

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF the 222nd MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 25 JANUARY 2007

Prior to the meeting Cllr Saxon asked all those present to either turn off their mobile telephones or switch them to silent mode.

Present: Cllr Saxon in the Chair David Allison - Clerk

Cllrs Bains, Bennett, Davis, Duffy, Englefield, Hearn, C Jefford, R Jefford, Munroe, Norman, Ridley, Seeley, Shafe and Vassiliou

Voting Members 15

Present were District Cllr Seabourne, Mr Grant, Mr Emson and Mr Allen.

CC351/07 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received Cllr Wynne-Jones

CC352/07 Declarations of Interests by Members

Cllrs Saxon and Bennett declared an interest in item CC360/07 - request from the Keep Croxley Green Group for a donation. Cllrs Norman, C Jefford and R Jefford declared an interest in CC359/07 - S137 grant application for the Allotment Association.

CC353/07 Representations from the Public

CC353.1/07 To present the Annual Trophy to the winner of the Best Dressed Christmas Window Competition

This item was deferred until later in the meeting should representatives of the winner arrive. The presentation took place after item CC355/07 below. The Chairman welcomed Maria Halls from Bell'a Beauty and congratulated her on winning the Competition. The annual trophy and winning Certificate were presented to her.

CC353.2/07 To hear representations from the public as per Standing Order 36(d)

The Chairman asked the public whether they wished to make representations. Mr Grant indicated he did and gave a short presentation in further justification of his application for a Grant.

DCllr Seabourne commented on the matter of Special Expenses and the use of the Parish Office as community hall. The Chairman thanked Cllr Seabourne and pointed out that at no time could it have been considered that the Council Chamber could be considered a Community Hall.

CC354/07 Minutes

It was commented that Cllr Hearn was missing from the Attendance list of the last meeting. The Clerk apologised and it was proposed by Cllr Englefield and seconded by Cllr Shafe that the amended minutes of the 221st Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 21 December 2006 be accepted. The proposal was agreed and the Chairman signed the minutes.

CC355/07 Matters Arising

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk if there were matters he wished to report on. The Clerk referred to item CC345/06 Junior Council and reported that the first meeting of the Junior Council took place on Thursday 18 January. The Clerk added that it was a very successful meeting.

Under CC345/06, item CC332/06 the matter of the theft from the Land Rover was raised again. The Chairman pointed out that the minute clearly set out the position

and that the matter was closed.

In regard to CC346.6, item CC277/06 and FA268/06 Special Expenses, it was asked whether the minutes of the meeting with TRDC had been received. The Clerk advised that they had not.

The meeting was temporarily adjourned whilst the PRESENTATION of the Best Dressed Christmas Window Competition took place, see CC353/07 above.

- CC356/07 Committee Reports
- CC356.1/07 Environment and Amenity Committee – 2 January 2007
It was proposed by Cllr Seeley and seconded by Cllr Munroe that the report of the Environment and Amenity Committee of 2 January 2007 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.
- CC356.2/07 Matters Arising
There were no matters arising.
- CC356.3/07 Planning and Development Committee – 20 December 2006, 3 January and Wednesday 17 January 2007
It was proposed by Cllr Englefield and seconded by Cllr Vassiliou that the reports of the Planning and Development Committee of 20 December 2006, 3 January and Wednesday 17 January 2007 en bloc be adopted. The proposal was agreed.
- CC356.4/07 Matters Arising
There were no matters arising.
- CC356.5/07 Finance & Administration Committee – 11 January 2007
It was proposed by Cllr Saxon and seconded by Cllr Bennett that the report of the Finance and Administration Committee of 11 January 2007 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.
- CC356.6/07 Matters Arising
Under Cheque No. 1396 on the schedule of payments, it was confirmed that the funding for this item was from the Chairman's allowance.
- CC357/07 Annual Accounts for Year Ending 31 March 2006
The Chairman introduced this item and drew the attention of Members that this to note receipt of the External Auditor's signed Audit Certificate for the Council's accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2006. The Clerk reported that the comments of the Auditor were noted and actively being worked on. In regard to the Fidelity Guarantee, the Clerk added that this had now been raised from £200,000 to £255,000 on 17 January 2007.
There were no other comments on the Audit Certificate and a copy is attached to these Minutes.
- CC358/07 Budget 2007/2008
The Chairman introduced this item and said that for this item only he would ask Cllr Bennett to lead the discussions. It was agreed that the Clerk would go through the proposals put forward in Version 5 dated 15 January 2007.
The outcome of the discussions are recorded in Version 6 dated 25 January 2007 and was distributed to Members after a short adjournment when the necessary changes were made.
The Clerk advised that following the revisions discussed the Parish Council Precept would be £196,004. It was proposed by Cllr Saxon and seconded by Cllr Englefield

