

## **CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF the 229th MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER  
ON THURSDAY 25 OCTOBER 2007 AT 8.00pm

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

Cllrs Birch, Brading, Brand, Dann, Martin, Saxon, Seeley, Vassiliou and Wynne-Jones  
Voting Members 10

CC452/07 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bains, Bennett, Hollands, Jefford, Seabourne and Shafe.

There were 4 members of the public present.

CC453/07 Declarations of Interest by Members

The Chairman suggested that declarations of interest be made where necessary throughout the meeting. Declarations of interest were made at items CC458/07 and CC462/07.

CC454/07 Representations from the Public

Representations were made by one member of the public who had visited the Parish Council earlier in the day. This person stated that the Parish Council had cut the hedge of a house on the corner of Barton Way and New Road and questioned why this was done and who was funding this service. The Clerk offered to investigate this matter and write to him with his findings. Councillors requested a copy of this letter for their own information.

CC455/07 Minutes

Item CC439/07 (Representations from the Public) stated that no public were present when in fact three members of the public were present and one made representations. These representations concerned the funding of the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) as well as their hours of work and patrolling areas. The member of the public also asked why the PCSOs have been seen sitting in local cafés. The resident was advised that this is an operational police matter and that the Clerk would be taking these concerns up with the Police accordingly. The Clerk apologised for this error and it was proposed by Cllr Wynne-Jones and seconded by Cllr Vassiliou that the amended minutes of the 228th Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 27 September 2007 be accepted. The proposal was agreed and the Chairman signed the minutes.

CC456/07 Matters Arising

An update of item CC441/07 (Matters Arising; CC435/07 Correspondence) was sought. The Clerk reiterated that an application had been submitted to Hertfordshire Highways to install Christmas decorations on street lamps and that we were awaiting their decision. The Clerk will contact Highways to find out how the application is progressing.

CC445/07 (Replacement Office Fencing). Some Councillors expressed confusion relating to Standing Orders to which the Clerk responded that they were in the process of being reviewed. The Chairman hoped this would improve the situation.

- CC457/07 Committee Reports
- CC457.1/07 Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 2 October 2007  
 It was proposed by Cllr Seeley and seconded by Cllr Dann that the minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 2 October 2007 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.
- CC457.2/07 Any matters arising  
 Under item EA388 (Active Works List), a discussion about the broken glass on footpaths ensued. Members questioned whose responsibility it was to clean the footpaths and who the public should contact. It was suggested that regardless of responsibility, the Parish Council has a duty to its residents to clear potential hazards and that we are covered by public liability insurance. The Clerk pointed out the liability issues and queried whether our insurance would cover us. The Clerk said he would contact our insurers to clarify our cover. It was agreed that this issue would be discussed at the next Finance and Administration meeting to be held 8 November 2007.  
 An update was requested about the overgrown hedgerow on Transport for London land on Watford Road to which the Clerk replied that the matter was in hand.
- CC457.3/07 Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 3 October and Wednesday 17 October 2007  
 It was proposed by Cllr Wynne-Jones and seconded by Cllr Saxon that the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 3 October and 17 October 2007 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.
- CC457.4/07 Any matters arising  
 Under item PD683/07 (Planning Applications), three members of the District Council who are also members of the Parish Council stated that they had received a letter from Consensus Planning Limited regarding the applications 07/1897/FUL and 07/1898/CAC; Applegarth, Parrotts Close, Croxley Green which they felt should be circulated amongst members of the Parish Council. The Chairman asked that this letter be copied to all Councillors (copy attached).  
 Under item PD 686/07 (Highways), the Clerk was asked if he had managed to resolve the problems with street lamps 298 and 303 to which he replied that he had referred the matter to Highways who have in turn passed the matter onto the street lamp team.
- CC457.5/07 Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 11 October 2007  
 It was pointed out that Cllr Bennett had given apologies although he was not a member of the Finance and Administration Committee. The Chairman acknowledged that this had been recorded out of courtesy. It was proposed by Cllr Wynne-Jones and seconded by Cllr Seeley that the minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 11 October 2007 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.
- CC457.6/07 Any matters arising  
 Under item FA 352/07 (Web Site Development), a progress update was requested. The Clerk responded that he had some contacts and would be getting in touch with them in due course.
- CC458/07 S137 Grant Application - Doodletots  
 The Chairman opened this item and welcomed the representative of Doodletots to the meeting. Cllr Martin expressed an interest in this item, and from that point took no part in the discussion or vote which followed. The Clerk gave an update on

Doodletots' response to questions raised by members when this item was discussed at the last Finance and Administration Committee held on 11 October 2007.

