

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 10 MAY 2012 AT 8.00PM

Cllr Bennett – In the Chair

David Allison – Clerk to the Council
Amanda Taft – Minute Taker

The Chairman welcomed Cllrs and the member of public to the meeting.

AGM71/12 Election of Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Seeley and seconded by Cllr Wynne-Jones that Cllr Bennett be nominated Chairman for the year 2012/2013. There were no other nominations.

Resolved:

- That Cllr Bennett be elected Chairman of Croxley Green Parish Council for the year 2012/2013.

Cllr Getkahn arrived at this point.

AGM72/12 Acceptance of Office

Cllr Bennett accepted the Chairmanship and then duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was countersigned by the Clerk.

AGM73/12 To record those present and apologies for absence

Present: Cllrs Brading, Brand, Dann, Edmunds, Getkahn (arrived at 8.02pm), Isard-Brown, Jordan, Martin, Mitchell, Ridley (left at 8.11pm), Seeley, Shafe, Vane and Wynne-Jones

Voting Members: 15 reducing to 14 after AGM76/12

Apologies had been received from Cllr Baldwin.

Public: 1

AGM74/12 Election of Vice Chairman

The Chairman asked for proposals for the office of Vice Chairman of the Council for the year 2012/2013. It was proposed by Cllr Wynne-Jones and seconded by Cllr Mitchell that Cllr Shafe be elected Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations.

Resolved:

- That Cllr Shafe be elected Vice Chairman of Croxley Green Parish Council for the year 2012/2013.

AGM75/12 Appointment and Composition of Committees

AGM75.1/12 **Resolved:**

- That in accordance with Standing Order 19.2, the following Committees are appointed: Finance and Administration Committee; Staffing Committee; Planning and Development Committee; Environment and Amenity Committee

AGM75.2/12 The Clerk advised that Standing Orders states that there should be a maximum of 7 Members per Committee and Members may only swap Committees in agreement. The Clerk added that as Cllr Brand was not on a Committee there was a vacancy on the Planning and Development Committee. He added that the Chair and Vice Chair of Council were automatically Members of both Committees.

Cllr Getkahn said that he would like to move from the Environment and Amenity Committee to the Planning and Development Committee.

Resolved:

- That Cllr Getkahn is no longer a member of the Environment and Amenity Committee but is now a member of the Planning and Development Committee.

Resolved:

- That the Staffing Committee retains the same members.

AGM76/12 Chairman and Vice Chairman of Standing Committees

The Chairman declared an adjournment to allow the Committees to elect their Chairman and Vice Chairman.

When the meeting reconvened, it was reported that the Committees would be constituted as follows for the year 2012/2013:

	P&D Committee	E&A Committee	F&A Committee*
Chairman	Cllr Jordan	Cllr Seeley	Cllr Bennett
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Mitchell	Cllr Edmunds	Cllr Shafe

*The F&A Committee comprises of six members – Chair and Vice Chair of the Council, P&D and E&A.

Cllrs Brading, Dann, Edmunds, Ridley, Seeley and Vane are the six Members of the Environment and Amenity Committee.

Cllrs Baldwin, Getkahn, Isard-Brown, Jordan, Martin, Mitchell and Wynne-Jones are the seven Members of the Planning and Development Committee.

Cllr Brand is once again without portfolio as he chose not to stand on either Committee.

Cllr Ridley left at this point.

AGM77/12 To receive reports from Council Representatives on Outside Bodies 2011/12

AGM77.1/12 - Road Safety – Cllr Martin – see attached.

AGM77.2/12 – Three Rivers Environmental Forum – Cllr Wynne-Jones – see attached.

AGM77.3/12 – NHS Local Representation (Community Voice) – Cllr Bennett and Cllr Baldwin – Cllr Bennett advised that he had not attended any of the meetings and although Cllr Baldwin had attended some of them there was no report.

AGM78/12 Council Representation on Outside Bodies and organisations 2012/13

AGM78.1/12 - Road Safety

Resolved:

- That Cllr Martin represents the Parish Council on the Road Safety Committee.

AGM78.2/12 – Joint Committee of Parish Councils – The Clerk advised that the representatives from Croxley Green Parish Council are normally the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Clerk.

Resolved:

- That the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Clerk represent the Parish Council on the Joint Committee of Parish Councils.

AGM78.3/12 – Three Rivers Environmental Forum – Cllr Wynne-Jones stated that he would like to represent the Parish Council at these meetings for a further year. Cllr Edmunds offered to act as substitute if he is unavailable.

Resolved:

- That Cllr Wynne-Jones represents the Parish Council on the TRDC Environmental Forum and Cllr Edmunds acts as substitute if necessary.

AGM78.4/12 – NHS Local Representation (Community Voice) – Cllr Wynne-Jones volunteered to represent the Parish Council on the Community Voice.

Resolved:

- That Cllr Wynne-Jones represent the Parish Council on the Community Voice.

AGM78.5/12 – Any Other External Representation – None.

AGM79/12 Direct Debits

The Clerk advised Members that by law the Parish Council must have two signatures and this item is to regularise and acknowledge that we pay certain bills by Direct Debit. The Clerk pointed out that Peninsular (£220 per month) also has to be added to the list of direct debits as detailed on the Agenda.

Resolved:

- that the Council continues with the payments by direct debit.

