

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 28 APRIL 2011 at 8.00pm

- Present: Cllr Birch in the Chair
David Allison – Clerk to the Council
Amanda Taft – Minute Taker
- Cllrs Bennett, Brading, Dann, C Jefford, Martin, Seabourne, Seeley, Shafe and Vassiliou
- Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllrs Bains, Brand, Hollands, Norman, Saxon and Wynne-Jones
- In Attendance: There were no public present
- AP51/11 The Chairman welcomes members of the press and public
The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present to the Annual Parish Meeting.
- AP52/11 Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 29 April 2010
The Clerk advised those present that in accordance with good practice, the Minutes of the last Parish Meeting had already been signed off on 24 June 2010 (CC785.3/10), that being the first full Council meeting following the preparation of the Minutes after the 2010 Annual Parish Meeting.
- AP53/11 Matters Arising
There were no matters arising.
- AP54/11 To receive the Chairman's Report
Cllr Birch as Chairman of the Council, delivered the Chairman's Report for the year, see attached.
- AP55/11 To receive the following Committee Reports
AP55.1/11 Planning & Development Committee
Cllr Bennett, as Chairman of the Committee, delivered his report for the year, see attached.
AP55.2/11 Environment & Amenity Committee
Cllr Martin, as Vice-Chairman of the Committee, delivered Cllr Norman's report for the year, see attached.
AP55.3/11 Finance & Administration Committee
Cllr Birch as Chairman of the Committee apologised for not having prepared a report. Cllr Birch thanked the Cllrs on the Finance & Administration Committee (namely the Chair and Vice-Chair of each Committee) for their time and commitment in overseeing the financial management of the Council and thanked the Clerk for preparing the financial statements.
- AP56/11 To receive the Parish Council's Accounts for year ending 31 March 2010
The Clerk advised that in accordance with our statutory requirements the 2010 accounts were made available to the public from 26 April 2010 to 24 May 2010 between 10am and 2pm Monday to Friday. The Annual Return to the Audit Commissioner's External Auditor was signed by the External Auditor on 19 July 2010

and subsequently put up on the website; no enquiries have been received. The accounts show that at the end of that year, we carried forward £183,658 into the current year. The Clerk added that no matters were raised by the External Auditors.

AP57/11

To consider any other interest in the Parish

Cllr Brading thanked all Cllrs who had not put their names forward for re-election on behalf of the existing Cllrs who would remain on the Parish Council.

AP58/11

Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm.



Chairman's Report Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 28 April 2011

It is nearly four years since the residents of Croxley Green went to the polls to elect 16 Parish Councillors. Early May will see a new list of candidates willing to give up their time for the interests of our village so I do hope there will be a strong turn out at the polling stations to endorse the role of the Parish Council.

One of the success stories of this Council has been the establishment of a Village Hall. This has enabled many community groups to meet locally at no charge. Many special interest societies are now taking advantage of this valuable facility.

Our continued financial support of the Police Community Support Officers has also proved to be very popular. The visible presence of these fluorescent jacket clad figures around the village is very reassuring to many residents and it has been useful to have their reports at our Council meetings.

Your environment has been preserved by the Parish Council through the work of our Rangers on The Green and Stones Orchard. I would like to thank the Rangers for their commitment to our open spaces and footpaths.

The older people of Croxley Green have again benefited from being able to use accessible transport to get out and about. The Friday bus is a lifeline to many people and I would like to thank the team of volunteers who make it possible.

Responsible dog ownership is encouraged by the distribution of dog 'poo' bags and the siting of 42 dedicated bins around Croxley Green which means unpleasant mess is seen as socially unacceptable and rare around our streets. Other Councils have abandoned this service but I do hope that the new Council will recognise the value of it.

I am delighted to report that this year's charity fundraising has been exceptionally successful. Our recent book sale at the Sportsman raised £305 and Councillor Christine Jefford's popular quiz attracted over 90 entrants and made a fantastic profit of £862. I would like to thank Christine and her team of volunteers for all their hard work. We benefited from the participation of The Dogs Trust at Harefield during the year as they gave us a lot of promotional material and attended events themselves so I am pleased that we have been able to donate a total of £2,232 to them this year. I would like to thank the people of Croxley Green for their generosity and our MP, David Gauke, for his support at our events.

I would like to thank the Parish Councillors for giving up their time for Croxley Green, not just over the last year, but over the term of this Council. I wish the new Council well and hope they will be able to improve the quality of life for the residents of Croxley Green.

With all best wishes,

Cllr Birch
Chairman



Planning & Development Committee Report

Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 28 April 2011

Electors of the Parish, fellow Councillors, it gives me great pleasure to present to you my report for the year, on behalf of the Planning & Development Committee. The functions delegated to this committee include planning, transport, road safety, village appraisal and sign posting.

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting the Planning & Development committee has held 17 Meetings of which I was able to attend 13 and I thank Cllr Hollands for chairing the four meetings that I was unable to attend. During these meetings, in our consultative capacity, we have considered 117 planning applications within Croxley Green. Only on a minimal number of occasions did Three Rivers District Council disagree with the recommendations given. I thank my committee for their diligence in these matters.

The committee has continued to follow closely the separate 106 planning agreements, where separate funding will be available for the upgrade of the Harvey Road and Shell Garage zebra crossings on the Watford Road. The Harvey Road crossing should soon come to fruition as residency has been taken up on the development.

The committee was pleased to welcome, and fully support, the initiative of the Croxley Green Residents Association, for the development of a Parish Plan for Croxley Green. Funds have been allocated in the Council's Budget for the initial development of the plan which is now enthusiastically supported by the full Council.

Salt Bins; for the sake of the Chair, I will keep this brief, and not keep repeating the words "Salt Bins" These items have been purchased, sited and filled with salt for the use of Croxley residents, and will be refilled!

From the 2011 Budget funds have been allocated for resurfacing of the footpath that links Footpath 10 to New Road for which a covering grant is available. We have also allocated funds for the continuation of the very much appreciated Community Bus Service.

A busy year for the volunteers of the Planning & Development committee. I again thank you for your support and for your service to the community.

Cllr Nik Bennett
Chairman



Environment & Amenity Committee Report

Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 28 April 2011

The ever changing aspirations of the community brings with it new challenges for the Parish Council's Environment and Amenity Committee. Times of austerity refocuses the Members' priorities by involving the community in the important need of safeguarding our local natural surroundings.

By starting at grass roots, the Council has been in partnership with the local schools in assisting in the development of garden clubs with direct help from the Parish rangers.

The monthly meetings allow the E&A Committee to review the active works schedules of the Rangers' past and proposed tasks, thereby enabling the Members the opportunity to make suggestions for any future projects that would be beneficial to the community.

With the Garden Competition being held in abeyance, a general questionnaire was sent out to many local organisations for the opinions on projects that the Council, in partnership could bring to the community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those Members of the E&A Committee for all their work and support over the last 12 months.

Cllr Norman
Chairman