



MINUTES OF the 311<sup>th</sup> MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER  
ON THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 2015 at 8.00PM

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

Cllrs Bains, Baldwin, Edmunds, Gallagher, Hobbs, Hollands, Kataria, Kaur, Ridley, Saxon and Vassiliou.

Voting Members: 12

Members of the Public: 2

CC1551/15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs, Brand, Greenman, Taft and Wynne-Jones.

CC1552/15 Declarations of Interest by Members

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

CC1553/15 Representations from the Public

Representations were made by a member of the public regarding Agenda item CC1559/15 Watford Road Car Parking.

It was stated that she had attended the Working Party meeting that had been tasked with dealing with this matter recently and was impressed by the amount of support from the Parish Council and in particular the work that had been undertaken by Cllr Gallagher. It was stated that the issues surrounding commuter parking on Watford Road required urgent attention and parking restrictions should be introduced. It was recognised that there are wider issues regarding the parking situation as parking restrictions would only push the problem to other adjacent roads. The representative said that perhaps there should be a 'mind set' change about the use of cars and that car owners should not expect to have free parking when all other aspects of motoring are paid for in terms of fuel and road tax. It was suggested that consideration should be given to a parking meter system which might dissuade commuters from leaving their cars all day long and residents should have a permit system. It was suggested that a site should be found to provide a further car park and that the land adjacent to the Shell garage should be investigated as a potential site. In conclusion, it was stated that there was no easy solution but a healthier life style of encouraging people to walk to the station, an expectation by car owners that they would have to pay for parking together with introduction of parking restrictions may offer a longer term solution.

The Chairman thank the member of the public for their contribution and proposed under Standing Order 9.1.6 that Agenda item CC1559/15 Watford Road Parking be moved up the Agenda and taken next. The proposal was agreed.

CC1559/15 Watford Road Parking

The Chairman introduced this matter and asked Cllr Gallagher to elaborate. Cllr Gallagher stated that he wished to thank the members of the Working Party and the representative(s) from the shop keepers for their contribution to the issues of local parking.

Cllr Gallagher referred to the papers circulated with the Agenda and to the representations that had been received on this matter. He commented that there were

two main recommendations for the Council to consider which related to the wider issues of inadequate parking provision at Croxley Green station and the impact this has on local businesses and residents and the need to consult with residents and businesses regarding the parking along Watford Road.

It was commented that although there is an issue about congestion in Watford Road, it could be considered that this provides a traffic calming measure. Any restrictions in that area would simply move the parking problem to nearby adjacent residential roads and any recommendations should take account of that.

There was consensus however that the parking problem needs addressing and that the working group should continue to look at the issue.

**Resolved:**

- The Parish Council invites the County Councillor and District Councillors representing Croxley Green to a meeting to discuss the wider question of inadequate parking provision at Croxley Station and the impact on local residents and businesses.
- The Parish Council consults local residents and businesses on the relevant length of the A412 Watford Road on the possible options for controlling parking as a basis for deciding what road marking or parking restrictions to recommend to the traffic authority.

CC1554/15 Minutes

**Resolved:**

- That the Minutes of the 310<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting of the Council held on Thursday 26 November 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

CC1555/15 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1556/15 Committee Reports

CC1556.1/15 Environment and Amenity Committee scheduled for Tuesday 1 December 2015

**Resolved:**

- It was noted that the meeting scheduled for Tuesday 1 December 2015 was cancelled due to being inquorate.

CC1556.2/15 Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 4 November and 18 November 2015

**Resolved:**

- That the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 4 November and 18 November 2015 be adopted as reports of the meetings.

CC1556.3/15 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1556.4/15 Finance and Administration Committee of Thursday 12 November 2015

**Resolved:**

- That the Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 12 November 2015 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC1556.5/15 Matters Arising

FA1123/15 Monthly Accounts, Schedule of Payments. It was asked what the payment to Chambers Goodwin and Partners related to. It was explained that this relates to the professional architect/planner who had been assisting the Council in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan. As the Plan will form part of the TRDC planning documentation

once agreed by the residents, the document has to be worded in planning terms and the architect/planner has significantly contributed to preparation of the draft final consultation documentation.

CC1557/15 Budgets 2016/17

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate.

The Clerk advised that circulated with the Agenda had the budget schedule version 7 dated 9 December but as this meeting was a week early due to Christmas it had not been possible to circulate and updated version following the discussions held at the Finance and Administration Committee meeting on 10 December. The Clerk advised that version 8 dated 14 December 2015 was available and considered that it would be sensible to consider this version. Hard copy was available and it will also be shown on screen and changes since version 7 pointed out.

The Clerk stated that on the version 8 budget schedule the Precept was now showing as £284,021 which was an increase of £10,847 and represented by an increase of £1.97 on the Band D Equivalent. It was pointed out that the majority of this increase (approximately 90%) was a one off cost due to the Council deciding to budget for recruitment and two months additional employment costs to provide a hand over period to a new Clerk given the present Clerk's intention to retire.

The budget schedule was reviewed page by page but there were no changes made. It was noted that during a brief discussion on Subscriptions, Cllr Mitchell declared a non-pecuniary interest.

**Resolved:**

- That the budget of £293,538 with a Precept of £284,021 be taken forward for ratification at the Council's meeting in January 2016.

CC1558/15 DriveSafe Initiative

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk advised that at the Planning and Development Committee meeting held on Wednesday 2 December, it had been reported that following the Council's resolution to support the DriveSafe Initiative the Council had sent a letter to all those who had previously expressed an interest in taking part. Of the 28 letters sent out there had been only three replies received and two of which stated that they were no longer interested in participating. Accordingly the Planning & Development Committee had considered that at the present time there was not sufficient interest in taking this initiative forward hence recommending to Council that no further action should be taken at this time.

A discussion ensued during which contrary views were expressed and it was commented that it can be quite difficult to get volunteers from the community to assist all be it they may be concerned about speeding. It was considered that perhaps the Council had not promoted the Initiative sufficiently to motivate volunteers but it was pointed out that this was a matter that the Council had inherited from the decommissioned Road Safety Committee and the Council had only been following through from that point.

The Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee, Cllr Saxon, stated that the Committee had put forward its recommendation and that as the lead Councillor on this matter he was not prepared to take the matter forward and another Councillor would have to take up the matter if it is decided to try to take the matter forward.

The Chairman of the Environment and Amenity Committee, Cllr Edmunds, pointed out that as one of the areas where there is concern regarding speeding was The Green that perhaps the Environment and Amenity Committee should be delegated to look into the matter.

**Resolved:**

- That the DriveSafe Initiative be delegated to the Environment and Amenity Committee to consider including as necessary forming a working party.

CC1559/15 Watford Road Car Parking

This was considered earlier in the meeting, see above.

CC1560/15 Purchase and Installation of a Litter Bin, Mill Lane

The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Saxon to elaborate.

Cllr Saxon referred to the Supporting Paper circulated with the Agenda in which it explained the background. He added that there was an update to the paper in that he Clerk does have a log style litter bin available so there is no need to purchase a bin and in addition written confirmation has been received from Three Rivers District Council for the bin to be installed.

The Clerk stated that he was concerned that emptying the bin may become an excessive burden on the Rangers depending on usage and this may need to be reviewed at some time in the future.

**Resolved:**

- That a log style litter bin be installed in Mill Lane near to Croxley Common Moor;
- That the task of emptying the bin be included in the Works List of the Parish Rangers, twice a week during the period April to September and once a week October to March;
- That any Councillor able and willing to empty the bin in addition to the Rangers be provided with the facility to do so i.e. a key to the waste compartment.

CC1561/15 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm.