

# CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF the 289<sup>th</sup> MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER  
ON THURSDAY 31 OCTOBER 2013

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

Cllrs Bennett, Brading, Brand, Dann, Edmunds, Getkahn, Isard-Brown, Jordan, Martin, Ridley, Seeley, Shafe and Wynne-Jones

Not Present: Cllr Vane

Voting Members: 14

Public: 1

In attendance: Inspector Winder

CC1268/13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Baldwin.

CC1269/13 Declarations of Interest by Members

Cllr Brand as Secretary of the Guild of Sport declared an interest in item CC1278/13.

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

CC1270/13 Representations from the Public

There were no public representations.

CC1276/13 Neighbourhood Policing in Three Rivers

In accordance with Standing Order 9.1.6 this item was brought to the top of the agenda. The Chairman thanked Inspector Winder for attending and invited him to talk about the changes to the neighbourhood policing structure.

Inspector Winder advised that Croxley Green should have two PCSOs but, due to circumstances, there is currently only one PSCO (Steve Jacob) plus a town centre PCSO. He was happy to report that new recruits were currently undergoing training and the second PCSO for Croxley Green will start on 9 December 2013.

Inspector Winder confirmed that the new structure of neighbourhood policing had not affected Croxley Green too much and there was not really much change. He was pleased to advise that crime in Three Rivers had reduced the most in the county (by 20%) and since April it had reduced by 13% on top of that. Inspector Winder asked if Cllrs had any questions and he was asked if there was any reason why drug offences were down. He replied that there was no particular reason and the offences were usually minor ones. It was pointed out there were lots of complaints regarding speeding, and asked if enough is being done. Inspector Winder said that the Neighbourhood Team utilise a reasonable amount of resources balanced against other crime. Inspector Winder advised that three 'Speed Enforcement Area' signs had been purchased but the siting of their location was yet undecided.

Inspector Winder was informed that the Road Safety Committee had applied to take part in the Drive Safe campaign. He was asked if speed humps might be appropriate on The Green and he advised that this was matter outside of his remit but that speed humps were not appropriate everywhere.

Inspector Winder left the meeting at this point.

CC1271/13

Minutes

**Resolved:**

- That the Minutes of the 288<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting of the Council held on Thursday 26 September 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

CC1272/13

Matters Arising

CC1262/13 (Annual Accounts 2012/13 – External Audit). The Clerk was asked why the Annual Return was not on the website under supporting papers. The Clerk said that he did not have this information to hand. He was then asked when the Annual Return was received and he reiterated that he did not have this information to hand. The matter of the Financial Regulations as detailed in the Minute was raised again and the Clerk was asked if we could adjust ours until the NALC draft model is circulated and the Clerk advised that this seems pointless.

CC1259/13 (Matters Arising; CC1253/13 Matters Arising; CC1235/13 Review of Bank Signatory Authorisation and Debit/Credit Card for the Council's Bank Account). The Clerk was pleased to report that the debit card had now been received and was ready for use.

CC1265/13 (Council Office and Depot Security Key Holder Services). The Clerk was asked for an update and he advised that the alarm company were coming on Monday to set up a new alarm code for the Key Holding company. The Clerk was asked which account this would be coded to and he replied that it would be coded to Finance and Administration - Property Maintenance.

CC1273/13

Committee Reports

CC1273.1/13

Environment and Amenity Committee Tuesday 3 September 2013

It was pointed out by a Cllr that the E&A report for 3 September 2013 could not be adopted by Council as it had not yet been approved by the E&A Committee. The Clerk apologised for this oversight.

CC1273.2/13

Any matters arising

In view of the above, matters arising were not considered.

CC1273.3/13

Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 7 August, 21 August, 4 September and 18 September 2013

**Resolved:**

- That the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 7 August, Wednesday 21 August and Wednesday 18 September 2013 be adopted as a report of the meeting and that it was noted that the meeting scheduled for 4 September 2013 was cancelled.

CC1273.4/13

Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1273.5/13

Finance and Administration Committee held Thursday 12 September 2013

**Resolved:**

- That the Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday, 12 September 2013 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC1273.6/13

Any matters arising

FA925/13 (Monthly Accounts). The Clerk was asked what 4038/101 (Maintenance Contracts £1,449) related to and he replied that this was for the work the contractors undertook on the Two Bridges roundabout amongst other works.

CC1274/13

Budget 2014/15

The Chairman introduced this item and referred Members to the previously circulated document headed 'What we can do for our Village'. He stated that although money is tight, he did not want this to stop good ideas that improve the village especially if this involves working with other groups and voluntary organisations. He urged Cllrs to take a budget submission form for discussion at the December meeting adding that there would not be a special meeting in January. One Cllr pointed out that it was not just a matter of putting an item forward as afterwards the Cllr would have to follow this up with some work.

