

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 9 MAY 2013 AT 8.00PM

Cllr Bennett – In the Chair

David Allison – Clerk to the Council
Amanda Taft – Minute Taker

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked staff and Councillors for their support during his term adding that the Parish Council had made a significant impact on Croxley Green over the last two years. He also said that he was pleased to announce that just over £3,600 had been raised for this year's Parish Council charities (The Sunnyside Club and The Peace Hospice).

AGM82/13 Election of Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Wynne-Jones that Cllr Mitchell be nominated Chairman for the year 2013/2014. There were no other nominations.

Resolved:

- That Cllr Mitchell be elected Chairman of Croxley Green Parish Council for the year 2013/2014.

AGM83/13 Acceptance of Office

Cllr Mitchell accepted the Chairmanship and then duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was countersigned by the Clerk.

AGM84/13 To record those present and apologies for absence

Present: Cllrs Bennett, Brading, Brand, Dann, Edmunds, Martin, Mitchell, Ridley, Seeley, Shafe, Vane and Wynne-Jones

Voting Members: 12

Apologies had been received from Cllr Jordan.

Not Present: Cllrs Baldwin, Getkahn and Isard-Brown

Public: 1

AGM85/13 Election of Vice Chairman

The Chairman asked for proposals for the office of Vice Chairman of the Council for the year 2013/2014. It was proposed by Cllr Seeley and seconded by Cllr Brading that Cllr Shafe be elected Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations.

Resolved:

- That Cllr Shafe be elected Vice Chairman of Croxley Green Parish Council for the year 2013/2014.

AGM86/13 Appointment and Composition of Committees

AGM86.1/13 **Resolved:**

- That in accordance with Standing Order 19.2, the following Committees are appointed: Finance and Administration Committee; HR and Compliance Committee; Planning and Development Committee; Environment and Amenity Committee

AGM86.2/13 The Clerk advised that Standing Orders states that there should be a maximum of 7 Members per Committee and Members may only swap Committees in agreement. He added that the Chair and Vice Chair of Council were automatically Members of both Committees. As Cllr Brand is not on any Committee there is currently a vacancy on both the P&D and E&A Committees.

Cllr Bennett said that he would like to sit on the P&D Committee. All other Cllrs opted to stay on the Committees they are currently on.

Resolved:

- That Cllr Bennett is a member of the Planning and Development Committee

The Clerk advised that the HR and Compliance Committee is comprised of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council plus two Cllrs.

Resolved:

- That Cllrs Bennett and Edmunds are members of the HR and Compliance Committee together with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council.

AGM87/13 Chairman and Vice Chairman of Standing Committees

The Chairman declared an adjournment to allow the Committees to elect their Chairman and Vice Chairman.

When the meeting reconvened, it was reported that the Committees would be constituted as follows for the year 2013/2014:

	P&D Committee	E&A Committee	F&A Committee*
Chairman	Cllr Jordan	Cllr Edmunds	Cllr Mitchell
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Bennett	Cllr Seeley	Cllr Shafe

*The F&A Committee comprises of six members – Chair and Vice Chair of the Council, P&D and E&A.

Cllrs Brading, Dann, Edmunds, Ridley, Seeley and Vane are the six Members of the Environment and Amenity Committee.

Cllrs Baldwin, Bennett, Getkahn, Isard-Brown, Jordan, Martin and Wynne-Jones are the seven Members of the Planning and Development Committee.

Cllr Brand is once again without portfolio as he chose not to stand on either Committee.

AGM88/13 To receive reports from Council Representatives on Outside Bodies 2012/13

AGM88.1/13 - Road Safety – Cllr Martin – see attached.

AGM88.2/13 – Three Rivers Environmental Forum – Cllr Wynne-Jones – see attached.

AGM88.3/13 – NHS Local Representation (Community Voice) – Cllr Wynne-Jones – see attached.

AGM89/13 Council Representation on Outside Bodies and organisations 2013/14

AGM89.1/13 - Road Safety

Resolved:

- That Cllr Martin represents the Parish Council on the Road Safety Committee.

AGM89.2/13 – Joint Committee of Parish Councils – The Clerk advised that the representatives from Croxley Green Parish Council are normally the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Clerk.

Resolved:

- That the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Clerk represent the Parish Council on the Joint Committee of Parish Councils.

