

MINUTES OF the 329th MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER 2017 at 8.00PM

Present: Cllr Saxon in the Chair
David Allison – Clerk to the Council
Ryan Bennett – Administrative Assistant

Cllrs Bains, Baldwin, Cole, Collingwood, Gallagher, Hollands, Kaur, Montague, Ridley, Vassiliou & Wallington.

Voting Members: 12

Members of the Public: 4

CC1779/17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Edmunds, Hobbs, Linhart & Mitchell.

CC1780/17 Declarations of Interests by Members

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

At this point the Chairman raised 3 items not included on the agenda under Standing Orders 9.1.25 and 9.1.14. The items were discussed after agenda item CC1789/17.

CC1781/17 Parish Matters

One resident spoke during this section.

The resident spoke that the Croxley Green History Society were beginning to organise events in Croxley Green to commemorate the 100 year anniversary since the end of World War One. She spoke that they hoped to organise, amongst other things, a WW1 quiz night, concert, commemorative mugs, afternoon tea party as well as providing more of the event poppies which the Parish Council installed on the lampposts along the Green, which are to be placed at the houses in Croxley Green which were around during the First World War.

The resident informed members that she had been to the committee meeting of the local branch of the Royal British Legion and that they had been very supportive of the proposals. The resident added that she would welcome support from the Council and Councillors over the coming year.

The same resident then informed Cllrs that they had met with representatives from Orchards East in Stone's Orchard along with the two Parish Rangers on October 11. She commented on how the Orchards East group were fascinated by Stone's Orchard and how it was one of the finest examples of a heritage orchard in the county.

CC1782/17 Representations from the Public

Nik Bennett, who is the Chair of the All Saint's Church Glass Door Committee, spoke in support of CGPC raising their contribution to the project from £5,000 to a potential £7,000.

CC1783/17 Minutes

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the 328th Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 28 September 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman

CC1784/17 Matters Arising

The Chairman asked whether the Rangers had noticed any of the problems which had be brought to Cllrs attention at the previous Council meeting in regards to larger birds forcing their way into the bird-boxes to prey on smaller species. The Clerk informed members that nothing further had been brought to his attention.

A Cllr asked whether the Freedom of Information Act request had been submitted to Transport for London in relation to the costs so far incurred with the delayed Metropolitan Line Extension. The Clerk informed the Cllr that the request had not, at present, been sent.

[Post Meeting Note: The request has now been submitted to Transport for London]

CC1785/17 Committee Reports

CC1785.1/17 Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 4 July 2017

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the Environment & Amenity Committee meeting held on Tuesday 5 September 2017 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC1785.2/17 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1785.3/17 Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 6 & 20 September 2017

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee meetings held on Wednesday 6 & 20 September 2017 be adopted as report of the meeting.

CC1785.4/17 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1785.5/17 Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 14 September 2017

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the Finance & Administration Committee meeting of Thursday 14 September 2017 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC1785.6/17 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1786/17 Citizen's Advice Bureau

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk informed members that between July and September 5 people had used the Citizen's Advice Bureau service at the Library. He added that the July session did not take place as the advisor had sprained her ankle at the last minute and could not make it to the Library.

CC1786.1/17 To ratify the recommendations from the Finance & Administration Committee that a grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau for £275 be awarded under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 s 142(2A) to offer a citizens advice service from the Parish Council's offices.

Resolved:

- That £275 be awarded under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 s 142(2A) to offer a citizen's advice service from the Parish Council's offices.

CC1787/17 Neighbourhood Plan Update

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

The Clerk informed members that the Habitats Regulation Assessment had been prepared and stating that the Neighbourhood Plan had no impact on designated sites. The Strategic Environmental Assessment had also been completed in which it states that an Environmental Assessment was not warranted. The Clerk added that both documents had now been submitted to the Neighbourhood Plan external examiner and we were waiting to hear from her that the submissions are acceptable to go out to consultation to the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.

Members noted the current position.

CC1788/17 Request of Usage of Weston Wood

The Chairman introduced the item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk drew member's attention to the supporting paper supplied with the agenda in which a request had been made to use Weston Wood to teach basic living skills such as fire making, water purification, shelter building and navigation.

A Cllr spoke that they thought that the proposal was a wonderful idea and that the Parish Council should do all they can to get people outdoors and interacting with the natural environment. Another Cllr commented that they thought the purchase of Weston Wood was to preserve it as natural woodland and that by allowing the land to be used commercially it may come at the detriment of other residents.

