

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF the 252nd MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2010

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

Cllrs Bennett, Brading, Dann, Jefford, Martin, Norman, Saxon, Seabourne (arrived at 8.32pm), Seeley, Vassiliou and Wynne-Jones

Not Present: Cllr Brand

Voting Members: 11 rising to 12 at 8.32pm during item CC742/10

Public: 1

CC735/10 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bains, Hollands and Shafe.

CC736/10 Declarations of Interest by Members

There were no declarations of interest.

CC737/10 Representations from the Public

There were no representations.

CC738/10 Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Wynne-Jones and seconded by Cllr Seeley that the Minutes of the 251st monthly meeting of the Council held on Thursday 17 December 2009 be accepted. The proposal was agreed and the Chairman signed the Minutes.

CC739/10 Matters Arising

CC729/09; CC713/09 - Croxleyhall Woods. The Clerk once again confirmed that the site meeting had taken place and that work had commenced.

CC729/09; CC714.4/09; PD1223/09 - Little Green Lane Pond (ownership). The Clerk advised that he was still waiting to hear back from Hertfordshire County Council's land agent.

CC740/10 Committee Reports

CC740.1/10 Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 5 January 2010

It was proposed by Cllr Seeley and seconded by Cllr Martin that the Minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 5 January 2010 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.

CC740.2/10 Any matters arising

EA633/10 - Active Works List. It was pointed out that the word 'restraining' should read 'restaining'.

CC740.3/10 Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 20 January 2010

It was noted that the meeting that should have been held on Wednesday 6 January 2010 was cancelled. It was proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Wynne-Jones that the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 20 January 2010 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.

CC740.4/10 Any matters arising

PD1275/10 - Provision of Salt Bins. It was asked if the salt in the salt bins was there for the roads or, as had been witnessed, for people to take away in bags? It was considered that the salt should be used for the highway, ie the roads and pavements

and not for private driveways. However, it was acknowledged that the salt was provided for public use and the Parish Council had no way of policing that use. The Clerk advised that he had been in contact with Cllr Drury about the possibility of future salt supplies via Hertfordshire County Council.

CC740.5/10 Finance and Administration Committee held Thursday 14 January 2010

It was proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Norman that the Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 14 January 2010 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.

CC740.6/10 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC741/10 Budget 2010/2011 and beyond

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk advised that a draft budget schedule dated 15 January 2010 (version 6) had been circulated with the Agenda and it was this document they should refer to at the meeting. He added that the precept shown on this draft was £242,967; a 0% increase on last year's figure. The Clerk advised that following the Planning and Development meeting of 20 January 2010 a proposal for an additional £1,000 was recommended for the provision of six additional salt bins. Also, an offer of a Locality Budget Grant had been made by Cllr Drury for the provision of the three extra festive lights in Scots Hill (as previously proposed by Cllr Saxon). The Clerk added that taking into account the Grant, the Council's additional cost would be a maximum of £1,025 of which £750 would be a one-off cost. If the two items mentioned were taken into account, the precept would be £244,967, resulting in an increase of 0.87%. The Clerk commended these figures to Council and opened the budget discussions for debate.

After some discussion it was proposed by Cllr Saxon and seconded by Cllr Wynne-Jones that taking into account the two additional items, namely the salt bins and Christmas lights the precept be set at £244,967 and the proposal was agreed.

CC742/10 Community Village Hall Flood Prevention Measures

The Chairman introduced this matter and the Clerk reminded Members that following the Finance and Administration meeting held 12 November 2009, he was charged with making arrangements for a detailed specification for flood prevention works to be undertaken following the report from the Civil Engineering company. The matter had been placed on the Council Agenda for 26 November 2009 but no details had yet been provided by the company. Their letter was received on 18 January 2010; they advised that they could undertake all the design work including preparation of tender documents and the administration of contracts. However, no set cost was given although they have said they will do all necessary paperwork and project management for a fee based on 11% of the total costs of the works. They assume the costs will be less than £30,000 in order that the works be undertaken under the Institute of Civil Engineers Small Works Contract.

The Clerk stated that given this situation he was unable to recommend Council takes this option which is effectively writing an 'open cheque'. Instead the Clerk said that he sought approval from Council with associated delegated authority to make alternative arrangements for the necessary works which would entail the use of the Rangers for groundwork, thus reducing contractual costs to third parties and sub-contract additional works which would be under £5,000.

A lengthy discussion by Members on how to progress this matter followed the Clerks briefing and advice.

It was proposed by Cllr Brading and seconded by Cllr Wynne-Jones that:

- a) the Parish Council delegates the matter to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council and the Members of the Finance and Administration Committee;
- b) the Parish Council seeks indemnity from Croxley Green Community Association for any future flood liability in respect of any works undertaken by the Parish Council;
- c) the Clerk writes to the Guild of Sport to request that they undertake work to increase the aeration of their field.

A recorded vote was requested by Cllr Vassiliou. Cllrs Bennett, Birch, Brading, Dann, Jefford, Martin, Norman, Saxon, Seabourne, Seeley and Wynne-Jones voted in favour of the proposal and Cllr Vassiliou voted against the proposal. The proposal was therefore agreed.

CC743/10

Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.09pm.