AGM89.3/13 – Three Rivers Environmental Forum – Cllr Wynne-Jones stated that he would like to represent the Parish Council at these meetings for a further year (Cllr Edmunds also attends these meetings as a representative of the CPRE).

Resolved:

- That Cllr Wynne-Jones represents the Parish Council on the TRDC Environmental Forum.

AGM89.4/13 – NHS Local Representation (Community Voice) – Cllr Wynne-Jones volunteered to represent the Parish Council on the Community Voice.

Resolved:

- That Cllr Wynne-Jones represents the Parish Council on the Community Voice.

AGM89.5/13 – Any Other External Representation – None.

AGM90/13

Direct Debits

The Clerk advised Members that by law the Parish Council must have two signatures and this item is to regularise and acknowledge that we pay certain bills by Direct Debit. The Clerk pointed out that Peninsular also has to be added to the list of direct debits as detailed on the Agenda.

Resolved:

- That the Council continues with the payments by direct debit.

AGM91/13

Authorisation to obtain a Council debit / credit card

The Chairman introduced this item and referred Members to the supporting paper. The Clerk clarified that the card would only be used by him and the Administrative Officer on the occasions when payment by cheque is not an option adding that there would be a £500 limit on any transaction. The Clerk added that up until now, either he or the Administrative Officer have used their own personal accounts and then recouped the money from the Parish Council but new financial regulations dictate that this is no longer acceptable.

A brief discussion followed with most Cllrs feeling that this was a very reasonable proposition. It was pointed out that the bank may impose restrictions on the limit of services that could be purchased.

Resolved:

- That Council authorises the Clerk to obtain a debit / credit card for use with the Council's business bank account and to have delegated authority to a maximum of £500 unless a purchase of larger value has been specifically authorised by Council or the Finance and Administration Committee
- That any queries regarding obtaining the debit / credit card are delegated to the Chairman and / or Vice Chairman of the Council.

AGM92/13 Annual Subscriptions

The Chairman introduced this item and suggested that the following subscriptions should be considered 'en-bloc':

AGM92.1/13	Campaign to Protect Rural England	29.00
AGM92.2/13	Community Development Agency for Hertfordshire	25.00
AGM92.3/13	Hertfordshire Association of Parish & Town Councils	1498.58
AGM92.4/13	Society of Local Council Clerks	203.00
AGM92.5/13	Direct Information Service (NALC)	90.00
AGM92.6/13	The Open Space Society	40.00
AGM92.7/13	The Croxley Green Society	5,500.00

Cllr Brand asked why the Parish Council subscribed to The Croxley Green Society yet do not subscribe to The Guild of Sport. The Clerk explained that they can apply for a grant for Council to discuss.

Resolved:

- That the annual subscriptions were agreed.

AGM93/13 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.



Croxley Green Road Safety Committee Report

Annual General Meeting – Thursday 9 May 2013

It has been a very busy and successful year for this small group of residents who meet 5 times a year. I have been voted in as Chairman for the second year. Here are some of the things which we have achieved:

- instigated the installation of the 15mph repeater speed signs in Community Way and delivered leaflets to promote awareness of it as a response to a local resident;
- finally got the go-ahead for 30mph repeater signs along the unlit section of The Green as well as painted repeaters on the road surface. These have been paid for out of Cllr Drury's budget and will be installed very soon;
- run a poster competition with local schools about cycle safety;
- worked with 3 pupils and a member of staff at Rickmansworth School who have produced a short film for us to promote road safety primarily among older juniors/teenagers but other road users too (County have taken this on to use and we are hoping that other bodies will take it on too);
- seen the upgrading of the two Watford Road pedestrian crossings and been involved in chasing up when work was very slow/non-existent. When the crossing was taken out by Harvey Road we got onto County and got a temporary crossing put in place to make a safer crossing, especially for the school children;
- replied to consultations on the Rail Link and the proposals for a new school in Baldwins Lane, focussing on the potential impact of these projects on road & pedestrian safety;
- have been involved with the road and traffic sections of the Community Plan Questionnaire;
- have had some speed checks carried out for a week at a time in Barton Way and Links Way following concerns from residents;
- have pushed (with limited success) to get traffic wardens outside local schools, especially outside Little Green when new double yellow lines were installed and needed enforcing;
- have built links and had meetings with the police & PCSO's, Cllr Drury, County Highways and Ringway to try to get things done in a more 'joined up' way.

We are now leading the way in Croxley on the new Police Commissioner's 'DriveSafe' campaign which could see a team of local residents become trained to carry out speed monitoring in local roads. We are still looking at the idea of merge-in-turn signs for Scots Hill in collaboration with the Parish Council. We are also looking to make National Road Safety Week (November 18 – 24) an event in Croxley Green involving schools as well as local residents. We are hoping to have a stall at the Revels for the first time in many years to promote road safety and current projects.

Thank you to all those who have helped to get these projects off the ground and to Cllr Drury for giving us a grant from his Locality Budget so that we can continue our work. We are sadly the only Road Safety Committee left in the county now and we are determined to keep making a difference!



Three Rivers District Council Environmental Forum Report Annual General Meeting – Thursday 9 May 2013

This year there have been two meetings of the Environmental Forum. Your council has sent two representatives this year: David Wynne-Jones and Dudley Edmunds - both have learned a great deal about the efforts to improve the environmental ambience in the Three Rivers area. In the first talk Phil Brading gave a very interesting and informative talk about the refuse and recycling systems in Three Rivers and the important part that a responsible community like us can do to utilise waste. It emerged that some categories of waste such as metals etc are quite valuable. Our 'in house' team of dustmen have reached a high level of efficiency and motivation. He also dealt with problems such as graffiti, fly tipping and vandalism and emphasised the part the public could play in reporting instances.

Our second meeting took place in March at which Dudley Edmunds was present as representative for the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England - another crowded and interesting meeting ensued.

The Countryside Management Service manager gave a talk on the importance of stimulating interest and involvement in the woodland and moorland in our area. He paid a compliment to Croxley for the way it carefully managed its wild areas, some of which were ecologically important. The maintaining of wild pathways through woodland and the carefully managed maintenance of cattle in one area all led to first class biodiversity. In response to a question he mentioned that ash die back was limited in Hertfordshire but that keen observation by the public could nip a lot of it in the bud.

Cllr David Wynne-Jones referred to the occasional conflicts between dogs and cattle on Croxley Common Moor and mentioned that the mildly aggressive bullocks had been withdrawn and that younger more timid heifers would in future be grazed there. He appealed to the public to keep their animals under control when in the presence of cows which when attacked often chased the dogs back to their owners. Councillor Dudley Edmunds observed that the problems were not always due to dogs and it was wrong to generalise.

Councillor Ann Shaw said that the increasing numbers of muntjac and roe deer were a problem and some method of controlling them might have to be considered. David Wynne-Jones expressed concern that there was less public awareness (especially among children) about the changing of the seasons (seasonality) - especially the need to protect nesting birds in the Spring by thoroughly inspecting trees and hedges before cutting them. He hoped some of the schools in our area would take an interest in teaching wildlife conservation.

Roger Bangs reported that National Bike Week 2013 would run from 15-21 June. A family bike ride would be held in June in conjunction with the Council. The event will be held at the Café in the Park at the Aquadrome on Saturday June 15. All are welcome. The next meeting is Wednesday 10 July 2013.

Cllr David Wynne-Jones



NHS Local Representation - Community Voice Report

Annual General Meeting – Thursday 9 May 2013

I never cease to be amazed at the care and attention that goes into our National Health Service and the trouble they go to keep the community informed - as usual apathy rules.

We had several meetings this year of which I was only able to attend two. The first one addressed the good record we have for heart, cancer and limb diseases and the problems arising from discrepancies in palliative care, especially among those with senile dementia and the irony that with good care patients can live to an enormous age which means a great deal of funding has to be set aside for them. The present system of temporary doctors covering for weekends was also discussed and thought to be generally unsatisfactory especially as the system does not work very well. There was a heated discussion on how to remedy this - all in all a very interesting session.

The second session I attended dealt with the funding of mental illness in the present grant famine. In fact many persons who have serious mental health problems and should be sectioned are released into the streets due to lack of funds. It was generally agreed that mental illness is the Cinderella of the system despite the immense advances made in drug treatment. There is little funding for medical therapy despite the rise in mental illness. Roughly one in four of the population will have some form of mental problem in their lifetime. Apparently for those who are more interested in clinical details I suggest that this is a worthy group to join. It may not be glamorous but it is vital community feedback on our beloved NHS.

Cllr David Wynne-Jones