

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF the 245th MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 30 APRIL 2009 AFTER THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Present: Cllr Shafe in the Chair
David Allison - Clerk
Amanda Taft – Administrative Assistant

Cllrs Bains, Birch, Brading, Brand, Dann, Hollands, C Jefford, Martin, Saxon, Seeley and Vassiliou

Voting Members: 12

There were 5 members of the public present (4 from 8.45pm).

CC645/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bennett, Norman, Seabourne and Wynne-Jones

CC646/09 Declarations of Interest by Members

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

CC647/09 Representations from the Public

Representations were made by a representative of the Guild of Sport concerning the current problems and potential solutions. A Cllr asked that this item be placed on the next Finance and Administration Agenda for discussion. Representations were also made by a representative of the Croxley Green Society in support of the grant application for the Revels (see CC652/09 below).

CC648/09 Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Saxon and seconded by Cllr Martin that the Minutes of the 244th Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 26th March 2009 be accepted. The proposal was agreed and the Chairman signed the Minutes.

CC649/09 Matters Arising

It was suggested to the Clerk that the Minutes of the 243rd Council meeting held on 26 February 2009 should have been accepted as 'amended minutes' because representations were made about the website yet this was not on the Agenda. The Clerk replied that this should have been mentioned prior to the meeting and that he did not have those Minutes available at this meeting. A Cllr then suggested that this would have to be brought up as a matter arising at the 246th meeting.

The Clerk was asked why the Minutes do not state Cllrs names (other than as proposer and seconder) and the Clerk explained that this format not only protects Members but is the format advised in order for the Clerk to gain his Certificate in Local Council Administration which would enable the Parish Council to apply for Quality Status if it chose to do so. Some Cllrs stated that it should be clear who said what and that Cllrs should be accountable and also that the format used was not that used by District Council.

CC650/09 Committee Reports

CC650.1/09 Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 7 April 2009

It was proposed by Cllr Dann and seconded by Cllr Brading that the Minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 7 April 2009 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.

CC650.2/09 Any matters arising

EA566/09 (Play Areas). It was asked what 'an adult section' meant in relation to the new play area planned for Barton Way recreation ground. The Chairman clarified

that this meant an open air gym for adults.

EA567/09 (Community Centre/Village Hall). It was stated by a Cllr that the subject of the Guild of Sport was raised under this item as he had been invited to a meeting with the Guild of Sport and Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) to try to come to some form of agreement. The Cllr added that the Guild of Sport's current lease may need to be revised by TRDC to take account of current circumstances.

EA568/09 (Electricity). The Clerk was asked if the shutters were opened on a daily basis by the Rangers and he stated that they were.

CC650.3/09 Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 1 April and 15 April 2009

It was proposed by Cllr Bains and seconded by Cllr Hollands that the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 1 April and Wednesday 15 April 2009 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.

CC650.4/09 Any matters arising

PD1069/09 (Matters Arising; PD1062/09 Pelican/Puffin Road Crossings). The Clerk was asked if he had written to Hertfordshire Highways about the crossings to which he replied that he had and that it had been reported in the Minutes.

Cllr Saxon apologised for the fact that he was not present at the Planning and Development meeting of 15 April 2009 and had not expressed his apologies.

CC650.5/09 Finance and Administration Committee held Thursday 9 April 2009

It was proposed by Cllr Seeley and seconded by Cllr Shafe that the Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee held Thursday 9 April 2009 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.

CC650.6/09 Any matters arising from meeting held on 9 April 2009

There were no matters arising.

CC651/09 To Approve Annual Accounts for Year Ending 31 March 2009

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk advised Members that the 2008/09 accounts were received from the accountants yesterday morning and were circulated to Members that afternoon. The Clerk advised Cllrs that page 3 omitted to report that Cllr Bennett and Cllr Brand were Councillors and also that the Internal Auditors were not correctly listed as BDO Stoy Hayward. The Clerk confirmed that these three errors had now been updated. He added that Members would recall from the 2007/08 accounts considered at the Annual Parish Meeting that £217,503 was carried forward. Taking all income and expenditure into account for 2008/09, the Parish Council will carry forward £194,495 into 2009/10. The Clerk then commended the accounts to Council.

