

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF the EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON MONDAY 12 JANUARY 2009

Present: Cllr Norman in the Chair David Allison - Clerk

Cllrs Bains, Bennett, Birch, Brading, Brand, Dann, Jefford, Martin, Saxon, Shafe and Wynne-Jones

Voting Members: 12

There were 3 members of the public present

CC613/09/S Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hollands, Seabourne, Seeley and Vassiliou

CC614/09/S Declarations of Interests by Members

Cllrs Saxon and Brand declared an interest given that they are Members of the Croxley Green Community Association. Cllr Saxon read out a prepared statement, see attached.

CC615/09/S Representations from the Public

There were no representations made.

CC616/09/S Croxley Green Community/Village Hall

The Chairman introduced this item and referred Members to the papers that had been circulated with the Agenda.

The Clerk advised that the draft Agreement with the Community Association is to position a village hall for the benefit of Croxley Green residents and that in order for the Community Association to agree to the proposals they had had to call an Annual General Meeting (AGM) to obtain a mandate from their members to proceed. The Clerk continued that at the Association's AGM held on Sunday 11 January it was agreed to enter the Agreement with the Parish Council with 26 votes for and 1 against and Council Members are now invited to discuss the matter.

It was pointed out by one Member that there were two versions of the Electoral Role so the validation process of the automatic membership proposed would need to accommodate this. It was further stated that not all local taxpayers may be on the Electoral Role. The Clerk stated that he recognised the possibilities of this and although it would be exceptional rather than the rule, the validation exercise would take a reasonable approach in these circumstances.

In response to a question about those who live outside the Parish area, the Clerk confirmed that in these cases they would have to pay a membership fee direct to the Community Association.

A number of Members raised the matter of accountability of the community membership element of the grant that would be given to the Community Association as part of the Agreement but the Clerk pointed out that the Association are required to maintain detailed accounts. The Clerk further stated that the Agreement made it very clear that the Association is accountable to the Parish Council on the grant expenditure. It was suggested that if the proposal is accepted by Council that the Community Association Accounts be published along with the Parish Council accounts.

It was generally agreed that the Parish Council should endeavour to have at least one Councillor on the Community Association Management Committee in addition to the Clerk.

Following further discussion on a few points of detail in the Agreement, it was proposed by Cllr Bains and seconded by Cllr Wynne-Jones that the Council agree the Agreement with the Community Association for the provision of a Community/Village Hall. There were 10 for the proposal and 2 abstentions. The proposal was therefore agreed.

CC617/09/S

Application for a Grant from Croxley Green Community Centre

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk stated that the Finance & Administration Committee had discussed this Grant Application at its meeting on 11 December 2008 and had agreed to recommend its ratification by Council. The Clerk continued that the Grant Application related to the purchase of electronic tills linked to a computer to facilitate detailed recording and monitoring of stock, stock used, sales and staff performance to ensure proper accountability.

The Clerk continued that given the Council's agreement to enter into a formal agreement with the Community Association regarding a Community/Village Hall it was important that the Council takes appropriate measures to secure its investment in the Community Centre. Accordingly, it was appropriate that the Association was equipped with professional equipment to operate in a professional way.

It was pointed out that the Community Association should already have robust systems in place and as far as the Community Hall is concerned a bar facility would not necessarily be required.

It was considered that given the new Community Hall facility from the Parish Council's point of view that it would be more appropriate that monies be dispersed directly in this area rather than on tills.

After further discussion it was proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Dann that the Grant application be rejected. There were 9 for the proposal, 1 against and two abstentions. The proposal to reject the application was therefore agreed.

CC618/09/S

Closure

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.59pm.