

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 7.00^{PM} ON THURSDAY 21st JANUARY 2010
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, VILLAGE WAY, CRANLEIGH

During the first fifteen minutes of the meeting, members of the public with a legitimate interest in the parish were able to ask questions relevant to the work of the council. There were no members of the public or the press in attendance. The Clerk, Pauline Whitehead and the Assistant Clerk, Vivien Edwards were present.

Cllr BA Ellis * (Chairman of the Council)
 Cllr BH Cheesman* (Vice Chairman of the Council)
 Cllr B Arendell*
 Cllr J Bainbridge*
 Cllr Dr V Dawes
 Cllr Mrs JE Dodd*
 Cllr Mrs P Ellis*
 Cllr Mrs M Forszowski*
 Cllr D Gallacher*
 Cllr Mrs R Hurlley*
 Cllr K Reed*

PRESENT*

1. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 17TH DECEMBER 2009

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th December 2009 were AGREED and signed by the Chairman as a true record, subject to the following amendment to aid clarity:- delete paragraph one of item 13 Parish Business and substitute:-.

“Cllr Mrs Ellis reported that at its meeting on 4th December 2009, the SCC Local Committee (Waverley), had agreed to make a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) relating to Lions Lane (Byway Open To All Traffic No. 359) Cranleigh, that runs between Knowle Lane and Alfold Road and has been classified as requiring very extensive repairs.

To comply with the County Councils legal duty to maintain the local network of footpaths, bridleway and byways in a condition suitable for walkers and horse riders, the TRO prohibits all vehicles wider than 1500mm (5ft) from using Byway Open To All Traffic No 395 Cranleigh (Lions Lane) - except for access. Unfortunately Surrey County Council do not have sufficient money in their budget this year to meet the £15,000 it will cost to repair the large and deep ruts that run along the length of the lane.”

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

The Council accepted apologies and reasons for absence from Cllr Dr V Dawes.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that any changes in member's interests should be notified to the Clerk so that appropriate action can be taken. There was one declaration of interest.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Emma Treeby had tendered her resignation as Co-ordinator of Cranleigh Initiative with effect from 11th February 2010. Emma's enthusiasm and dedication to the role had been outstanding and she will be greatly missed. Feedback from events held in the run up to Christmas had been extremely positive. Emma has set up a comprehensive outline of activities for the coming year and has established a group of volunteers willing to help in the future. Talks are underway to find a successor.

Preliminary discussions had taken place with Waverley Borough Council to explore the possibility of transferring the responsibility for the two public conveniences in Cranleigh (Village Way and Cranleigh Common) to the Parish Council. The Environmental Services Manager for Waverley Borough Council will furnish the Clerk with further details so a full report can be brought to Council in the future.

Initial explorations with Waverley Borough Council regarding the possibility of Snoxhall Car Park being included within their Parking Services has revealed that the car park is too small to be economically viable for them to consider. Further measures will be put in place at Snoxhall to restrict inconsiderate parking and protect the grounds.

On January 12th the Environment and Leisure Overview Scrutiny (ELOS) Committee at Waverley Borough Council had considered the Association of Train Operating Companies' (ATOC) proposal to consider reopening the railway line from Guildford to Cranleigh, and considered further by ELOS in select committee mode. The committee had recommended to Waverley's Executive that, in the absence of funding, the reinstatement of the railway line should not be pursued for the foreseeable future. (See item 12, Parish Business).

The Chairman suggested that it would be prudent to set up a small working party to consider the development of Cranleigh over the next 20 years, particularly in the light of Waverley's work on the Local Development Framework.

Recent bad weather had led to many complaints about lack of gritting of roads and the subsequent appearance of potholes. The Clerk was asked to write to the Head of Highways and Leader of Surrey County Council requesting an explanation as to what went wrong and seeking assurances that such a situation would not be repeated. Waverley Borough Council had provided temporary collection points for rubbish and recyclables in Village Way Car Park, and had also ensured that the car park was speedily cleared of snow.

