

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF the 250th MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2009

Present: Cllr Birch in the Chair
David Allison – Clerk to the Council
Amanda Taft – Administrative Assistant

Cllrs Bennett, Brading, Hollands, C Jefford, Martin, Norman, Saxon, Seeley, Vassiliou and Wynne-Jones

Not Present: Cllrs Brand and Seabourne

Voting Members: 11

Public: 2

Also in attendance: Inspector Holland and PCSO's Legge and Mould

CC709/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bains, Dann and Shafe

CC710/09 Declarations of Interest by Members

There were no declarations of interest.

CC711/09 Representations from the Public

Representations were made by a member of the public concerning various matters including Standing Orders, the draft policy for vexatious complainants, flood prevention of the Community Hall and the Community Toilet Scheme.

At this point the Chairman recommended that as Inspector Holland and the PCSO's were in attendance that item CC715/09 be taken as the next item. This was proposed by Cllr Wynne-Jones and seconded by Cllr Hollands and the proposal was agreed.

CC715/09 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Holland and PCSOs Ryan Legge and Steve Mould to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

A very comprehensive report was given to Members and afterwards there was an opportunity for Cllrs to ask questions. The PCSOs gave an overview of the work they have been doing including:

- issuing 'Stop Forms' for antisocial behaviour, underage drinking and underage smoking;
- weekly surgeries called 'Bright Spots' which give residents the chance to express their Policing Priorities;
- Operation Tarantula which involves writing to car owners who leave valuables on display in their vehicles;
- Building a rapport with local children and adults and attending events and providing a visible presence;
- Monthly Auto Plate Registration System to target un-roadworthy vehicles, car thieves etc;
- A red/yellow card system for inappropriate use of vehicles;
- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts;
- Enigma tagging which involved security marking all school equipment, bikes, skateboards etc;

- Follow up visits and advice for previous victims of distraction burglaries.

It was suggested that details of the Bright Spot surgeries be displayed on the Parish Council website or even a link to the Hertfordshire Constabulary website. A copy of the crime statistics was made available.

CC712/09

Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Seeley and seconded by Cllr Saxon that the Minutes of the 249th Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 29 October 2009 be accepted. The proposal was agreed and the Chairman signed the Minutes.

CC713/09

Matters Arising

CC702.2/09 (Matters Arising; EA608/09 Active Works List – Croxleyhall Woods). The Clerk was asked if the site meeting had been arranged and it was confirmed that a date had been set for December. The Clerk was asked to provide a report for the next Environment and Amenity meeting.

CC714/09

Committee Reports

CC714.1/09

Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 3 November 2009

It was proposed by Cllr Seeley and seconded by Cllr Jefford that the Minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 3 November 2009 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.

CC714.2/09

Any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

CC714.3/09

Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 4 and Wednesday 18 November 2009

It was proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Hollands that the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 4 and Wednesday 18 November 2009 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.

CC714.4/09

Any matters arising

PD1222/09 (Tesco Store – Provision of Public Open Space). The Clerk was asked if he had written to TRDC and he advised that there was nothing further to report at this stage but he would inform Cllrs when he had anything to report back.

PD1223/09 (Little Green Lane Pond). The Clerk was asked if he had checked who owns the pond to which he replied that he was waiting for information from Hertfordshire County Council.

PD1224/09 (Yorke Road School Building). It was asked if the email from TRDC had been forwarded to Croxley Green Residents Association (CGRA) and the Clerk stated that he could not recall offhand. A Cllr advised that this site is included in the Local Development Framework (a copy of which has been circulated to Members) which is open for public consultation as a proposed site for housing and was discussed at the Local Area Forum.

[Post meeting note: the email was forwarded to CGRA on 9 November 2009].

It was pointed out by Cllrs that it would be more appropriate to raise these questions at the Planning and Development meeting and also that it was unfair to expect the Clerk to have so much information available to hand without notice. Members were reminded that they could request items be placed on the Cllr requested correspondence list if they wanted to check the progress of items.

CC714.5/09

Finance and Administration Committee held Thursday 10 September and Thursday 12 November 2009

It was proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Seeley that the Minutes of the

Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 10 September and Thursday 12 November 2009 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.

CC714.6/09

Any matters arising

FA556/09 (Festive Lighting – Watford Road and Scots Hill). This matter was raised and the Chairman clarified that it is the utility company and not Hertfordshire Highways who will be charging for the electricity.

CC715/09

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting, after CC711/09.

CC716/09

Revision to Standing Orders

The Chairman introduced this item and referred Cllrs to the papers circulated with the Council Agenda in October (CC704/09 refers). The Chairman added that there were a number of policies that needed to be introduced and also staff and structure issues to be considered which is currently being undertaken through a sub-committee as it may not be within the current remit of the Finance and Administration Committee. A brief discussion followed and it was proposed by Cllr Brading and seconded by Cllr Norman that the word 'control' in 2 iii, viii and xii be changed to 'consider and make recommendations to the Council' and the proposal was agreed. It was proposed by Cllr Hollands and seconded by Cllr Jefford that the Committee's name remains as the Finance and Administration Committee and the proposal was agreed. Finally it was proposed by Cllr Hollands and seconded by Cllr Wynne-Jones that subject to the amendments mentioned, the powers and functions of the Committee be extended and the proposal was agreed. The Clerk clarified that the existing Standing Order 38f(i) will have the words 'finance, administration, personnel and property' substituted with points 1 – 13 as amended.

CC717/09

Internal Interim Audit Report 4 November 2009

This item was introduced by the Chairman. The Clerk pointed out that the Auditors considered it to be a 'clean report' with no comments or recommendations. One Member congratulated the Clerk and his staff for a very encouraging report.

CC718/09

Draft Policy for Habitual and Vexatious Complainants

The Chairman introduced this draft policy, advising Members that this was an important matter as a great deal of staff time could be taken up with dealing with habitual and vexatious complainants. Members considered this to be a necessary and well put together document and it was proposed by Cllr Wynne-Jones and seconded by Cllr Saxon that the policy be adopted and the proposal was agreed.

CC719/09

Music for Fireworks on New Year's Eve

This matter was introduced by the Chairman and it was clarified that TRDC and the Performing Rights Society have been contacted to check that all necessary permissions are in place. It was proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Hollands that the Council agree to the recommendation from the Finance and Administration Committee that the £250 previously agreed at Council be increased to £300 for the purpose of obtaining a licence from the Performing Rights Society for the playing of incidental music at the New Year's Eve firework display on the Green and the proposal was agreed.

CC720/09

Budget 2010/2011 and beyond

The Clerk informed Members that he would welcome proposals as soon as possible and this was echoed by the Chairman.

CC721/09

Community Village Hall Flood Prevention Measures

The Chairman advised Members that this item would be postponed as the details requested by the Clerk had not been received.

- CC722 /09 Correspondence
- CC722.1/09 Councillor requested correspondence
Members noted the list of correspondence and the Clerk was asked to remove the three items from this list as they had run their course.
- CC722.2/09 Other correspondence
Members noted the lists of correspondence which the Clerk stated was not exhaustive.
- CC723/09 PART 2
It was proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Norman that the meeting moves into a Part 2 session.
- CC723.1/09 Parish Council Staff Salaries
The Chairman introduced this item and referred Members to the supporting papers. It was proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Wynne-Jones that the recommendations of the National Association of Local Councils be accepted and the proposal was agreed.
- CC724/09 Closure
There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm.