

Tel: 01923 710250
Fax: 01923 896425
info@croxleygreen-pc.gov.uk
www.croxleygreen-pc.gov.uk



Community Way
Croxley Green
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire WD3 3SU

MINUTES OF the 310th MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2015 at 8.00PM

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

Cllrs Bains, Baldwin, Greenman, Hobbs, Hollands, Kaur, Ridley, Taft, Vassiliou, and Wynne-Jones

Voting Members: 11

Members of the Public: 3

CC1537/15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs, Brand, Edmunds, Gallagher, Kataria and Saxon.

CC1538/15 Declarations of Interest by Members

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

CC1539/15 Representations from the Public

Representations were made by District Cllr Peter Getkahn regarding Agenda item CC1547/15 Step Free Access to Croxley Green Station. Cllr Getkahn stated that he had been pushing the issue of step free access with Transport for London in conjunction with the Croxley Green Residents Association to enable easier access for senior citizens, less abled bodied people and those with pushchairs. The supporting paper that had been circulated with the Agenda by Cllrs Mitchell and Gallagher had put forward a recommendation that the Parish Council supports the initiative for step free access and hoped that the Council would endorse that position.

Representations were made by a Retailer in Watford Road regarding Agenda item CC1548/15 Watford Road Car Parking. It was stated that as a retailer of some three and a half years in Watford Road most of the available car parking spaces in the area were taken up by commuters with few, if any, free spaces for customers to the retail shops. This was having an adverse impact on the businesses. In addition, it was stated that the parking on the main road is causing traffic congestion and parking in the nearby residential roads was resulting in vehicles being partially parked on the pavements restricting pedestrian's ability to pass the parked vehicles safely.

At this point, the Chairman proposed that Agenda items CC1547/15 Step Free Access to Croxley Green Station and CC1548/15 Watford Road Car Parking be moved up the Agenda and taken next. The proposal was agreed.

CC1547/15 Step Free Access to Croxley Green Station

The Chairman introduced this matter and referred to the paper circulated with the Agenda and to the representations that had been received on this matter. He commented that he had had a meeting that morning with TfL on another matter but had taken the opportunity of raising this subject with them. He continued that there this a £75m pot of funds available to cover all stations but there is an expectation of a 50% funding from the local authority and the current priority is at station locations near to football grounds.

A Cllr commented that the step free access should be incorporated into the Metropolitan Line Extension (formally known as the Croxley Link) and the Chairman said that this was asked for.

A Cllr raised the matter of likely costs and it was reported that a pre-feasibility study had been carried out and details were awaited.

Resolved:

- That the Parish Council formally supports the installation of step free access at Croxley Green station by TfL at the earliest practical time.
- That the Council takes any appropriate course of action to support the campaign and influence TfL until the works are complete.

CC1548/15 Watford Road Parking

The Chairman introduced this matter and referred to the representations that had been received on this matter. He commented that the matter had been previously raised with TRDC who had indicated that they would not introduce any parking scheme without the support of residents.

A Cllr reported that a survey in a nearby residential road had shown that whilst those most affected would support parking restrictions, those a bit further away did not and it was this divergence of opinion that is not an easy one to resolve.

A Cllr commented that TRDC's approach to the local parking issues had been piecemeal and there needs to be a mass meeting of residents/businesses to discuss possible solutions and a way forward.

It was noted that that the parking on Watford Road restricts traffic flow and it was commented that other local restrictions that had been put into place had been successful.

It was proposed that a working group be established to look into this matter with a view to reporting its findings at the next meeting. Volunteers for the working group were called for.

Resolved:

- That a working group be established to look into the matter of parking on Watford Road with a view to reporting its findings at the next meeting;
- That the members of the working group be:
 - Cllr Andrew Gallagher;
 - Cllr Jussie Kaur;
 - Cllr Robert Ridley;
 - Cllr Ian Taft;
 - Cllr Cliff Vassiliou;
 - District Cllr Peter Getkahn (peter.getkahn@threerivers.gov.uk);
 - Bet Evans (Retailer);
 - Linda Anderson (Retailer).
- That Cllr Gallagher be appointed Chairman of the working group.