The Chairman and Councillor Gallacher were due to attend a meeting, arranged by SCAPT, with the Chief Constable and Chairman of the Surrey Police Authority on 29th January in order to learn about significant changes to Surrey policing. There were proposals throughout Surrey to close a number of police stations, and to investigate the integration of Surrey Police into other community buildings as a cost cutting measure. Members gave broad agreement for the Chairman to work with Surrey Police to see whether there was an opportunity to provide space within or adjacent to a Parish Council building.

Two Councillors who had been unable to attend the Power of Well-being training held in Cranleigh were attending a similar course in Horley. Hopefully this will fulfil the criteria required to adopt the power which gives additional benefits to the community.

5. QUESTIONS

There were no questions given in writing at least seven days in advance of the meeting from members of the public living or working in the Parish who were present at the meeting.

6. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Committee Chairman presented the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 4th January 2010, these were RECEIVED.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The amended and final expenditure list for December 2009 of £22,201.69, and the expenditure list to January 21st 2010 for £28,498.37 were presented to the Council by the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and AGREED.

Members AGREED the Financial Report to 31st December 2009 and noted the explanations within the report along with the Earmarked Reserves and special bank accounts. It was also noted that recent severe weather had caused cancellations and therefore some loss of income at the Village Hall.

The Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee reported that an opportunity to invest a further £25,000 in a Nat West bond, with a gross rate per annum of £1.65% for a 7 month period had become available and that this was being pursued following agreement by the delegated powers given to the Chairman

and Vice Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council in consultation with the Clerk.

8. RESIGNATION OF A COUNCILLOR

Members noted that the Chairman had received a letter of resignation from Cyril Baily. The Returning Officer at Waverley Borough Council had been notified and the vacancy had been advertised.

9. DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY IN CRANLEIGH

Members AGREED to support Innovations in Dementia's initiative to promote an understanding of the needs of local people who may have or develop dementia.

10. PRINCESS OF WALES ROYAL REGIMENT

The Council AGREED to adopt a bond of friendship with the Princess of Wales Royal regiment.

11. RECREATION REPORT

Members noted the recreation report circulated with the agenda, in particular a report on the Cricket Square following soil testing which indicates a significant improvement to the Square following specific management techniques over the last six years.

Members AGREED an updated wildflower policy which indicates four main areas where wildflowers will be encouraged, the dog area, the hedgerow to the front of the dog area, an area between the two white fences on the access road and the Beryl Harvey Conservation Area.

12. PARISH BUSINESS

Cllr K Reed updated the Council on the latest information regarding the ATOC report proposing a Cranleigh to Guildford rail link, following Waverley Borough Council's ELOS Committee meeting on 12th January. The ELOS Committee had advised the Executive Committee that because of the high costs and the absence of available funding, it should not pursue further investigation into re-opening the rail link at this stage.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Leader of Waverly Borough Council advising that, while recognising that neither Waverley Borough Council nor Cranleigh Parish Council are able to provide funding, the majority of members of Cranleigh Parish Council would fully support a detailed feasibility study of the ATOC proposals should any group or organisation wish to carry it out.

Members further requested that Cranleigh Parish Council's views in this respect be advised to Waverley's Executive Committee when they next consider the Guildford to Cranleigh rail link.

Councillor Mrs J Dodd advised that following the Letter of the Week published in the Surrey Advertiser on 8th January, regarding the costs associated with the roof at Village Hall, she had sent a letter of response to the Editor. It had not been published the following week, but she was hopeful that it would be in the next edition (due out 18th January).

13. CORRESPONDENCE

The Parish Council RECEIVED the Correspondence List A to 15th January 2010 and List B to 21st January 2010.

14. REPORTS

The Chairman advised all Councillors that Waverley Borough Council's list of meetings and Surrey County Council's Environmental Update were available on their respective websites.

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15. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was resolved that the Press & Public be excluded from the Meeting during items 16 and 17 in accordance with section 100A (2) and (4) of the L.G.A. 1972 and Standing Orders 55(c) and 55(d).

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20 pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 18th February 2010 at 7pm.