

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF the 272nd MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 26 JANUARY 2012

Present: Cllr Bennett in the Chair
David Allison – Clerk to the Council
Amanda Taft – Minute Taker

Cllrs Baldwin, Brading, Brand, Dann, Edmunds, Getkahn, Isard-Brown, Jordan, Martin, Mitchell, Ridley, Seeley, Shafe and Vane

Voting Members: 15

Public: 2

CC1020/12 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Wynne-Jones.

CC1021/12 Declarations of Interest by Members

The Chairman recommended that any declarations of interest be made, if necessary, throughout the meeting.

CC1022/12 Representations from the Public

There were no representations from the public.

CC1023/12 Minutes

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the 271st monthly meeting of the Council held on Thursday 22 December 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman.
- That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on Thursday 12 January 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

CC1024/12 Matters Arising

CC1010/11 (Budgets 2012/13). It was pointed out that the estimated cost analysis for Croxfest 2012 provided by the Croxley Green Society should total £7,740 and not £8,640. The Clerk advised that the subscription of £5,500 included in the budget for Croxfest and the Revels would not be affected.

CC1025/12 Committee Reports

CC1025.1/12 Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 6 December 2011

Resolved:

- that the Minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 6 December 2011 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC1025.2/12 Any matters arising

EA827/11 (Nectar/Oasis Areas) and EA820/11 (Bee Keeping). The Clerk was asked for an update. He informed those present that following a reminder email, he had received a link to various websites with free material. The Clerk added that he would be following this up to request permission to use this material (posters and information etc) and make it available at the Revels.

EA829/11 (A Year in Croxley in Photographs). The Clerk was asked for an update and he advised that this matter would be included on the next E&A agenda.

CC1025.3/12 Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 7 December and Wednesday 21 December 2011

Resolved:

- that the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 7 December and Wednesday 21 December 2011 be adopted as reports of the meetings.

CC1025.4/12 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1025.5/12 Finance and Administration Committee held Thursday 8 December 2011

Resolved:

- that the Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 8 December 2011 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC1025.6/12 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1026/12 Budgets 2012/13

The Chairman introduced this item and reminded Members that the decision of Council to set the precept at £258,242 made at the Extraordinary Meeting held 12 January 2012 had to be ratified following Council agreement. It was pointed out that since then, the annual inflation CPI figure had gone down but the Clerk advised that it was traditionally the September CPI figure that was used. It was asked if £15,000 would be taken from Reserves and it was clarified that this money would only be used if it was required. The amount budgeted for the Christmas lights was queried and the Clerk confirmed that the sum was correct and that we were on a three year rolling arrangement and this amount includes installation.

The Clerk pointed out that based on the Tax Base calculated by TRDC on the Band D equivalence, the figure per household would be £47.33 in 2012/13.

A recorded vote was requested. Cllrs Baldwin, Bennett, Dann, Edmunds, Getkahn, Isard-Brown, Jordan, Martin, Mitchell, Seeley and Shafe voted for the proposal. Cllr Brading abstained from voting. Cllrs Brand, Ridley and Vane voted against the proposal.

Resolved:

- that the Precept for 2012/13 be set at £258,242.

The Chairman concluded by stating that this year we would focus on income generation and curtailing expenditure.

CC1027/12 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) Report

The Clerk read out the PCSOs report. A Cllr asked what 'Smart Water' was and another Cllr advised that it was DNA coded water. The Clerk was asked why the Croxley Green figure for violent crime had risen from 6 in 2010/11 to 21 in 2011/12 and a Cllr pointed out that violent crime includes domestic violence. It was also asked at what times these events occurred. The Clerk was also asked why graffiti was not itemised and he suggested that it was probably included within the antisocial behaviour category. The matter of parking on pavements was raised and it was clarified that the police can take action if the vehicle is causing an obstruction, otherwise TRDC could take action via the Parking Wardens but again, the vehicle would have to be reported. It was pointed out that PCSOs can now give parking tickets.

[The PCSOs hold Beat Surgeries at the Parish Council offices (dates on our website) and anybody is welcome to attend if they have any queries or concerns. Also the PCSO has subsequently emailed information on smart water, see attached].

CC1028/12

Parish Council's Media Policy

The Chairman introduced Cllr Ridley's paper and stated that he had some issues with the paper. Firstly, although this Council had not voted in the Media Policy it was still Council Policy and if a Cllr wanted the policy changed they should bring a paper detailing those changes to Council. Secondly, the Chairman added that the Clerk was quite within his rights to ensure that Cllrs adhere to Council policy. Thirdly, the Chairman stated he was unsure what the reference to a previous Chairman reporting a Councillor to the Standards Board because they disagreed with the Council's policy on the Green and Stones Orchard (paragraph 6) had to do with the Media Policy. The Chairman then read from the Media Policy:

"3.5 Nothing in these guidelines is to be interpreted as preventing, or attempting to prevent, a Member from expressing a personal opinion through the media, for example by writing to a newspaper or posting an item on an internet site. Members must make it clear that any views expressed, where different from Council Policy, are their own personal views. However, Members should take care not to misrepresent and/or bring the Parish Council into disrepute, and must bear in mind their responsibilities under the Local Government Code of Conduct."

Cllr Ridley stated that he felt he should not have to have his views as a Councillor approved by the Clerk and asked if Councillors wanted to abide by this policy. Another Cllr pointed out that as a Councillor on the Parish Council, Cllr Ridley must follow the rules but as an individual he could express whatever views he liked.

Cllr Ridley then withdrew his paper.

CC1029/12

Zero Carbon Homes

The Chairman opened this matter and asked Cllr Mitchell to elaborate. Cllr Mitchell advised that following the resolution of the Parker Morris standards, the P&D Committee had agreed to adopt the policy that the Council wish to see any new housing in Croxley Green build to a code of Sustainable Housing level 6 unless there is good reason not to. He added that we must do our bit to influence TRDC where we can. It was also added that we can state our opinion and look after the area and the environment and it will show that we are giving an opinion.

Resolved:

- that the decision of the Planning and Development Committee that Council adopt the policy that the Council wish to see any new housing in Croxley Green build to Code of Sustainable Housing level 6, unless there is good reason not to (Minute PD1749/12, 4 January 2012 refers)

It was suggested that the Parish Council write to the Head of Development Plans Service at TRDC to advise them. It was also suggested that we advise the other Parish Councils so that they are aware of what we are doing.

CC1030/12

Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.42pm.



Hertfordshire Constabulary, in partnership with Neighbourhood Watch, is working with Smartwater to keep household burglary levels low in Three Rivers.

SMARTWATER is offering residents of Three Rivers the product for a one off payment of £15.00 (plus VAT, P&P & Admin), a total of £20.00 for each household (Usual price is £60 per annum).

Purchase can be made using the Smartwater order form through the Three Rivers Neighbourhood Watch Association.

If you have any queries please contact the local neighbourhood team.

What is Smartwater?

Smartwater is a colourless liquid solution that can be dabbed onto your personal possessions and valuables. You can use it on all kinds of household items such as jewellery, ornaments, electrical equipment including TVs, mobile phones, laptops and even garden equipment. Once something is marked, it can be traced back to its true owner if lost or stolen.

How Smartwater works

- Each bottle has its own unique chemical code which is registered to your address, so anything marked with your Smartwater can be traced back to you. A bottle marks around 50 to 60 items.
- It is almost invisible and is virtually impossible to remove. The liquid glows under ultra violet light so anything marked can be easily identified by police.
- Smartwater has helped to convict hundreds of criminals and maintains a 100% conviction rate when used in evidence in court.

Proven to deter Criminals

Officers routinely scan criminals and recovered property for smartwater, so offenders know about it and fear its power to forensically link them with the scene of a crime. Mark your valuables and display Smartwater deeterrant stickers and signs to send a powerful warning to any would-be burglars or thieves in the area.

****Please note that Smartwater is one of a number of companies in the UK involved in property marking****

The Hertfordshire Constabulary would also recommend householders register valuables on the free online property database www.immobilise.com. By registering your valuables owners can put details of their prized possessions on a national database that police can access and compare against items that have been found or recovered from suspected criminals.