CC1540/15 Minutes

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the 309th monthly meeting of the Council held on Thursday 29 October 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

CC1541/15 Matters Arising

CC1533.1/15 Council's Annual Subscription to outside bodies for 2016-17. A matter was raised and noted regarding members ability to vote on the matter of the subscription to the Croxley Green Society.

CC1542/15 Committee Reports

CC1542.1/15 Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 1 September 2015

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 1 September be adopted as a report of the meeting;
- It was noted that the meeting scheduled for 6 October 2015 was cancelled due to being inquorate.

CC1542.2/15 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1542.3/15 Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 7 October and 21 October 2015

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 7 October and 21 October 2015 be adopted as reports of the meetings.

CC1542.4/15 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1542.5/15 Finance and Administration Committee of Thursday 8 October 2015

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 8 October 2015 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC1542.6/15 Matters Arising

FA1114/15, FA1108/15 Council's Website Update. It was asked what the current position was with the new website. The Clerk advised that the site had gone live that morning. The Chairman added that the Twitter account will to all intent and purposes be used primarily only to give information out rather than to enter into any twitter dialogue.

CC1543/15 Budgets 2016/17

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

The Clerk advised that there had been few changes to the figures since the last version other than inclusion of two months of salaries and associated employment costs to facilitate a hand over period from the existing Clerk to a new Clerk leading up to his retirement.

It was pointed out that new budget submissions must be received by the end of November.

Resolved:

- that the draft budget v5 dated 13/11/15 be noted.

CC1544/15 Elections Expenses 2011

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk explained for the benefit of new members that in April 2014 all Parish Councils' received an email from TRDC out of the blue advising that they would be receiving an invoice for the 2011 Election expenses. This had come as somewhat of a surprise and accordingly the Parish Clerks collectively took the matter up with TRDC.

The Clerk continued that as a result of discussions with TRDC a proposal had been put forward by the Chief Executive of TRDC to bring the matter to a conclusion. The

details of the proposal were circulated with the Agenda and would mean that a revised charge of £5,809.81 was being put forward for acceptance, a reduction from the original £11,615.62.

The Clerk brought to Members attention that Abbots Langley Parish Council had already discussed the discounts offered by TRDC and had accepted their revised figures. However, in doing so they had also agreed that they would refuse payment of any election expenses invoices received after 31 December in any year in which ordinary elections are held. The Clerk suggested that this Council should consider making a similar provision.

Resolved:

- that the discounted election expenses of £5,809.81 be accepted and paid to TRDC on receipt of a valid invoice;
- that this Council would refuse payment of any election expenses invoices received after 31 December in any year in which ordinary elections are held.

CC1545/15 Projects and Working Group Update

This matter was introduced by the Chairman who proceeded to go through the list of current projects and seek updates from lead Councillors.

Sustainability

The Chairman reported that after the new web site is up and running, information about sustainability will be drafted and included on the site.

Tree Planting

The Chairman advised that he had spoken with County Councillor Steve Drury about this as he had funds potentially available and locations were now being sorted out.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman reported that considerable work had gone into developing the Neighbourhood Plan and he thanked the Cllrs who had been working on it. He reported that it is intended to get to a final consultation draft within the next three to six months, after which it would be presented to TRDC, be independently reviewed by an inspector leading to a referendum for acceptance.

Community Plan

The Chairman advised that the Community Plan was continuing to be developed in parallel with the Neighbourhood Plan.

Canal Partnership

The Clerk advised that the Canal Adoption Scheme is in place and a number of volunteer days had been held. The turnout at the last volunteer day was very disappointing so it was the intent that a yearly schedule will be put together that can be actively provided rather than through ad hoc days.

Market

The Chairman reported that this had been arranged for Saturday 19 December outside Croxley Green Library.

WW2 VE/VJ Commemorative Service

This event did not take place and the funding was vired to upgrade the electrical control units for the Christmas festive lighting to new electrical standards.

