

Minutes CGRA 13/5/2013

Committee: Barry Grant, Mandy Grant (minutes), Joan Zanelli, Rose Hanscomb, Tony Munro, Margaret Pomfret, Judith Turnbull, David Neighbour

1) Apologies: Mary Mitchell, Alison Wall, Neighbourhood Watch (Alison Aker, Cllr David Wynn Jones and Kelly Keating)

Residents: 48 residents signed the attendance sheet including a number of residents associated with Youth Football (and Cllr Brand as "observer") attended only for Agenda item 12. Other Youth Football attendees missed signing the attendance record. The regular resident attenders were present.

2) Minutes of previous meeting: proposed by Joan Zanelli, seconded by Rose Hanscomb, signed.

12) Guild of Sport & Social Club

This item was brought forward in view of the number of interested residents in attendance. They did not stay for the remainder of the meeting.

Barry gave a précis account of the developments at the Croxley Guild of Sport & Social Club. Colm Finnigan and Jane Walker, representing the CGOS Youth Football Club added their concerns. The main problem is that the youth football will be without a pitch (or pitches) of a suitable size in line with league requirements as the Guild of Sport committee (GSSC) has entered into a 5 year agreement with Chess Valley Rugby (CVR). As a consequence, rugby will be utilizing 2 of the existing 3 pitches, with football only being offered the smaller lower pitch. Colm Finnigan explained that, to date, there are no pitches of suitable size available in Croxley or nearby. A meeting with the GSSC committee is scheduled for 14th May (tomorrow) to negotiate hire of the bottom pitch, but this pitch is of an inadequate size for the age range requiring it. It was complained that a quote from Frank Brand had caused distress amongst the football members - he had stated that "the decision was theirs, not ours". The football members disputed this saying that they feel they have been kicked off GoS pitches by the CGGS committee - no consultation had taken place with existing GSSC members, no opportunity given to football members to match the Chess Valley Rugby deal with negotiations with CVR taking place in secrecy. Local residents in attendance complained that over the last 5 or 6 years the social club had been run down and that the existing GSSC committee is a very difficult group to deal with. Concern was also expressed about the cost of renewing kit and equipment if the football members have to find a new home. Colm Finnigan invited everyone present to attend the meeting with the GSSC scheduled for 14th May and that he would report back to the Association afterwards. Barry asked Frank Brand if he would like to comment on any of the points made but he declined to comment stating that he was only attending as an observer.

3) Media Sub Committee

The Resident had been delivered and was looking good. Vote of thanks to Tony, Rose and Joan for a professional job well done. Joan volunteered to have her home address included for future additions of the Resident.

Website – steady progress with an increasing footprint. Joan thanked Ross for his prompt updating... Rose requested input for the next Resident. Due to funding issues, the next Resident might have to drop from 16 to 12 pages.

4) Former Yorke Rd School

Planning application submitted and due to be heard at the TRDC planning meeting on 23rd May – all to attend if possible please. Just waiting for Officer's Report – Barry agreed to do 3 min presentation. Confirmed that a tree with a preservation order will be removed, there is zero contribution to affordable housing, a slate roof will be put back on and railings will be restored. Cllr. Edmonds expressed concern about the TPO and concern about parking was also expressed.

5) Planning & Environmental Matters

Village Centre Plan – Barry gave short report. PC website has breakdown of pre-feasibility.

6) Community Plan Results.

The Parish Council will shortly be publishing the results of the CP Questionnaire and delivering them to homes in Croxley Green. Publication of the CP Plan document will follow in the Autumn.

Local Producers Market – disappointment expressed that this was cancelled at short notice. Cllr. Bennett gave sincere apologies from PC explaining that it was due to lack of commitment from producers. It was discussed that the Artichoke pub may be holding a market. We would broadcast details when we received them.

7) Local History Project

First meeting scheduled for 14th May. Looking into paying a company to scan images. Margaret explained about the Watford Voluntary Service – a kind volunteer had typed out Margaret's hand written memories from a resident onto a word document. Margaret commended Ross for his work on the history website. The domain name is ***Croxleygreenhistory.co.uk***. Barry agreed to look into sourcing funding for the project to cover cost such as scanning images. He also echoed Margaret's thoughts about the website looking really good. Cllr. Bennett stated that he had been in contact with a gentleman researching WW1. We can apply for a Parish Council Grant. Thanks were given to Fabian Hiscock for his link to the Watford Voluntary Service – perhaps a good article for the Resident?

8) Secondary School up-date

Barry gave a report – Cllr. Drury stated that Cinnamond are moving which will leave their site empty.

Rickmansworth School new sports facility is now open for the school and the wider community. Agreed that the CGRA will write to the school to enquire exactly how the community can benefit from it. There is due to be an open evening – when?

Baldwins Lane Play Area – Cllr Drury reported that this is now under construction. Lack of communication with TRDC had caused some concern. Some play equipment is now being revamped as a result.

9) York Mead School expansion – decision pending until June – opposed in principle due to there being no increase in core facilities. Cllr. Drury agreed to go back to HCC to find out why county deferred decision.

10) Stones Orchard

Inaugural meeting to be held on 22nd May at PC offices – all welcome.

11) All Saints Church Chimes

Concern expressed that the decision not to proceed with hearing was undemocratic. Parish Cllr. Bennett, speaking as a member of the Church Council, explained the church's predicament. He confirmed that the Parochial Church Council is raising funds to get the timing mechanism renewed. TRDC has also agreed to make a concession on the restrictions, now allowing the bells to chime an hour earlier (was 11pm – 7am, now 11pm – 6am). He confirmed that a local resident is very keen to take the case forwards. One area of Law being considered is 'unintended consequences'. Cllr Edmonds stated that the chimes, in 'calling to church', can be rung once for every road in Croxley – everyone agree this was a great idea!

13) Revels

CGRA will attend – small presence with banner.

14) Neighbourhood Watch

Apologies from the OWL representatives. Alison Keating reported that the number of residents 'signing up' to OWL has increased, probably as a result of publicity and she sent her thanks. Barry agreed to email OWL about a revels stall.

15) Road Safety Committee (Cllr Drury reported)

Rickmansworth School 6th Form had produced a road safety film aimed at young primary to 6th form. Various road maintenance has occurred with half of Barton Way now resurfaced. The other end has been deferred because of planned utility works. Footpath on the Green resurfaced and speed reminders due very soon. Drive Safe campaign – volunteers to sign petition to find hot spots in community and get volunteers to learn how to use speed monitoring equipment. Community Plan questionnaire will also have highlighted hotspots.

16) Finance

The Treasurer had sent apologies; no report was given.

17) AOB

Boundary commission consulting about ward names as Croxley will be reduced from 3 to 2 wards. General agreement that wards should contain the village name Croxley Green, followed by Dickinsons (South) and Durrants (North).

Judith asked people to collect their stamps and ink cartridges as she is collecting them for Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

All Saints Church has the Herts Constabulary Choir holding a concert on Monday 3rd June at 8pm – tickets available.

Meeting ended at 9.50pm

Signed Chairman

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