

## **Full Council Meeting – 29 June 2017**

### **Agenda Item ~~CC1744/17~~ / CC1754/17**

#### **Parish Matters**

##### **Introduction**

At a recent meeting of the Croxley Green Residents Association it was mentioned that the formality of our meetings did not make it conducive to allowing members of the public to raise matters of concern in the Parish.

There was a call to make our meetings 'More User friendly'.

Whilst 'Representations from the Public' is always on our agendas, this can only be on matters pertaining to the agenda itself and other matters cannot or should not be raised.

There is always of course the opportunity of suspending standing orders under SO 36(1) to hear any matters of concern but the suspension of standing orders should only be used sparingly and with care.

##### **Discussion**

My suggestion therefore is that (for a trial period of 3 months starting in September 2017) a new agenda item is included on the **Full Council Agenda only** under the heading 'Parish Matters'.

The strap line under the heading should be 'A 10 minute opportunity to allow members of the public to bring to the attention of Councillors matters of concern or interest within the Parish'.

This item could be placed after Declarations of Interest and before 'Representations from the Public'.

This satisfies the Agenda Summons as Councillors will be aware that 'Matters pertaining to the Parish' can be discussed during this period.

During this agenda item, no Councillor will be required to answer any question raised or make any comment regarding the subject matter.

Any Councillor may ask a question of the public to generate a better understanding of the matter raised **but no motion can be proposed or seconded during this agenda item.**

If any Councillor feels that the Council should discuss any matter raised then it will be for that Councillor to put a motion forward in the normal way.

The Chair of the meeting will have the discretion to:

- a) Cut short the matter under discussion if it falls outside of the powers, duties and ability of the Council to deal with.
- b) Extend the time allowed for discussion up to a maximum of 15 minutes

This addition to the full Council agenda will be reviewed at the November 2017 council meeting with a view to adding it permanently, amending the terms of reference, extending the trial period or deleting it.

Many parish councils allow this brief 'open forum' type agenda item prior to the main business of the meeting commencing to allow for this method of community involvement.

### **Recommendations**

- That, for a trial period of 3 months starting in September 2017, a new agenda item is included on the **Full Council Agenda only** under the heading 'Parish Matters' with the strap line 'A 10 minute opportunity to allow members of the public to bring to the attention of Councillors matters of concern or interest within the Parish'.
- That the item be placed after 'Declarations of Interest' and before 'Representations from the Public'.
- That this addition to the full Council agenda be reviewed at the November 2017 council meeting with a view to adding it permanently, amending the terms of reference, extending the trial period or deleting it.

Cllr Mark Saxon

21 June 2017