AGM80/12 Annual Subscriptions

The Chairman introduced this item and suggested that the following subscriptions should be considered 'en-bloc':

AGM80.1/12	Campaign to Protect Rural England	29.00
AGM80.2/12	Community Development Agency for Hertfordshire	30.00
AGM80.3/12	Hertfordshire Association of Parish & Town Councils	1447.18
AGM80.4/12	Society of Local Council Clerks	182.00
AGM80.5/12	Direct Information Service (NALC)	90.00
AGM80.6/12	Community For Volunteer Services (CVS)	15.00
AGM80.7/12	The Open Space Society	40.00
AGM80.8/12	The Croxley Green Society	5,500.00

Resolved:

- that the annual subscriptions were agreed.

AGM81/12

Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.27pm.



Croxley Green Road Safety Committee Report

Annual General Meeting – Thursday 10 May 2012

I joined the committee as the PC representative in May last year. We meet 5 times a year at the library. This is almost the last surviving Road Safety Group in Hertfordshire so one of our primary aims was to make the residents of Croxley Green aware of our existence as meetings were really only attended by the committee (5 people) this time last year! We have done this through articles in My Croxley & the Parish Pump. At our last meeting we had nearly 20 people.

During our meetings we:

- twice a year review all reported traffic accidents in the Parish looking for patterns and signs of potential danger (data from County)
- support and run local campaigns for Road Safety
- sometimes have representatives from the police/PCSOs
- sometimes have a representative from Hertfordshire Safe and Sustainable Journeys (previously the Road Safety) Unit although, due to cutbacks, this will only be very occasionally but we do have their backup if required
- discuss areas which are brought to our attention by members of the public, usually related to speeding/parking.

In January at the committee's AGM I was elected to be the new 'chairman' as the previous chairman stood down after many years. I have taken over this role at a time when various issues are big news in Croxley; the proposed Croxley Rail Link and the site allocation for a new secondary school at the bottom of Baldwins Lane. Both these projects, should they get the go-ahead, will have major road & pedestrian safety implications. With this in mind a meeting of the core committee was called to put together a response on behalf of the group on both of these issues & these can be seen on our website.

At our most recent meeting last month we had a packed agenda with many updates on existing issues and some new ideas & projects. These included:

- changes to traffic flow coming up Scots Hill as originally put forward by Nik Bennett
- an update on the 'safer routes to school' project at Little Green School
- updates on upgrades to crossings in Watford Road
- speeding problems in Links Way, New Road, Community Way & The Green. (The first 2 roads will be having speed checks carried out, Community Way will be getting a new speed limit sign installed, thanks in part to PCSO Jamie Hornett, & leaflets will be designed for local residents & users of the car park to raise awareness of speeding, & the Green is an ongoing project.)
- a project for summer leading into autumn/winter to promote safer cycling in Croxley Green, with particular emphasis on school children. This will involve competitions & leaflets/posters to be carried out with all the schools with the help of the PCSO's we hope.

As you can see this is a busy group of people who are trying their best to improve safety for all of us in Croxley. When I joined it was struggling to keep going but now it is going from strength to strength!

Janet Martin

Croxley Green Parish Council Representative on Croxley Green Road Safety Committee



Three Rivers District Council Environmental Forum Report Annual General Meeting – Thursday 10 May 2012

As your representative in Three Rivers Environmental Forum I can report that it is always a most interesting and informative experience.

In March the Chairman welcomed Rebecca Thompson, Landshare Website Producer who gave a presentation on promoting the 'Letsgrow' initiative. She stated that the project was commissioned by Channel 4 by KEO Digital. It connected people who wanted to grow their own food with those who had space to grow it in. There was a huge demand for allotments across the United Kingdom which was not being met. Councils had a duty to provide allotments under the Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908, S23.

The next speaker talked about the Environmental Portfolio and how TRDC is slowly developing and expanding cycle routes with schemes to continue with the programme to link Chorleywood to Rickmansworth and schemes to link Croxley Green to Rickmansworth town centre. He mentioned that parking controls were a major part of his work. The council had never seen parking as a money spinning exercise and in his view the number of yellow lines should be kept to the minimum necessary to ensure road safety and free the local shopping areas and surrounding streets from all day commuter parking.

David Curry gave a talk on the Herts Orchard initiative which was set up ten years ago by a group of people concerned with the demise of orchards in a county that had once been famous for them. The Romans brought the apple to Britain in 55BC and by 1810 Victorian fruit collections with two trees of every known variety of the fruit in England amounted to 2,300 varieties alone. There had been a 60% decline in orchards which were defined as a group of five or more trees. The Herts Orchard initiative was to enable and support the management of the county's fruit orchards.

There was a schools programme provided by the Countryside Foundation. Orchards could be helped by buying British fruit, supporting local producers, planting fruit trees in our gardens and parks and supporting the Herts Orchard Initiative (www.hertfordshireinitiative.org.uk)

Among other issues discussed was the increase of water voles since mink eradication programmes, the hedgehog survey monitoring the rapid decline of the species and providing 'hedgehog friendly' areas for them to hibernate, the very rapid decline in wild songbirds noted in the last decade and how to help them, pest control, leaving verges intact, not cutting bushes in the nesting season and an awareness of the concept of 'seasonality' by schoolchildren today

Cllr Ann Shaw expressed her concern that an ancient area of fertile farmland in Maple Cross was possibly due to be lost forever to a new school and said that preservation of good productive farmland was something Three Rivers felt very strongly about.

Finally Countryside Management Services Officer Tony Bradford gave a report on its work in the county and mentioned Croxley Common Moor among others as an exceptionally well managed site. Enthusiastic volunteers and team leaders were really important he said.

David Wynne-Jones
Croxley Green Parish Council Representative on TRDC's Environmental Forum