

# CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF the 294<sup>th</sup> MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON THURSDAY 27 MARCH 2014

Present: Cllr Mitchell in the Chair Amanda Taft – Administrative Officer

Cllrs Baldwin, Brand, Edmunds, Isard-Brown, Jordan, Martin, Ridley, Seeley, Shafe and Wynne-Jones

Not Present: Cllr Vane

Voting Members: 11

Public: 1

CC1326/14 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Bennett, Brading, Dann and Getkahn.

CC1327/14 Declarations of Interest by Members

There were no declarations to note.

CC1328/14 Representations from the Public

A member of the public asked to speak about the Precept. He stated that he had just received his Council Tax bill and he considered the Parish Council Precept of £47.62 or 92 pence per week for a Band D property to provide excellent value for money.

Representations were also made regarding item CC1335/14 (S137 Grant Application for Name Plaques for the former Yorke Road School). The speaker commented that it was not an appropriate way of spending Parish Council money as the former school is not a public building.

CC1329/14 Minutes

**Resolved:**

- That the Minutes of the 293<sup>rd</sup> monthly meeting of the Council held on Thursday 27 February 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

CC1330/14 Matters Arising

CC1323/14 (S137 Grant Application from Little Green Residents' Association). A Cllr felt that the last time the Parish Council was involved in this pond it was not a good experience.

CC1331/14 Committee Reports

CC1331.1/14 Environment and Amenity Committee held on 4 February 2014

**Resolved:**

- That the Minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee meeting held on 4 February 2014 be adopted as a report of the meetings.

CC1331.2/14 Any matters arising

EA1024/14 (Works List). A Cllr asked if the Jubilee Oak tree on The Green had actually been replaced and this was confirmed.

CC1331.3/14 Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 5 February 2014 and to note that the meeting scheduled for Wednesday 19 February 2014 was cancelled

**Resolved:**

- That the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 5 February 2014 be adopted as a report of the meeting
- It was noted that the meeting scheduled for Wednesday 19 February 2014 was cancelled

CC1331.4/14 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1331.5/14 Finance and Administration Committee held Thursday 13 February 2014

**Resolved:**

- That the Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 13 February 2014 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC1331.6/14 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1332/14 Risk Management Strategy

The Chairman introduced this item and referred Members to the document that had been circulated with the Agenda. Cllrs were advised that the Risk Management Strategy had been suggested by the Internal Auditor although he was happy that our risks are covered. Cllrs felt that the draft Risk Management Strategy was very comprehensive.

**Resolved:**

- That Council adopts the Risk Management Strategy

CC1333/14 Community Plan / Neighbourhood Plan / Village Centre Update

An update was given by Cllrs Jordan and Mitchell.

Cllrs were reminded that the Community Plan questionnaire results had been delivered to every household and it was hoped that a presentation could be made at the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting. In order to achieve this, an email has been circulated to all Cllrs for their comments on the attached categorised responses to the 'free text' questions in the questionnaire. Cllr Jordan advised that she would appreciate Cllrs comments by 7 April 2014.

The narratives for the various sections of the Community Plan are currently being worked on. Barry Grant of Croxley Green Residents' Association has so far completed 'Environment and Green Spaces' and had come up with an action plan and the 'Safe Society' information has been passed on to Inspector Winder. The information will eventually feed into the Neighbourhood Plan.

There is to be a Village Centre meeting on 4 June 2014 and Cllrs were asked to let the office know if they would like to attend. It was suggested that Cllrs may like to look at Chalfont St Peter's website as they are ahead of us in the process and have 'Village Centre' included in their Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Mitchell said that all help would be welcome with these projects.

CC1334/14 Environment & Amenity Committee – Appointment of a Councillor

The Chairman introduced this item and a Cllr asked if it was acceptable to appoint a Cllr to a Committee when he was not at the meeting. Amanda Taft replied that Cllr Bennett had sent an email confirming that he was willing to be

appointed to the E&A Committee. It was then asked if this was possible and Amanda Taft clarified that under Standing Order 9.1.10 it was.

**Resolved:**

- That Cllr Nik Bennett is appointed to the Environment and Amenity Committee and will remain as Vice Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee

CC1335/14

S137 Grant Application for Name Plaques for the former Yorke Road School

This matter was introduced by the Chairman and Cllrs were informed that the grant application had been submitted by a member of the public as a gesture to the developer of the former Yorke Road School. The Finance and Administration Committee were not happy about paying for individual name plaques for the properties, although they felt that possibly some sort of interpretation board could be considered. Therefore they referred the matter to Council without recommendation.

The Chairman directed Members to the email the Clerk had circulated with the agenda, which informed the applicant that the grant application 'falls outside this Council's ability to award public money by way of an S137 Grant towards a commercial development'. Cllrs agreed with the Clerk's comments and it was pointed out that the name plaques were already in place.

**Resolved:**

- That an S137 Grant for £400 to local residents (Saving Yorke Road School) for four house name plaques for the former Yorke Road School is not awarded

The Chairman was asked about the idea of an information plaque and he replied that a Cllr or resident would need to submit a proposal.

CC1336/14

Past Agendas / Minutes and the Pump Magazine on the Website

The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Ridley to elaborate. Cllr Ridley stated that it would be a good idea for all agendas, minutes and issues of the Parish Pump to be scanned and put onto the Parish Council's website so that they are in the public domain.

Amanda Taft advised that these documents, dating back to 2008 are on our website and in fact our online records go back as far as or further than the other local Parish Councils. Amanda was asked if there had ever been requests for older documents to which she replied no. Cllrs considered that this would be a pointless task and were not in favour of the proposal.

The motion on the supporting paper to the agenda was proposed and seconded but the motion failed.

CC1337/14

Purchase of Gift Vouchers for Council Volunteers

The Chairman introduced this matter and Amanda Taft confirmed that the recommendation was legitimate Chairman's allowance expenditure under Section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1972. The Chairman said that Council should recognise the volunteers and the work they do for the Parish Council adding that he did not wish to name the volunteers but Cllrs could ask at the office if they wanted to. It was suggested that next year there could be a Parish Award to acknowledge the work volunteers do for the benefit of residents.

**Resolved:**

- That Council give INTU gift vouchers of £75 each to six individuals who have contributed so much to help the Parish Council in the last year and that a thank you letter is sent with the vouchers

CC1338/14

Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.36pm.