The Chairman requested that the Annual Accounts for 2008/09 be approved and signed accordingly and that the Annual Return Section 1 (Statement of Accounts) and Section 2 (Annual Governance Statement) also be signed. The Chairman further requested that the Council agree to items 1 – 8 relating to the Annual Governance Statement be answered in the affirmative ("yes") and that item 9 be answered as "Not Applicable" as the Council has no Trust Funds.

The above was proposed by Cllr Saxon and seconded by Cllr Seeley and duly agreed by Council. The Chairman of the meeting and the Clerk duly signed the Accounts and Annual Return.

CC652/09 Application for a S137 Grant from The Croxley Green Society

The Chairman introduced this item and thanked the gentleman present for his earlier presentation. Cllrs Hollands and Saxon declared an interest in this item and refrained from the discussion. It was proposed by Cllr Birch and seconded by Cllr Bains that a grant of £1,000 be given to the Croxley Green Society towards the Revels and the

proposal was agreed. It was asked if the Revels programme could acknowledge the grant by displaying the Parish Council logo as a sponsor and this was agreed by the representative of the Croxley Green Society.

CC653/09

Revels 2009

This item was introduced by the Chairman who stated that the Junior Councillors plan to be involved in the Parish Council stand this year and may run a competition of charging a fee to guess where the treasure is on a 'treasure map' of Croxley. A free Parish map will be given to every entrant. It was suggested the money raised could go towards the new play area.

It was hoped that Parish Councillors would also be involved and help out on the stall and be available to talk to local residents.

Flowers 4 Croxley had suggested that they have 3 or 4 hanging baskets on display and ask for donations as a way of raising funds.

The display board could show photos of the Spring bulb planting project plus pictures of the results of this project. The Junior Councillors Road Safety Charter could be displayed and Cllrs approved of the idea regarding a petition for upgrading the zebra crossings on Watford Road.

The Clerk was asked to contact the organiser of the Revels to request that the Parish Council stand is placed next to Croxley Green Community Centre's stand.

CC654/09

Amended Draft Constitution for Flowers 4 Croxley

The Chairman introduce this item which had been recommended for ratification by the Environment and Amenity Committee. It was proposed by Cllr Saxon and seconded by Cllr Hollands that the Draft Constitution for Flowers 4 Croxley be adopted and the proposal was agreed.

CC655/09

Agreement between Croxley Green Parish Council and Croxley Green Community Centre

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk advised that on 30 January 2009, the Parish Council and Croxley Green Community Centre had entered into an agreement to provide a Village Hall facility for the residents of Croxley Green, saving £30,000 in Special Expenses for the costs of running Watersmeet in Rickmansworth. The Clerk added that the agreement made no mention of appointing two Cllrs to their Executive Committee, only that the Clerk would sit as a non-voting member. The Clerk agreed that having two Cllrs on their Board is something to be worked towards but was not appropriate at this early stage. The Clerk further added that it would be necessary to be put to, and agreed at their Annual General Meeting. After a brief discussion, it was recommended that at the first opportunity, two Cllrs are to be included in Croxley Green Community Centre's Management Committee.

CC656/09

Parish Council Website

The Chairman introduced this item and after a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Bains and seconded by Cllr Hollands that the web address www.croxleygreen-pc.gov.uk is used and the proposal was agreed. The costs for hosting the website were stated as being £104 for the next two years and £64 for the next two years thereafter. It was proposed by Cllr Hollands and seconded by Cllr Seeley that these costs be approved and the proposal was agreed.

CC657/09

Correspondence

The Clerk referred those present to the list of relevant correspondence that had been circulated with the Agenda.

CC657.1/09

Councillor requested correspondence

The Clerk explained the new format for the Cllr requested correspondence.

Regarding the item on this list, it was clarified that even if the Parish Council approved the necessary finances to contribute towards the cost of the upgrade to the crossings at Watford Road/Harvey Road and Watford Road/Shell garage, Highways do not have the funds available to contribute. It was again suggested that we increase pressure on Highways by instigating a petition and that this matter be placed on the Local Area Forum to be held 29 June 2009 to raise its profile.

CC657.2/09 Other correspondence

The Clerk was asked about the first item on the list; land for sale at Redheath, Croxley Green. The Clerk advised that he had been asked to obtain information on this land of which there is 3 Lots of about 74 acres in all for sale at £15,000 per acre.

CC644/09 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.02pm.