

## CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF the 278<sup>th</sup> MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER  
ON THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2012

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

Cllrs Dann, Edmunds, Isard-Brown, Jordan, Mitchell, Ridley (left after item CC1131/12), Seeley, Vane (left at 9.30pm during item CC1133/12) and Wynne-Jones

Voting Members: 10 reducing to 8

Public: 2

CC1120/12 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Baldwin, Brading, Brand, Getkahn, Martin and Shafe

CC1121/12 Declarations of Interest by Members

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

The Chairman proposed that in accordance with Standing Order 9.1.6 the agenda be reordered so that items CC1134/12 (Croxfest) and CC1131/12 (Litter Bins on the Green and Stones Orchard) could be discussed after CC1122/12 (Representations from the Public). The proposal was agreed.

CC1122/12 Representations from the Public

Representations were made by two people in respect of Agenda items CC1127/12 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and CC1134/12 Croxfest 2012.

A representative from the Croxley Green Residents Association stated that he hoped that the Council will continue to fund the PCSOs and recalled the audible support given to them at the Annual Parish Meeting in April. He continued that they are a very visible presence in Croxley Green and they have made Croxley a much safer place to live. He also commented that Croxfest was a very successful day and that the Parish Council should be congratulated for its sponsorship of the event through the financial assistance given the Croxley Green Society.

Representations were also made in support of the work of the PCSOs in providing such a vital service to the whole community which is appreciated by the vast majority of residents. He continued that not only do they provide the on street visible security for the area but their assistance, together with their other uniformed Police officers, proves invaluable at such events as the Revels and Croxfest. He continued that the cost to each household for the PCSOs equated to approximately £5.15 per household per year which is excellent value for money for the essential service they provide to the community.

*[Post Meeting Note: Written representations were received from a resident in respect of Agenda items CC1127/12 Police Community Support Officers and CC1134/12 Croxfest – see attached. Some personal detail has been redacted.]*

CC1134/12

Croxfest 2012

The Chairman introduced this item and stated that some £849 had been raised towards the Council's annual Charities, the Peace Hospice and the Sunnyside Club, Croxley Green.

The Chairman continued that the Parish Council received some very good coverage on local radio as a result of its sponsorship through the Croxley Green Society for the event, which is very good news for the Council in raising its profile.

The Chairman thanked Mr Mark Saxon and his team of volunteers for organising such a good event and thanked the Croxley Green Society for allowing the Council to undertake a bucket collection on the day for the Council's Charities.

CC1131/12

Litter Bins on the Green and Stones Orchard

Councillor Dann declared an interest as a TRDC District Councillor and took no part in the discussion.

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk referred to the supporting paper on this and reminded Members that at a Council meeting in November last year, it was resolved that the Council would contact TRDC about the practicalities of them emptying the litter bins. The Clerk continued that the supporting paper, which was a copy of an email from TRDC, stated that rather than amending the existing contract which the Parish Council has for maintaining the Green to take out the task of bin emptying, it was clearly stated that the whole grounds maintenance contract would have to be renegotiated. It was also clearly stated by TRDC that for them to undertake the task there would be a significant cost element.

One Cllr pointed out that there was no mention of how much it would cost, but in response it was re-iterated that the wording in TRDC's email was in itself important as it made it clear that there would be a significant cost element which would be an additional cost to either the Parish Council or the residents alike. It was also re-emphasised that the email referred to renegotiating the Green contract not just a matter of taking out the litter bin emptying duty from the contract.

Members stated that the level of service that the Rangers can give to the Green and Stones Orchard is far in excess of that which TRDC would be able to provide and because the Rangers work in the area they take pride in what they do for the area, rather than just considering it as another grounds maintenance job.

A number of Members stated that given the scenario of additional expense and a renegotiation of the contract that the matter remains as it is at the moment and that the contract as a whole should not be put at risk.

A proposal was put forward that the status quo remains and that there should be no change to the existing arrangements within the contract. A recorded vote was requested. For the proposal were Cllrs Bennett, Edmunds, Isard-Brown, Jordan, Mitchell, Seeley and Wynne-Jones. Against was Cllr Ridley. Cllr Vane abstained and Cllr Dann did not vote as he had declared an interest.