Members discussed the subject at length and there were concerns that giving a grant to a new business could set a precedent and that Doodletots appeared not to have sought alternative means of funding. Other members believed that we should offer our encouragement to this local group because they are helping our community. It was also pointed out that although new homes were being built, services were not increasing proportionately.

A proposal was made by Cllr Brading that the Parish Council offers a 2 year loan after which the situation is reviewed. The Clerk said this would be subject to the Council being permitted to offer loans. This was seconded by Cllr Dann. Cllr Vassiliou requested a recorded vote.

Cllr Saxon put forward a counter proposal that the Parish Council use the money in the Chairman's Allowance to provide an immediate grant to Doodletots and the Clerk advised that this would be at the Chairman's discretion. Cllr Vassiliou seconded this proposal and it was put to the vote. Cllrs Brading, Brand, Dann, Norman, Saxon, Seeley, Vassiliou and Wynne-Jones were in favour and Cllr Birch against; Cllr Martin abstained. The proposal was therefore agreed.

CC459/07

#### Chairman's Charities 2007/08

The Chairman introduced this item and thanked everybody concerned for their suggestions. The Chairman decided that the two charities to receive donations are Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and Prostate Cancer Charity.

CC460/07

#### Budget 2008/09 and onwards

The Chairman opened this item and the Clerk advised Councillors to consider not just next year, but the year after that too. The Chairman agreed and advised that members look to long-term planning. It was suggested that a 'business planning session' for the next 3 years to discuss objectives and the methods to achieve these objectives would be beneficial and this was agreed.

The Chairman asked members who wished to be part of this group to contact the Clerk and a deadline of Wednesday 31 October 2007 was set. An email would be sent to Councillors who had given apologies except Cllr Jefford who will still be away.

CC461/07

#### Replacement Office Fencing

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk informed members that he had hoped to have three quotes available for the meeting but only 2 quotes were to hand. The Clerk asked members if they wished to proceed on the basis of only 2 quotes.

It was suggested that a discussion of numbers should be taken to Part 2 of the meeting, but the Clerk advised that this item had been originally raised in the public domain. Cllr Saxon proposed dealing with this issue now and this was seconded by Cllr Wynne-Jones.

The Clerk informed that the first quote was for £2914.75 + VAT and the second quote was for £2500.00 + VAT, the first quote being from a company used by Three Rivers District Council (TRDC). The Clerk recommended the Parish use this company as they, and their work are known to the Parish whereas the second quote is from an unfamiliar company. Cllr Vassiliou suggested that the Clerk's concerns could be addressed by research and proposed that the Clerk use the second company with the cheaper quote providing he was happy with his research. This was seconded by Cllr Brading. The Chairman summarised by stating that subject to satisfactory research by the Clerk the second company is used. The proposal was agreed.

CC462/07

#### Maintenance Contract with TRDC for The Green and Stones Orchard

The Chairman opened this item and the Clerk pointed out that it had been on the agenda for some time. He continued that this topic is time-critical as TRDC will be making a decision some time in the next few weeks. The Clerk stressed that he would like the freedom to consult with TRDC in order to expedite any liaison between the Parish Council and TRDC.

Members discussed this issue and decided that the Parish Council should offer to do this work for free, in order that these areas are cared for and maintained by the Parish Council rather than contractors of TRDC; the funding would come from the Parish Council's precept. The Clerk added that there would be little or no impact on the precept.

It was proposed by Cllr Saxon and seconded by Cllr Seeley that the Clerk and the Chairman take whatever actions are necessary for the Parish Council to retain maintenance of The Green and Stones Orchard. Cllrs Brading, Dann and Norman abstained from voting as they are on the Committee at TRDC where this will be discussed. The proposal was agreed.

CC463/07 Joint Parish Council's meeting with TRDC

The Chairman introduced this matter and the Clerk explained that this is an annual meeting between representatives of TRDC and the Parish Councils within the Three Rivers District. The Clerk emphasised that any items for the agenda must be of interest to all Parishes within Three Rivers and not solely pertain to Croxley Green. The Chairman stated that background papers would need to be produced to substantiate any items members may wish to raise.

CC464/07 Correspondence

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk referred to the supplement of relevant correspondence.

The Clerk confirmed that following a letter regarding Remembrance Day sent on 2 October 2007, that the meeting had actually taken place. He added that everything had been organised for the Remembrance Day parade and service and Cllr Wynne-Jones confirmed he would be representing the Parish Council and laying the wreath.

It was pointed out that a notice of the Local Area Forum meeting at Harvey Road School to be held Monday 12 November 2007 had been circulated to Councillors.

CC465/07 Closure

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.51pm.