

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF the 239th MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER 2008

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

Cllrs Bains, Birch, Brading, Dann, Hollands, Martin, Saxon, Seeley, Shafe and Vassiliou

Not Present: Cllrs Brand and Seabourne

Voting Members: 11

There were 3 members of the public present

CC573/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bennett, C Jefford and Wynne-Jones

CC574/08 Declarations of Interest by Members

The Chairman recommended that any declarations be made throughout the meeting as necessary.

CC575/08 Representations from the Public

Mr Munroe made representations regarding the future of the Basketball classes (item CC584/08). He said that further to his report which had been circulated with the Agenda it was hoped that a decision could be made speedily in order that funding could be pursued.

CC576/08 Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Brading and seconded by Cllr Seeley that the Minutes of the 238th Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 25 September 2008 be accepted. The proposal was agreed and the Chairman signed the Minutes.

CC577/08 Matters Arising

CC563/08 (Matters Arising; CC551/08; CC540.3/08; CC526/08 Parish Council Website). Following the last Council meeting when the Clerk said that he would endeavour to have the website up and running by this meeting, Members asked for an update on the progression. The Clerk replied that work was continuing and he hoped to submit it to the developers as soon as possible. The Clerk was again asked for a timescale for the website to be up and running but he said he was still waiting for text and photographs. Cllr Saxon offered to compose some text and asked the Clerk to give him a topic. It was again suggested that even a basic framework would be a start and would mean that Agendas and Minutes could be posted.

CC578/08 Committee Reports

CC578.1/08 Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 7 October 2008

It was proposed by Cllr Shafe and seconded by Cllr Seeley that the Minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 7 October 2008 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.

CC578.2/08 Any matters arising

EA496/08 (Matters Arising; EA485/08; EA474/08 Active Works List). The Clerk was asked if he had written to Hertfordshire County Council, TRDC, Countryside Management Service and the Guild of Sport to offer services such as litter picking, weeding, strimming and tree work in return for payment. The Chairman reported that Cllr Drury had called into the office to report from a meeting he had attended and

Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) were aware that the Parish Council has an 'open order book' to undertake any works.

EA501/08 (Fireworks 2008). The Clerk was asked whether there was any development regarding a road closure at the time of the New Year's Eve display. The Clerk replied that he had contacted Inspector Holland but that it would be two weeks before a reply could be expected. The Clerk added that Hertfordshire Highways need six week's notice but that TRDC have a Town Police Clauses Act facility and they may be able to help should a closure be considered warranted.

CC578.3/08 Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 20 August, 1 October and 15 October 2008

It was proposed by Cllr Hollands and seconded by Cllr Saxon that the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 20 August 2008 and Wednesday 1 and 15 October 2008 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.

CC578.4/08 Any matters arising

PD962/08 (PD937/08; Puffin/Pelican Crossing in Watford Road/Junction of Harvey Road and Watford Road adjacent to the Shell Garage). The Clerk was asked if there had been any further developments on this item. Cllr Brading informed those present that as a result of the Section 106 Legal Agreement for the IMC site there would be £65,000 and this would cover the cost of the Watford Road/Junction of Harvey Road crossing. He added that he did not know when this agreement would be signed but the money would have to be paid before the building work commenced.

CC578.5/08 Finance and Administration Committee held Thursday 9 October 2008

It was proposed by Cllr Bains and seconded by Cllr Shafe that the Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee held on Thursday 9 October 2008 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.

CC578.6/08 Any matters arising

FA454/08 (Monthly Accounts). One Cllr pointed out that the account code for 'Rates' should be 4011/101 and not 4016/101, this will be amended at the next Finance and Administration meeting

CC579/08 External Audit for year ending 31 March 2008

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk referred Members to the document that had been circulated with the Agenda. The Clerk had provided a simple chart approach detailing recommendations, what the Council is doing to meet the recommendations and any timescales as requested. It was confirmed that next year, both the Risk Assessment and the final report would be presented to the July Council meeting.

CC580/08 Interim Pay Award for Council Staff 2008/09

The Chairman introduced this item and reminded Members that this was a cost of living pay rise and not a pay rise based on grading; that would be discussed at another meeting. He was asked that as the Agenda item read "Consistent with the Council's Pay Policy on satisfactory performance..." if the appraisals had been completed. The Chairman confirmed that the appraisal process had started and that the Pay Policy needs to be reviewed as the cost of living rise is a completely different matter to that of performance related pay. It was proposed by Cllr Bains and seconded by Cllr Seeley that the 2.45% raise be implemented for all staff from 1 April 2008 pending the outcome of arbitration procedures.

CC581/08 Maintenance Contract with TRDC for the Green and Stones Orchard

The Chairman introduced this item and informed those present that a meeting had been held on Friday 24 October with Peter Brooker of TRDC and that the Clerk and a small group of Cllrs had been in attendance. The Chairman informed those present

that TRDC had requested that the Parish Council extends the existing contract until June 2009 and that they had agreed to do so. He added that the Parish Council will pursue all avenues of opportunity. It had also been agreed that the Parish Council staff and Cllrs could make use of TRDC training courses. The Clerk confirmed that he had requested a copy of the draft Minutes of this meeting but they were currently not prepared.

The Clerk and Chairman were asked if the Parish Council would be invited to sub-contract the maintenance contract for the Green and Stones Orchard and the Chairman stated that it would be foolish to speculate at this stage as to possibilities arising from the outcome of the tendering process.

CC582/08 Monthly Accounts Approval at Council Meetings

The decision to ratify the recommendation from the Finance and Administration Committee that the meetings remain the same and the accounts are dealt with as they are currently was proposed by Cllr Bains and seconded by Cllr Hollands and the proposal was agreed.

CC583/08 Budget 2009/2010 and beyond

This item was introduced by the Chairman and the Clerk added that he would shortly be circulating a briefing pack with blank budget proposal forms to Cllrs. The budget process will be dealt with as in the past; each Committee is to review its budget and any proposals are to be presented at the November meetings. The budget is to be agreed at the December Council meeting ideally but if not, it MUST be agreed at the January Council meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council uses the RPI rate and it was noted that TRDC uses the CPI rate. The Clerk agreed to look into this matter.

CC584/08 Basketball Future

Cllr Bains expressed an interest in this item and refrained from the discussion.

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk thanked Mr Munroe for his representations earlier in the meeting and also for his report about the basketball classes which had been previously circulated with the Agenda. Following a meeting held at the Parish Council on 10 October it was decided that for the sum of £2475.00, classes could be held for 38 weeks per year. If classes were not held during the summer term, the cost would only be £1662.50. To achieve these costs, two basketball sessions (one for under 11's and one for 11-14's) would be held at Rickmansworth School between 3.30pm and 6pm. There would be no gym hire costs but the Parish would have to pay for the Coach. These classes would act as a feeder for other classes run by Mr Hambleton.

It was asked if the attendance figures for the basketball classes could be circulated at the forthcoming Environment and Amenity meeting in order that the numbers attending during the summer term could be looked at and the Clerk agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr Saxon and seconded by Cllr Hollands that it goes before the Environment and Amenity Committee that the sum of £2475.00 be allocated from the 2009/10 budget for the basketball classes to run for 38 weeks of the year and the proposal was agreed subject to the data requested.

CC585/08 Correspondence

The Clerk referred those present to the list of relevant correspondence which had been circulated with the Agenda. He drew to Member's attention the letter from NALC regarding Peer Mentoring. He advised Members that this was a free of charge opportunity for the Parish Council to hopefully benefit from some mentoring.

The Clerk also drew attention to the correspondence from Hertfordshire Highways which had been circulated to Cllrs with the Agenda as requested.

CC586/08

Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.