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Community Way
Croxley Green
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire WD3 3SU

MINUTES OF the 359th MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 29 JULY 2021

Present: Cllr Cole in the Chair
Ryan Bennett – Clerk to the Council
Amanda Gardiner – Administrative Officer

Cllrs Benner, Crabtree, Gallagher, Hughes, Mitchell, Panju, Taylor, Tobin,
Vassiliou and Whitmore

Voting Members: 11

Not Present: Cllr Birch

Members of the Public: 1

CC2222/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Kyriakou, Montague and Yeung.

CC2223/21 Declarations of Interests by Members

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

CC2224/21 Parish Matters

No matters were brought to the attention of Councillors.

CC2225/21 Representations from the Public

No representations were made.

CC2226/21 Minutes

The Minutes up for review were the Minutes of the 358th Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 24 June 2021.

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the 358th Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 24 June 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

CC2227/21 Matters Arising

Cllr Mitchell advised Members of the following:-

- That the Local Plan Consultation has been extended to the 20th August. Comments on CFS19 Land adjacent 62-84 & 99-121 Sycamore Road and CG65 British Red Cross, Community Way are being collated by P&D Committee and circulated to Members.
- A meeting was held with Croxley Green District Councillors on 21 July to discuss the future of the Red Cross building.

CC2228/21 Committee Reports

CC2228.1/21 Planning and Development Committee held on Thursday 3 & Tuesday 15 June 2021

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 3 & Tuesday 15 June adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC2228.2/21 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC2228.3/21 Leisure, Events & Environment Committee held on Tuesday 4 May 2021

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the Leisure, Events & Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 4 May 2021 be adopted as a report of the meeting.

CC2228.4/21 Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC2229/21 Clerk's Report

The Clerk provided a summary of activities undertaken by the Parish Council office and Parish Rangers.

- Recruitment of Senior Ranger has now been completed. Following interview, Ranger, Anthony Bassenger, has been promoted to Senior Ranger.
- The verges along The Green were cut by Ringway working on behalf of Herts County Council. No explanation has been provided by Ringway as to why they cut the grass.
- Parish Pump was delivered to all residents together with the Croxley Green Residents Association Local Plan response cards. Residents have dropped off completed Local Plan response cards at the Parish Council office, which will be hand delivered to TRDC.
- Croxley Green History Project Calendar 2022 has been printed and copies have been delivered to the Parish Council office.
- Allotment produce has been harvested and promoted on social media for residents to collect from the Parish Council office.

[Cllr Karen Taylor joined the meeting at 8:16]

CC2230/21 Co-operation with Three Rivers District Council

The Chairman introduced the paper on co-operation with Three Rivers District Council. TRDC District Councillors approached the Parish Council to establish regular meetings to discuss items that impact Croxley Green e.g. Local Plan.

Members welcomed the approach by TRDC District Councillors and wanted to highlight that the DC is understood to be organised on party political lines compared to the PC where each member votes and acts independently of party politics, and plans to stay that way.

The Clerk advised members that this is not a Working Group and has no Terms of Reference.

Members agreed to positively respond to the approach by TRDC District Councillors, which will improve the communication channel for the benefit of residents.

A Councillor shared an update with Members on the meeting held with Croxley Green District Councillors on 21 July to discuss the future of the Red Cross building.

Resolved:

- That Council welcomes the initiative proposed by TRDC to improve communication for the benefit of residents
- That Council approves creation of a group comprising the chair and vice chair of council with the chairs of P&D and LEE to meet with TRDC councillors to discuss issues of mutual interest from time to time. Other councillors may attend.
- That Council requests the group reports, briefly, the outcome of each meeting to the next Full Council.
- That the arrangement continues while the group believes the benefits outweigh any perceived disadvantage.
- That Council confirms that the group has no delegated authority.

CC2231/21 Community Infrastructure Levy – Installation of a Public Bench

The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Taylor to explain in more detail. Cllr Taylor advised members that a resident in Croxley Green had suggested installing a public bench in Dickinson Square Garden to replace a bench that was removed. Members agreed that the installation of a bench would provide a useful resting spot for all residents.

Resolved

- That £700 is allocated to purchase the bench and any additional materials for installation.
- That Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding be used to purchase the bench.
- That the Council establishes if there are other areas of Croxley Green where a bench would be of benefit.

CC2232/21 Code of Conduct

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk advised Members that the Local Government Association (LGA) had developed a Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020. The current CGPC Code of Conduct is a subset of the original Code of Conduct and was last updated in 2013.

The Clerk advised members that maintaining a subset of the Code of Conduct is time consuming for staff to review and that the TRDC Monitoring Officer would use the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020 if notified of any infringements by Councillors. Members agreed to review LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020 and provide feedback to the Clerk.

Resolved:

- That Members review and provide comments on the LGA Model Councillor Code of Code.

- That, following Councillor comments, an updated Code of Conduct is included on the Full Council Meeting Agenda on 30th September 2021 for adoption.

CC2233/21 Exclusion of Press and Public

The Chairman moved, duly seconded, the following motion and it was agreed:

that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under paragraphs 1 to 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act. It has been decided by the Council that in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

CC2234/21 Community Infrastructure Levy - Croxley Green Woodland Acquisition

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk explained to members, as outlined in the supporting paper, that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding needs to be spent within 5 years of receipt, or returned to the Charging Authority, and that applying CIL to the approved purchase of the woodland adjacent to Long Valley Wood, a legitimate purpose, before the end of September would ensure that the Council complies with the regulations.

Resolved:

- That Community Infrastructure Levy funding be used to complete the purchase of an area of Long Valley Woodland.

CC2235/21 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:53pm