

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF the 290th MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2013

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

Cllrs Baldwin, Bennett, Brading, Brand, Isard-Brown, Jordan, Martin, Ridley,
Shafe, Vane and Wynne-Jones

Voting Members: 12

CC1282/13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Dann, Edmunds, Getkahn and Seeley.

CC1283/13 Declarations of Interest by Members

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

CC1284/13 Representations from the Public

There were no public representations.

CC1285/13 Minutes

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the 289th monthly meeting of the Council held on Thursday 31 October 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

CC1286/13 Matters Arising

CC1280/13 (Neighbourhood Plan). The Clerk was asked if the application for neighbourhood designation had been sent. The Clerk advised that if the Councillor had checked his email he would know that the application has been submitted and verified as valid by TRDC.

CC1277/13 (Croxley Rail Link). It was noted that this subject had been raised at the Croxley Green Local Area Forum and an update was given. Members were informed that the Rail Link team had given a presentation and stated that the necessary planning applications would be submitted imminently.

CC1272/13 (re CC1262/13 Annual Accounts 2012/13). The Clerk advised that the Annual Return and External Audit Report was received after the issue of the Council Agenda and de facto could therefore not have been issued as a Supporting Paper at the time the Agenda was issued. The Clerk continued that the Annual Return and External Audit Report was received on 24 September 2013 and was immediately put on the Council's web site at 09.54hrs. An email was also sent to all Members attaching the documents.

Given that the Annual Return and External Audit Report had been put on the Council's web site, the Clerk requested a public apology from Cllr Ridley for implying that it was not. Cllr Ridley duly apologised.

CC1275/13 HCC Speed Management Strategy. The Clerk advised that the Community Plan details about speeding had been sent to HCC.

CC1287/13 Committee Reports

CC1287.1/13 Environment and Amenity Committee Tuesday 1 October 2013

It was noted that the Environment and Amenity Committee meeting scheduled for 1 October was cancelled.

CC1287.2/13 Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 16 October and 2 October 2013

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 16 October 2013 be adopted as a report of the meeting and it was noted that the meeting scheduled for 2 October 2013 was cancelled.

CC1287.3/13 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1287.4/13 Finance and Administration Committee held Thursday 10 October 2013

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday, 10 October 2013 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC1287.5/13 Any matters arising

FA933/13 (S137 Grant Application from Croxley Green Guild of Sport). The Clerk was asked whether any invoices had been received to which the Clerk replied that to date two invoices had been received.

CC1288/13 Budget 2014/15

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk reminded Members that the cut off date for budget submissions was Friday 6 December. The Clerk continued that at the present time no information was available as to whether any Grant will be forthcoming from Three Rivers District Council as a result of the re-organising of Tax Benefits by HMG. Accordingly and taking account of input into the budget of items which have already been submitted the draft Precept was showing as £261,267 which is £13,024 higher than the current years Precept – it was noted that the Grant from TRDC this year was £14,000.

Cllr Bennett then made a non-pecuniary declaration of interest in respect of the budget item for Subscriptions which included Membership of the Croxley Green Society of which he was treasurer. Cllr Bennett stated that the current budget schedule includes under the heading of Subscriptions (Account Code 4024/102) an item of £5,500 for the subscription to the Croxley Green Society. He continued that this related to assisting with the funding of the Revels and Crocfest which until the annual subscription had been done by the Council by way of S137 Grant Applications. It was also pointed out that the subscription fee also included the costs of the portaloos which had also been directly funded by the Parish Council. Cllr Bennett requested that as this matter is likely to be discussed again under Budgets that should any Member wish for specific information to be available for that discussion he be advised accordingly.

A question was raised about the annual accounts for the Society and it was pointed out that the Clerk has a copy of the most up to date accounts for the year ending 31 December 2102. The Clerk advised that a copy of the Accounts will be circulated with the next Budget Schedule.

Cllr Bennett stated that the Society was a non-profit making organisation and is

covering activities which probably the Council itself would be arranging on an annual basis. The subscription, rather than a Grant process, allows these activities to be organised in the sure knowledge that finance is secured for events.

The Chairman concluded that at the December meeting of Council there will be a much more full discussion about the budget detail given that all submissions would have been received and integrated into the Budget.

CC1289/13

The Future of Hertfordshire Library Service

The Chairman introduced this item and stated that he and The Clerk were endeavouring to set up a meeting with HCC Library Service to discuss this matter in more detail.

It was suggested that as a result of the Community Plan Questionnaire that the results from Questions 56, 57 and 58 be sent to HCC.

A Cllr also raised the matter of whether the Parish Council should become more actively involved with the day to day operations of the library but the Chairman stated that such a decision would be a matter for the future and was at this stage premature. The Chairman concluded that once a meeting with HCC has taken place, we would be in a better position to establish expectations.

A general discussion took place as to what other services the library could offer as well as whether there was any potential for the Village Centre Project to focus on the area of the library. The Chairman pointed out that from the Village Centre pre-appraisal exercise it was unlikely that the site would be big enough to house all the key ingredients particularly in respect of expectations for a new medical centre. It was agreed, however, that the site is an important area of Croxley Green and that it should be placed on the list of locally important buildings. A proposal was put forward accordingly and a recorded vote called for. Those in favour of having the library added to the list of locally important buildings were Cllrs Baldwin, Bennett, Brading, Brand, Isard-Brown, Jordan, Martin, Mitchell, Ridley, Shafe, Vane and Wynne-Jones. There were no votes against the proposal.

Resolved:

- That the Clerk arranges for the library site and building be placed on the list of locally important buildings in accordance with the Localism Act as appropriate.

CC1290/13

Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.43pm.