**Resolved:**

- That the existing contract arrangements for emptying the bins on the Green and Stones Orchard remains unchanged.

(Cllr Ridley left the meeting).

CC1123/12

Minutes

**Resolved:**

- That the Minutes of the 277<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting of the Council held on Thursday 26 July 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

CC1124/12

Matters Arising

CC1104.2/12 (Matters Arising; EA876/12 Representations from the Public). The Clerk was asked about whether the survey of Stones Orchard was available. The Clerk advised that he had not received a copy yet and the last he had heard from Julie Hughes on this matter was 1 August advising that she was still awaiting its receipt.

CC1104.4/12 (Matters Arising; PD1869/12 Watford Road Car Parking). The Clerk was asked whether there was anything further to report. The Clerk stated that a full update had been sent to all Councillors by email on 14 August as stated in the Planning & Development Committee Minutes later on in the Agenda under item PD1899/12.

CC1116/12 Community Centre – Village Hall. The Clerk was asked whether any progress had been on this to which the Clerk advised that a meeting date has not yet been established but he was currently waiting to hear back from the Community Association.

CC1104.2/12 (EA884/12 Installation of Posts on the Green). The Clerk was asked whether a meeting with the owners of Saltram Cottage had taken place yet to which the Clerk replied that this was taking place on 2 October.

CC1118.1/12 Staff Salaries (PART 2) – A Cllr noting that this minute related to a Part 2 Strictly Confidential section of the Minutes commented that he had raised a previous concern about part of the wording but that the matter had been resolved.

CC1125/12

Committee Reports

CC1125.1/12

Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 3 July 2012

**Resolved:**

- That the Minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 3 July 2012 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC1125.2/12

Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1125.3/12

Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 4 July, 18 July and 15 August 2012 and to note that the meeting scheduled for 1 August 2012 was cancelled

**Resolved:**

- That the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 4 July, 18 July and 15 August 2012 be adopted as reports of the meetings.
- That it be noted that the meeting scheduled for 1 August 2012 was cancelled.

CC1125.4/12

Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1125.5/12

Finance and Administration Committee held 12 July 2012

**Resolved:**

- That the Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee held on 12 July 2012 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC1125.6/12 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC1126/12 Annual Accounts 2011/12 – External Audit

The Chairman introduced this matter and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk advised that the Council's Annual Return to the External Auditor had now been signed off. The Clerk reported that the Auditors have commented that the dates quoted in the Council's Finance Regulations have been superceded. The Clerk apologised for this as these should have been removed in the September 2011 review to make the Regulations more time sustainable. The Clerk added, however, that NALC are in the process of preparing a new set of Finance Regulations which he will bring to Council for consideration in the near future.

The Clerk added that box 11 in Section 1 on the Annual Return that had not been completed which related to Trust Funds of which the Council has none but had received a phone call from the Auditors at the time about this and it did not cause them a problem. The Clerk added that in the telephone call the Auditors did thank him, however, for the very comprehensive submission that had been made.

**Resolved:**

- That the Council noted that the External Auditors had signed off the Annual Return for 2011/12 and that the Council noted the content of the Auditors Report.

CC1127/12 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)

The Chairman introduced this matter and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk advised that the Service Level Agreement for the provision of two PCSOs, one funded at a cost of £28,500, was due for renewal and that Council will need to agree the associated funding for the next two years.

Members considered that the contribution the PCSOs have made to the safety of residents in Croxley Green is enormous and that their presence does provide the local 'beat' security which residents wish. A comment was made about the beats that they patrol but it was pointed out there were no set beats as this is itself could alert others as to where they would be at any given time. It was commented that they do regularly patrol the 'hot spots' in the area which is to be welcomed.

**Resolved:**

- That the Council continue to fund the PCSOs for the next two years and that the Service Level Agreement is renewed;
- That the signing of the Service Level Agreement be delegated to the Clerk.

CC1128/12 Budget 2013/14 Briefing

The Chairman introduced this matter and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk referred to the Budget Briefing paper that was circulated with the Agenda. The Clerk stated that the important issue is to start thinking about budgets now as this item will be appearing on all Agendas until the Precept is set. The Clerk said that if there were any queries or questions about the budgeting process to contact him rather than wait for a meeting to raise the matter.