Stained Glass Window or Etched Doors at All Saints' Church

The Clerk advised that any progress on this would need to be by way of a Grant application which the Council would consider at the time of submission.

Stones Orchard

In the absence of Cllr Edmunds, the Clerk advised that a site meeting had been arranged with the Rangers but had been cancelled at the last minute. A Cllr said that he had expressed interest in helping with this project but had not been advised that such a meeting was to take place. The Clerk noted the point and would advise Cllr Edmunds accordingly.

Poppies on The Green

It was reported that the poppies on the lamp posts across the Green were received exceptional well as a further tribute for Remembrance Day.

Bird Boxes

Cllr Wynne-Jones reported that the bird boxes last year were made by the Rangers and the Clerk offered further assistance again. Cllr Wynne-Jones commented that perhaps consideration should also be given to purchasing some.

Senior Citizen's Outing

It was reported that the outing to Clapton proved popular and was very successful.

Dog Show

It was reported that the Dog Show was a big success.

Wassail

It was reported that this will take place on Sunday 17 January 2016.

Hedging

This is part of the Stones Orchard item reported earlier.

Picnic in the Park

It was reported that this event did not take place but the funds were vired to pay for the brass band for the Remembrance Day Parade.

Virtual Notice Board

The Clerk advised that this part of the website update.

The Chairman then updated Members regarding current working groups:

Parish Pump magazine – it was reported that a meeting had taken place and options discussed including a reduction in the number of pages. Unfortunately no further progress has been made. The Chairman proposed that the matter should be left with the Clerk to progress with Cllr Bains and Cllr Greenman with Cllr Vassiliou assisting with advertising as appropriate.

Resolved:

- that the matter should be left with the Clerk to progress with Cllr Bains and Cllr Greenman with Cllr Vassiliou assisting with advertising as appropriate.

Land Acquisition – the Chairman reported that following the Joint Parish Councils meeting with TRDC in October, TRDC provided a more positive response to this matter and that a meeting would be set up to start discussions in more detail. The Chairman added that this was another matter where the Parish Council's interested in land acquisition would be working together. A meeting date is yet to be advised.

Review of Council (Working and Meetings) – The Chairman advised that the group had now held two meetings and been looking at the workings and structure of other Councils.

CC1546/15 TRDC Local Area Forum

The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Ridley for a verbal report. Cllr Ridley updated Members on the matters discussed at the meeting.

As TRDC do not minute the Local Area Forums any longer, no minute record is made of the verbal report as this would be providing a minuting service to TRDC.

CC1547/15 Step Free Access to Croxley Station

This was considered earlier in the meeting, see above.

CC1548/15 Watford Road Car Parking

This was considered earlier in the meeting, see above.

CC1549/15 HCC Transport Vision 2050 strategy

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

Cllr Gallagher stated that the main problem was that Hertfordshire is not a logical unit for transport planning – it is too small for the wider strategic plans, and dominated by being a small part of London’s periphery. And it is too large for the local strategic planning, which they have tried to get around by defining three “growth areas” with differing requirements and a fourth “cross corridor” linking them.

Cllr Gallagher continued that the whole plan is underpinned by the need to accommodate substantial population growth without substantial growth in employment and the need to build transport provision because the networks are already full to capacity.

Cllr Gallagher added that Croxley Green was at the extreme edge of the so-called M1/M25 growth area and the essence of the strategy was to develop the Watford / Hemel / St Albans triangle into a sort of triangular “mini-city” with increased urbanisation. This would imply more pressure on Croxley Green for high density housing, especially near the station(s).

Cllr Gallagher concluded that the scenarios were not explained in detail and accordingly there was not much that could be usefully said at this time. He suggested that a suitable comment to HCC would be that the Council “look forward to seeing how they develop sustainable options that reduce the demand for travel whilst providing employment for an increasing population”.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Gallagher for his efforts and proposed that the suggested wording be agreed.

Resolved:

- that the Council comment to HCC be that the Council looks forward to seeing how HCC develop sustainable options that reduce the demand for travel whilst providing employment for an increasing population.

CC1550/15 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.