**Resolved:**

- That all Councillors try to come up with at least one idea that can help improve Croxley Green, and if a small amount of money is required, complete a budget form.

CC1275/13

HCC Speed Management Strategy

This item was introduced by the Chairman and the Clerk pointed out that this agenda item was a consultation from Hertfordshire County Council which had a link to documents available online. Members discussed the Speed Management Strategy and some felt that if speed limits could not be enforced they would be ignored whilst others felt like they would act as a deterrent.

It was pointed out that the Community Plan Questionnaire results demonstrated that the majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that speed limits by the schools in Croxley Green should be reduced to 20mph. It was also suggested that the community Drive Safe campaign could help with 20mph zones. The Road Safety Committee are also planning to respond to this consultation.

**Resolved:**

- That the Clerk responds to the consultation stating the percentage of Community Plan questionnaire respondents who would like to see 20mph zones around the schools.

CC1276/13

Neighbourhood Policing in Three Rivers

This was discussed after CC1270/13 (Representations from the Public).

CC1277/13

Croxley Rail Link

This item had been carried forward from the last meeting. There had been two meetings with the Parish Council (on 20 August 2013 and on 11 September 2013). The Rail Link team had also attended the Environmental Forum at TRDC.

Environmental surveys are currently being carried out and geotechnical engineering earthworks had already started. Very soon, trees would be coming down but there was a good plan for landscaping and wildlife as well as a management plan for the trees. Work will start in the middle of next year and is expected to take two years to complete. There was some concern from Cllrs about noise especially when they are working on the Rail Link during the night and it was pointed out that although Transport for London may be able to carry out essential works on existing lines during the night, the Rail Link would be under the control of the Local Authority. There was also some concern that the Rail Link team appeared not to have a plan for getting rid of waste. The architect had shown that the design for the piers had been slimmed down and there was cladding to hide cables. Positive news was that a strip of land had been given to the Sea Cadets.

The Rail Link team is aware that the Parish Council is keen to be involved and kept up to date and their team will be attending the Croxley Local Area Forum on 26 November 2013 to address Croxley residents.

CC1278/13

S137 Grant Application from Croxley Green Guild of Sport

Cllr Brand had declared an interest in this matter and refrained from the discussion and voting.

The Chairman introduced this matter which had been discussed at the Finance and Administration Committee held on 10 October 2013 (FA933/13) and referred to Council for ratification.

A recorded vote was requested:

Cllrs Bennett, Dann, Edmunds, Isard-Brown, Jordan, Martin, Mitchell, Ridley, Seeley, Shafe and Wynne- Jones voted for the proposal. Cllrs Brading and Getkahn abstained from voting.

**Resolved:**

- That the Parish Council will match funds raised pound for pound (not including free labour) up to a limit of £3,750 towards the cost of kitchen equipment subject to the production of appropriate invoices.

The Clerk pointed out that there would have to be a virement from other under spent F&A accounts.

**Resolved:**

- That the movement of funds from a different account is agreed.

Cllr Brand was asked if he was happy to accept funding from the Parish Council when he had recently criticised it in a local magazine.

Cllr Brand thanked the Parish Council and said that it would be really appreciated by the Guild of Sport.

CC1279/13

Christmas Tree outside Barton Way Library funding (£1,310)

The Chairman introduced this matter which had been discussed at the Finance and Administration Committee held on 10 October 2013 (FA934/13 refers) and referred to Council for ratification. The Clerk was asked about the necessary permissions to which he replied that the land outside the library is owned by Highways but is leased to TRDC and they were both happy with the proposal as were Eon, the energy company who would tap into the electricity supply. It was asked that permission is given in writing and the Clerk said that he would check this.

Cllr Brand left the meeting at this point.

**Resolved:**

- That additional funding of £1,310 be given for the Christmas tree outside the Library
- That the movement of funds from a different account is agreed.

CC1280/13

Neighbourhood Plan

This item was introduced by the Chairman who referred Members to the previously circulated supporting papers. He advised that Neighbourhood Planning was a long process and one that could take a few years. The first step is the designation of the area to be covered by the Plan. He advised that he had discussed this with Claire May, an Officer at TRDC and Croxley Green is quite a defined village surrounded by Green Belt.

**Resolved:**

- That the Clerk formally writes to TRDC to request that the area for our Neighbourhood Plan to be the whole Parish area of CGPC
- That the P&D Committee is delegated by Council to progress to completion the Neighbourhood Plan with any necessary establishment of working parties and to report regularly to Council on progress

CC1281/13

Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.