The Clerk in response to a question about timing said that if the Precept could be set at the Council's December meeting on 20 Dec, this would be ideal but the Precept must be set at the Council meeting on 31 January 2013 at the latest.

The matter of Reserves was raised and the Clerk said that he would circulate a short briefing paper about this aspect in due course.

The Chairman reemphasised the necessity of getting budget submissions as soon as

possible so that progressively the budget for next year can be developed.

CC1129/12 Local Government Boundary Commission Review of TRDC

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk referred to the supporting documents circulated with the Agenda and pointed out that one of the attachments had been circulated purely as a reminder as to the content of an email circulated to all Councillors by a fellow Councillor and was not intended to be read in any other way.

The Clerk stated that at present TRDC has 48 Councillors and that the Boundary Commission were suggesting that this be reduced to 39. The Clerk added that the political parties of TRDC had their own views on this matter but this was an opportunity for the Parish Councillors to express a view.

A discussion ensued in which Members considered that the status quo should remain or indeed be increased to ensure that the public have got sufficient representation to forward their views and concerns on issues that affect them.

**Resolved:**

- That the Council supports the suggested number of 39 Councillors with 3 wards in Croxley Green but reserve judgment upon receiving further detail at the next consultation round.

CC1130/12 TRDC Gambling Policy Review

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk stated that TRDC undertake a review of this policy every three years and as a statutory consultee it had been brought to the Council's attention.

The Clerk stated that the last review was in 2009 and the policy in front of Members at this meeting contained no changes from the 2009 document.

**Resolved:**

- That the Council noted the recommended policy and had no comments.

CC1131/12 Litter Bins on the Green and Stones Orchard

This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting, see above.

CC1132/12 Croxley Rail Link

The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Mitchell to elaborate. Cllr Mitchell recapped on the current situation namely that following the pre-inquiry, representatives of the Council had a meeting with Mouchel and the project team from which a number of assurances were given. Cllr Mitchell continued that whilst the Council by majority were not objecting to the Rail link, further concerns remain and the intent of submitting a proof of evidence is to ensure that such concerns can be borne in mind at the inquiry.

It was pointed out that in the event that the Council's concerns on behalf of residents are satisfactorily addressed prior to the inquiry then, it may be the case that the proof of evidence could be withdrawn so as not to hinder the duration of the inquiry.

The matter of the potential land exchange was raised and it was stated that an objection had been sent by the Council on the grounds that the land being offered by London Transport (TfL) was not on a like for like basis and that the land may have potential contamination and that it had been requested that other options be revisited, including a site at the eastern end of Baldwins Lane.

CC1133/12 Hobbies & Craft Day

(Cllr Vane left at 9.24pm at the beginning of this item).

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk advised that the Vice Chairman had requested this item but in her absence, it was no doubt intended to be a reminder for the forthcoming event on 14 October and a request for raffle prizes and helpers on the day.

CC1134/12

Croxfest 2012

This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting, see above.

CC1135/12

Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.27pm.

## Croxley Green Parish Council

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 27 September 2012 07:39  
**To:** info@croxleygreen-pc.gov.uk  
**Subject:** Tonight's meeting

Dear CGPC

I was informed by Mark Saxon of tonight's meeting discussion of continued provision of two PCSO's for Croxley. Due to work commitments I am unable to attend yet feel I must support this case.

As a child growing up in Croxley, PC Steady was everywhere! A PC who KNEW the people of Croxley and vice versa. Croxley has missed this for years. And just as our two PCSO's are becoming known to many, talk of funding threatens to take this away from the residents. CROXLEY NEEDS TWO PCSO'S.

Secondly, continued support of the Croxley Green Society financially is paramount to providing our historic Revels, and our new (and already loved) CroxFest. Only two years in and the public's feedback speaks volumes. It would be a travesty if funding was reduced for what has turned out to be the most populated gathering of Croxley residents, friends and family giving the best feel good factor I've ever witnessed in my life in the village we love and live in.

Please ensure my absent voice is included in your decision making process.  
Regards

Stuart Carter

Croxley resident  
CroxFest Compere  
Croxley Business Owner