- that the Precept of £196,004 be approved. The proposal was unanimously agreed.
- CC359/07 S137 Grant Application – Allotment Association
 The Chairman introduced this item and referred to the recommendation of the Finance and Administration Committee (Minute FA281/06 refers) for an S137 Grant of £250 to be made to the Barton Way Allotment Association.
 It was proposed by Cllr Vassiliou and seconded by Cllr Davis that the grant be approved. The proposal was agreed.
- CC360/07 S137 Grant - The Keep Croxley 'Green' Group
 Cllr Saxon and Bennett had declared an interest in this matter and left the Council Chamber.
 It was proposed by Cllr Duffy and seconded by Cllr Davis that Cllr Englefield takes the Chair for this matter.
 After all Cllrs had been given an opportunity of commenting it was proposed by Cllr Bains and seconded by Cllr Hearn that a Grant of £1,000 be approved. An amended proposal was put forward by Cllr Englefield and seconded by Cllr C Jefford that the Grant was not sanctioned. The amended proposal failed so the Grant of £1,000 was voted upon. This proposal also failed. The original proposal therefore that a Grant of £500 be approved was proposed by Cllr Davis and seconded by Cllr Vassiliou. This proposal was agreed so a S137 Grant of £500 is awarded to the 'Keep Croxley Green' Group.
- CC361/07 External Parish Notice Board
 The Clerk reported that the external Parish Council notice board had been vandalised. The Clerk added that quotes were being sought for its repair if possible but otherwise a new notice board would be obtained.
- CC362/07 Standing Orders and Council Minute CC336/06
 The Chairman noted that this matter had been put forward by Cllr Ridley and asked whether there was a seconder for the proposal, namely that Council to send HALC/NALC our current Standing Orders, the June 2006 agenda item/position paper/minutes an to receive legal clarification on whether we are in breach of Standing Orders.
 Cllr Vassiliou seconded the proposal. The proposal was defeated.
- CC363/07 Fireworks on the Green
 The Chairman noted that this matter had been put forward by Cllr Ridley and asked whether there was a seconder for the proposal, namely that fireworks on the green for 2007 to have a minimum of three tenders and contract details presented to Council for approval after the elections for acceptance. Cllr Vassiliou seconded the proposal.
 The proposal was defeated.
 At this point the time was approaching 10.30pm. It was proposed by Cllr Saxon and seconded by Cllr Bennett that the meeting continue past the 2½ hour time limit set by Standing Order 6(g) and that the meeting continue to 10.40pm at the latest. The proposal was agreed.
 The Clerk reminded Members that all other Standing Orders remain in place.
- CC364/07 Closure of the Parish Council Offices on 15 December 2006
 The Chairman introduced this item and referred to an email the Clerk had sent to him dated 6 December 2006. The email read that on the back page of the Parish Pump

it states that the office will be closed from 3pm Friday 15 December to Tues 2 Jan. The date of the 15 Dec was chosen to leave 'free', as much as is possible from other distractions (visitors, possible phone calls etc), the week of the 18 – 22 to sort administrative matters prior to Clerk's PA departing. The office will be technically open and will receive and deal with any one who calls but it is hoped that by publicising the 'early' closure date the volume of visitors, phone calls etc will be drastically reduced.

The Chairman apologised that this briefing had not been circulated to all Councillors to ensure that they were aware of the reasoning behind the 'early' publicised date.

The Chairman concluded that there was a perfectly good and adequate explanation of the published date and that the matter was closed.

CC365/07

Hiring of a temporary person for the Parish Office

The Chairman noted that there was no proposal for this item and suggested the matter be adjourned to the next Finance and Administration Committee.

This was agreed.

CC366/07

Correspondence

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

The Clerk advised that there were only 3 matters he wished to refer to.

Members noted the information – attached.

CC367/07

Closure

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.37pm.