

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF the 232nd MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 31 JANUARY 2008 AT 8.00pm

Present: Cllr Norman in the Chair
David Allison - Clerk
Amanda Taft – Minute Taker

Cllrs Bains, Bennett, Birch, Brading, Brand, Dann, Hollands, C Jefford, Martin, Saxon Seabourne, Seeley, Shafe and Vassiliou.

Voting Members 15

There were 17 members of the public present.

CC490/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Wynne-Jones.

CC491/08 Declarations of Interest by Members

No declarations of interest were received. The Chairman recommended that any declarations be made throughout the meeting as necessary.

CC492/08 Representations from the Public

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and asked if anyone would like to make representations. There were representations from six members of the public concerning the basketball classes. Representations in favour of the Parish Council continuing to fund the classes were made by the Coach, one member of the basketball club and four parents of children who attend the club. They argued that the classes were a good way of marketing the Parish Council to the children and that it was short-sighted of the Parish to give the classes to the children and then to take them away. It was felt that the classes have helped the children develop and feel valued and meaningful as well as offering them a physical activity which occupies some of their time, keeping them off the streets and away from computers etc. One member of the public asked the Parish Council to reconsider re-instating funding for children who are not residents of Croxley Green.

CC493/08 Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Brading and seconded by Cllr Seeley that the Minutes of the 231st Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 20 December 2007 be accepted. The proposal was agreed and the Chairman signed the Minutes.

CC494/08 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

CC495/08 Committee Reports

CC495.1/08 Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 8 January 2008

It was proposed by Cllr Seeley and seconded by Cllr Jefford that the Minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 8 January 2008 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.

CC495.2/08 Any matters arising

EA418/08 (Active Works List), the Member who requested that this list be more comprehensive made it known that he was not happy with the Clerk's advice that he prepares a paper to put this topic before Council.

EA419/08 (Budget 2008/09 – basketball). It was queried whether the basketball would be discussed as part of the budget discussions and the Clerk clarified that because

the basketball classes were originally agreed by Council, it is for Council to decide on whether the funding for the classes continues.

CC495.3/08 Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 19 December 2007 and Wednesday 2 January 2008 and Wednesday 16 January 2008

Cllr Seabourne informed the Clerk that he had emailed his apologies for the meeting of 16 January 2008 but that he had been recorded as not present. The Clerk stated he would look into this issue. It was proposed by Cllr Bains and seconded by Cllr Saxon that the amended Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 16 January 2008 and the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 19 December 2007 and Wednesday 2 January 2008 and be adopted. The proposal was agreed.

CC495.4/08 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC495.5/08 Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 11 October 2007 and Thursday 13 December 2007

It was pointed out that the Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 11 October 2007 had already been adopted by Council at the meeting of 25 October 2007. It was proposed by Cllr Bains and seconded by Cllr Seeley that the Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 13 December 2007 be adopted. The proposal was agreed. It was noted that the meetings scheduled for Thursday 8 November 2007 and Thursday 10 January 2008 were cancelled due to being inquorate.

CC495.6/08 Any matters arising

FA366/07 (Representations from the Public), one member felt that the basketball register should have been available for viewing. The Clerk stated that the document was available to Councillors for inspection at the Parish Council office.

CC496/08 Budget 2008/09

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk stated that a draft copy of the budget (v7 dated 8 January 2008) together with supporting papers had been circulated with the Council agenda and also that the laptop and whiteboard would be used to project the budget papers during the meeting. The Chairman decided that the budget would be looked at page by page in turn.

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It was suggested that the sum of £7000 for research (including Village Hall Feasibility Study) be reduced to £5000 and the transfer from provision of Village Hall 2007 budget be changed from -£3000 to -£5000 reducing the total from £116,750 to £112,750. The Members approved this suggestion.

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The Chairman confirmed that funding for the Charity Quiz Night of £210 (page 10) would come from the Chairman's Allowance. The Chairman's Allowance had previously been reduced from £1,810 to £1,600 to take this into account.

The sum of £1,400 was reduced to £1,000 for Revels on the Green and the Clerk pointed out that most of this money was used to hire the Portaloos.

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After discussion, Cllr Brading proposed that the sum of £5,000 be reduced to £1,000 for S137 grants and this was seconded by Cllr Seabourne and the proposal was agreed.

Page 9

The Chairman informed members that a quote was needed to cut and bale the Green.

£9,600 has been allocated for dog hygiene and Cllr Brand proposed that this was taken out of the budget. However the Clerk pointed out that £7,970 was allocated for contractors to empty the Parish's 40 dog bins and £1,620 for the dog waste bags which are given away free to dog owners. The proposal was not seconded. It was suggested that the Parish Council charged for the bags, but this idea was dismissed.

The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council should be finding out about and applying for appropriate grants to increase Grants Received. This was seconded by Cllr Dann and it was agreed that this should go on the next Finance and Administration agenda.

Page 10

After some discussion regarding the basketball classes and taking into account the number of letters and emails and representations made in support of the classes, Cllr Brading proposed that £8320 be allowed to fund the classes and this was seconded by Cllr Saxon and the proposal was agreed.

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With regard to the proposal for £20,000 for the Development of Play Areas, the Chairman suggested that this is deferred to the following year to enable enquiries about available grants to be made, and to liaise with Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) and request that they become involved in this project. Cllr Brading proposed that £2,000 be allowed for research and Cllr Shafe made a counter-proposal that this amount be £5,000 and this was seconded by Cllr Dann and the counter-proposal was agreed.

Page 13

After some discussion regarding street trees, Cllr Bennett proposed that the sum of £3,000 be halved to £1,500 to preclude the planting of trees and to undertake a feasibility study and this was seconded by Cllr Hollands. The proposal was agreed.

Page 14

Cllr Brand proposed that the community bus no longer be funded by the Parish Council and this was seconded by Cllr Brading, the proposal was not agreed and therefore the sum of £6,400 remains in the budget.

Page 15

Cllr Vassiliou proposed that the high-visibility armbands are no longer funded by the Parish Council and this was seconded by Cllr Saxon but the proposal was not agreed and the sum of £270 remains in the budget.

After discussions and amendments to the draft budget, the Clerk confirmed that the precept for 2008/09 is £239,030 which is an increase of 22% on last year and this was proposed by Cllr Bains and seconded by Cllr Bennett with 12 votes in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions.

The Clerk stated that he would notify TRDC as soon as possible and prepare a press release (see enclosed).

CC497/08

Correspondence

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk reported that we had had a number of communications from parents in support of the basketball classes. Another letter had been received from TRDC regarding the maintenance contract for the Green and

Stones Orchard (which the Clerk had read out earlier in the meeting). The Clerk said he would circulate a copy to Councillors with the Minutes of the Council meeting.

CC498/08

Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.05pm.