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MINUTES OF the 321st MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER 2016 at 8.00PM

Present: Cllr Mitchell in the Chair
David Allison – Clerk to the Council
Ryan Bennett – Administrative Assistant
Cllrs Bains, Gallagher, Hobbs, Hollands,
Ridley, Saxon and Vassiliou

Voting Members: 8
Not Present: Cllrs Baldwin and Kataria.
Members of the Public: 1

CC1678/16 Apologies for Absence
Apologies had been received from Cllrs Edmunds, Kaur and Wynne-Jones.

CC1679/16 Declarations of Interests by Members
The Chairman recommended that any declarations be made at the time.

CC1680/16 Representations from the Public
There were no representations from the public.

At this point it was proposed under Standing Order 9.1.6 that Agenda item CC1684/15 Local Area Forum be moved to the end of the meeting. The proposal was agreed.

CC1681/16 Minutes
Resolved:
• That the Minutes of the 320th Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 24 November 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman

CC1682/16 Matters Arising
CC1666/16 Matters Arising CC1646/16 – Casual Vacancies. The Clerk advised that he had received seven applications from residents regarding potential co-option to the Cllr vacancies.

CC1683/16 Committee Reports
CC1683.1/16 Environment and Amenity Committee held on 1 November 2016
Resolved:
• That the Minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 1 November 2016 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC1683.2/16 Any matters arising
There were no matters arising.

CC1683.3/16 Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 2 & Wednesday 16 November 2016
Resolved:
• That the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 2 and Wednesday 16 November 2016 be adopted as report of the meeting.

CC1683.4/16 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1683.5/16 Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 10 November 2016

Resolved:

- That the minutes of the Finance & Administration Committee of Thursday 10 November 2016 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC1683.6/16 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1684/16 Local Area Forum

This item was discussed later in the meeting – see below.

CC1685/16 Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Gallagher to elaborate. Cllr Gallagher advised that the Plan was now complete but there are some minor errors that will need to be corrected. This was also the case with the Appendices' document. The Consultation document had been sent to TRDC who had made some comments which would need to be added in. The Basic Conditions document had also been sent to TRDC but they had advised that they consider it to be too lengthy and would like it restructured to more comfortably show how the plan sits with existing TRDC planning policies and the national planning policing framework. Cllr Gallagher advised that the restructuring would be undertaken but emphasised that the basic content would not change.

The Chairman and Members gave a vote of thanks to Cllr Gallagher for his sterling efforts in regard to the Neighbourhood Plan.

A Cllr brought Members attention to the fact that the Neighbourhood Plan was probably one of the most important documents that the Council has put together since it was established and it was important that all members should read and understand the Plan given its future impact on Croxley Green planning issues.

Resolved:

- That the Neighbourhood Plan and associated documents be approved for submission to TRDC subject to any necessary corrections or minor amendments and that authority to approve such corrections and amendments be delegated to the Working Party and the Clerk as Proper Officer.

CC1686/16 Budgets 2017/18

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk referred to the draft budget schedule version 8 dated 9 December that had been circulated with the Agenda. He advised that he had now received information from TRDC regarding the Band 'D' for 2017-18 which shows a 47.05 increase from the current year. This had now been incorporated into the budget schedule under review. The meeting agreed that the proposed budget be gone through line by line and matters addressed as they arose.

There was some discussion under Accounts Code 4024/102 Subscriptions which was currently showing as a proposed budget of £7,400. This was principally constituted by £5,500 to the Croxley Green Society (CGS) and £1,600 to the Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils.

A discussion ensued regarding the level of subscription to the Croxley Green Society (CGS) in that whilst the Revels was an extremely important local village event and needed to be financially supported, Croxfest was an event which whilst popular with

Croxley Green residents was attended by a higher proportion of visitors from outside the parish boundary. This being the case, it was questioned as to whether more should be done to attract sponsorship, donations and contributions from those attending Croxfest to make the event become self-financing, which it was believed had been the original intent, rather than relying on subsidy via the Parish Council through the subscription to CGS.

Given the developing nature of the discussion the Chairman of the meeting, Cllr Chris Mitchell, declared a non-pecuniary interest and would abstain from any voting on the matter.

It was proposed that the subscription to the CGS be reduced to £2,500 to directly support the Revels and that the current proposed budget balance of £3,000 be moved to the Grant section of the draft budget which the CGS could then apply for as a grant, for events such as Croxfest, by making the appropriate justification for the grant at that time. A number of counter proposals were put forward including that there should be no subscription monies to CGS allocated but these were not agreed.

A discussion ensued also regarding the draft budget proposal of £10,000 for a Youth Centre. Whilst Members agreed that this was a worthy and laudable cause there was insufficient detail as this time to make such a large financial commitment and that a lot more work would need to be undertaken, probably through a Working Party. It was commented that the description of a 'Youth Centre' was potentially misleading as the intent was to focus on activities that the youth of Croxley Green can actively get involved with so it was decided that the item should be referred to as a 'Youth Project' rather than 'centre'. It was agreed that some funding should be made available as this project developed and it was suggested that a reduced sum of £5,000 be left in the draft budget.

The Clerk, having made the necessary changes showed members that the effect on the draft budget was to show a potential Precept of £286,944, an increase of £2,952 on the current year and a potential increase in Band 'D' equivalent of £0.08p. The Council's potential overall budget would be £292,560.

Resolved:

- That the subscription to Croxley Green Society be reduced to £2,500 in support of the Revels and that £3,000 be moved to account code 4711/107 Grants.
- That the financial provision for a Youth Project be reduced from £10,000 to £5,000.
- That the potential Precept of £286,944 and budget of £292,560 be taken forward for finalising in January 2017.

CC1684/16

Local Area Forum

This item was not Minuted given TRDC's previous decision not to Minute its own meeting.

CC1687/16

Closure

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.09pm