Another Cllr raised concerns over the possibility of having fires in Weston Wood and that they thought the size of the land in question was too small for such activities. They added that the requester may be under the impression that the Parish Council owns the entirety of Croxleyhall Woods. This was seconded by another Cllr.

A Cllr commented that they felt the proposal was too vague for the Council to commit to any decision at this point.

A Cllr spoke that it would be best to leave the decision for a few years and after a management plan for the site had been produced by Croxley Green Parish Council, but that getting the youth of Croxley Green involved in the natural area was vital for the protection of our natural resources.

CC1789/17 Budgets 2018-19

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

The Clerk informed members that they must submit any budget proposals for 2018/19 to him by the end of November.

CC1790/17 To Elect a Councillor to Sit on the Three Rivers' Environmental Forum

This item was introduced under Standing Order 9.1.25.

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

The Clerk commented that a space had arisen on the TRDC Environmental Forum following the passing of Cllr Wynne-Jones. After a discussion it was decided that

Cllr Cole will represent the Parish Council at the forum. It was noted that Cllrs Edmunds & Montague already sit on the forum but did not officially represent Croxley Green Parish Council.

Resolved:

- That Cllr Cole represents Croxley Green Parish Council at the Three Rivers' Environmental Forum.

CC1791/17

Parish Council Allotment for Preschool Age Children

This item was introduced under Standing Order 9.1.14.

The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Cole to elaborate. Cllr Cole declared a non-pecuniary interest in this matter as he is also a current allotment holder. Cllr Cole then referred members to the recommendations made by the E&A Committee on October 3 in regards to the establishment of a Parish Council operated Allotment at Barton Way with the aim of getting local pre-school age children involved in the project and helping out with the maintenance of the plot.

He added that it would provide educational benefits in understanding how food is grown, provide a structured outdoor activity with associated benefits of vitamin D gain and provide life lessons.

A Cllr asked where the £1000 which would be allocated to the project would be spent. Cllr Cole explained that this figure was necessary for the purchase of the appropriate tools and equipment that was needed to set up the allotment from scratch and keep it maintained throughout the year.

A Cllr asked for a recorded vote.

The results of the vote were as follows:

- **That Croxley Green Parish Council establishes a Parish Council Allotment for Preschool Age Children.**

Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
Bains	x		
Baldwin	x		
Cole	x		
Collingwood	x		
Gallagher	x		
Montague	x		
Ridley	x		
Saxon	x		
Vassiliou	x		
Wallington	x		

Resolved:

- That Croxley Green Parish Council:
 - Approve of the principle of renting (and paying the annual rent of) an allotment at Barton Way adjacent to the Council offices;
 - Approve an annual budget of £1,000 (excluding Ranger time) to implement this proposal, and seeks its inclusion in the Council budget.
- That the proposal be implemented in early 2018 with the first sessions with children are planned for Easter 2018, subject to the availability of an allotment and preparing it in advance.

- That the scheme is reviewed for uptake and interest after the first and second years of operation to ensure that it is worth continuing.

CC1792/17 To Discuss and Agree as Appropriate Making Additional Budget Provision for New Glass Doors at All Saints Church in Anticipation of an S137 Grant Application

This item was introduced under Standing Order 9.1.14.

The Chairman introduced this item and informed members that he would not be taking part in any vote in regards to this item as he was a member of the All Saints' Church Glass Doors committee. He brought member's attention to the recommendations made by the F&A Committee at their meeting on 12 October.

A Cllr raised a point that before the Council officially committed any funds towards the project the final figure must be brought back to full Council. The Chairman informed the Cllr that as it would be dealt with under a grant application it would be brought before Council in the usual way.

A Cllr raised concerns that this was the first time an update had been brought to Council. The Chairman informed those present that a lot of preparatory work had been undertaken by the committee and now they were in a positons to progress at a quicker pace and as such more regular updates would be brought to Council.

Resolved:

- That Croxley Green Parish Council increases the provision for the commemorative glass doors at All Saints Church is increased by £2000 to make a maximum total of £7000. If the All Saints' committee find appropriate funding from elsewhere to make up the current lack of funds then this figure may be reduced accordingly.

CC1793/17 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:08pm.