one, get one free basis for two dedicated PCSOs. Mr Saxon added that what arrangements other areas may have is of no concern to Croxley Green. He advised that it is not Hertfordshire Constabulary who charge Special Expenses but Three Rivers District Council (TRDC). Mr Saxon also asked how many residents of Croxley Green South ward had asked for this information and why it had been requested. He added that he hoped the Committee would reject the paper as there was no benefit to any discussion on the matter of PCSOs for Croxley Green.

Mr Saxon then spoke about the Contractor's List stating that it would be a long winded task in need of constant updating and that he wondered about the true nature of the paper. Mr Saxon then added that the second paragraph states 'compiling a list of contractors who can be contacted by email to tender for any works that Croxley Green Parish Council are undertaking' and he took this to mean 'getting rid of the two Rangers.' Mr Saxon further added that in his view this was a vindictive attempt by Cllr Ridley to undermine the staff and work of the Parish Council and to ultimately abolish the Parish Council.

FA744/11 Minutes

Cllr Ridley requested that under item FA739/11 (Monthly Accounts), the Minutes be amended to read 'a matter was raised regarding email and whether the cheque had been cashed. The Clerk confirmed that it had'.

**Resolved:**

- That the amended Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14 July 2011 be approved and be signed by the Chairman.

FA745/11 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

FA746/11 Monthly Accounts

There was an adjournment to allow Cllrs the time to peruse the accounts. Cllrs asked for clarification on some items of expenditure for months 4 and 5 (July and August) and this was provided by the Clerk.

**Resolved:**

- That the Management Accounts for months 4 and 5 (July and August) be approved and be signed by the Chairman.

FA747/11 Contractor's List

The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Ridley to elaborate. Cllr Ridley advised that this matter was one of the 39 items on the Agenda of the Extraordinary Council meeting held 26 May and he had been advised to bring the matters to the relevant Committee. He added that the Parish Council could request on its website, that Contractors email us so that we can put their names on a list and contact them should the need arise. Members felt that this was unnecessarily complicated and nugatory and could not see it being particularly beneficial. The Clerk clarified that on the rare events that we need a contractor, local contacts are used and we do not have any problems in this respect.

There was no seconder for this proposal so the motion failed and therefore no further action will be taken.

FA748/11 Parish Magazine Advert Order Form

The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Ridley to elaborate. Cllr Ridley stated that there was no advert order form on the website for advertising in the Parish Pump. It was advised that the item on the website relating to the Parish Pump was an introduction to the magazine and not for marketing purposes. The Clerk clarified that it would not be cost effective to include an extra page of adverts and Members of the Editorial Committee confirmed that the marketing strategy used was usually a face-to-face personal one. It was further added that currently there was no available advertising space.

There was no seconder for this proposal so the motion failed and therefore no further action will be taken.

FA749/11 Special Expenses

Cllr Dann declared an interest in this matter.

The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Ridley to elaborate. Cllr Ridley asked if people wanted to know about Special Expenses charged to the residents of Croxley Green over the past seven years. The Clerk clarified that Special Expenses are charged for a service that TRDC undertake or provide which is not undertaken or paid for by the Parish Council. Cllr Ridley was advised that a Freedom of Information request would not be needed in any case, as this information was in the public domain and he could look on TRDC's website for the information. The Clerk agreed to insert an extract from TRDC's website as an appendix to these Minutes (see page 4).

There was no seconder for this proposal so the motion failed and therefore no further action will be taken.

FA750/11 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)

The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Ridley to elaborate. Cllr Ridley stated that Abbots Langley Parish Council are provided with a PCSO in exchange for use of an office. It was pointed out that we are not fully conversant with Abbots Langley's arrangement and our own buy-one-get-one-free arrangement is good value for money. Cllr Ridley was concerned that TRDC pay for 8.5 PCSO's via money collected through General Expenses. The Clerk pointed out that in addition to our

two, dedicated PCSO's, we also have a general PCSO who covers the District (including Croxley Green).

There was no seconder for this proposal so the motion failed and therefore no further action will be taken.

FA751/11

Closure

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.53pm.

APPENDIX B

Council Tax Special Items 2011/12	Abbots Langley	Chotleywood	Crosley Green	Sarran	Watford Rural	Unparished	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Special Expenses</b>							
Aquadrome	0	0	0	0	0	109,700	109,700
The Centre, South Oxhey	0	0	0	0	3,620	0	3,620
Playing Fields and Open Spaces	390	51,100	103,730	0	182,420	366,920	723,560
Woodlands	1,950	36,630	27,980	0	86,730	40,800	194,990
Cemetaries	0	0	29,960	0	0	50,480	80,440
Watersmeet	0	0	0	0	0	79,230	79,230
Community Halls	(24,750)	0	0	0	(1,230)	0	(26,010)
<b>Total Special Expenses</b>	(22,540)	89,730	161,670	0	270,540	666,130	1,165,530
Parish Council Precepts	568,955	338,500	245,200	72,500	210,650	0	1,425,805
<b>Total Special Items</b>	536,415	428,230	406,870	72,500	481,190	666,130	2,591,335
Council Tax Base	8,207,561	6,023,701	5,353,161	1,086,051	7,854,541	10,016,001	38,541,011
<b>Band D Charge for Special Items</b>	65.36	71.09	76.01	66.76	61.26	66.51	67.24