

Minutes of CGRA Meeting 19th March 2012

Committee members in attendance: Barry Grant, Tony Munro, Mary Mitchell, Rose Hanscomb, Judith Turnbull, Margaret Pomfret, David Neighbour, Mandy Grant

Apologies for absence: Amanda Mackie, Joan Zanelli

Minutes of the last meeting 12th January 2012: proposed by Mandy Grant, seconded by Tony Munroe

Media Sub-committee: Although Mark Englefield has stood down from the committee, he is still willing to help with the website and will continue working on The Resident for the Spring issue and help out when he can. Mark has set up a twitter and facebook page. Print date for The Resident is 1st May, with delivery mid-May. TM is responsible for advertising. Joan has organised articles to date. It is important to ensure that we have a contrast of materials.

Croxley Green Community Plan: Parish Cllr. Wendy Jordan gave a brief explanation of the plan and where we are to date. She expressed her thanks to the CGRA and Keep Croxley 'Green' Group for the support with the plan. Wendy also expressed a debt of thanks to Joan Zanelli for all her efforts.

TRDC public consultation on development sites: Concern was expressed that TRDC may give little or no weight to consultation received from residents that was not in a TRDC preferred format. Many residents had chosen to return consultation responses in a precis format that had been delivered to householders by concerned residents. The committee and residents were all unanimous in their opinion that any consultation returned to TRDC, whatever the format, should be given the same weight of consideration as consultation received via TRDC's online or paper consultation documents. It was agreed that BG would write to TRDC about this. MG suggested that anyone present should also write if they felt unhappy about it.

TFL & Herts cc public consultation on the Croxley Rail Link: BG explained that there would be a public inquiry held and that anyone could express their views at the inquiry, whether for or against. Fabian Hiscock expressed concern that dialogue between TFL and the Sea Cadets had stopped. Parish Cllr. Dudley Edmonds explained that he had been in contact with CPRE who were at last taking some interest. It was suggested that we should consider paying a professional to represent the interest of the residents at the inquiry.

Croxley Green Road Safety Committee: TM stated that it would continue with Parish Cllr. Janet Martin as Chair and Caroline Beesley as Vice-Chair. He explained that the committee had objected to aspects of the Rail Link and the new School in Baldwins Lane. TM hoped that the CGRA could build a good bond with the Road Safety Committee. It is anticipated that a representative from the CGRA will attend RSC meetings regularly. The committee is still waiting for details of the budget from County Cllr. Steve Drury. Concerns/ideas put forward during the CGRA meeting for the budget are: speeding in Barton Way, the need for 30mph signs on The Green, Danger at the Shell Garage Crossing. It was suggested that the CGRA write to Cllr. Drury with our suggestions. The next RSC meeting is on 23rd April 2012.

Projects: Boundary Walk – The Parish Council have agreed to put £100 towards the project. The PC are also in a position to apply for a £1000 grant from HCC. BG had worked out the cost of signage to be approx. £1,400.

Jubilee and Olympic celebrations – Parish Cllr. Nik Bennett explained that the PC is organizing a picnic in Barton Way Rec to celebrate the Jubilee on Bank Holiday Monday, 5th June. The PC will also be planting a Jubilee Oak on The Green – it was suggested that a ‘royal’ Oak could be purchased by the CGRA (RH to investigate). Nik also explained that Flowers4Croxley are theming its planting red, white and blue in honour of the Jubilee and the Olympics and that residents and business would be encouraged to do the same, adorning houses with bunting and flags etc.

Revels – The date for this year’s Revels is 23rd June. MM volunteered to look into manning a stall again, with David Neighbour offering his support.

LUL embankment tree felling: RH updated the committee. Requested copies of surveys have now been obtained, but residents are still very upset that the wildlife has a good as disappeared. Increased noise and reduced privacy were two other concerns. Some residents believed they had been lied too because they had been told it would only be coppicing when, in fact, hundreds of trees have been cut down. It has particularly upset elderly residents. However, one resident was very glad that the work had been done as it had allowed more light into her garden. Everyone agreed that the trees should never have been allowed to get so big in the first place and that regular maintenance should have occurred.

Finance: MM had provided her report as part of the AGM

Any other business:

Landscape character assessment – MG expressed concern that TRDC believes Croxley to be an Urban area, whilst the PC believe it to be Semi-Rural.

Keith Turnbull - Judith explained that a boundary or canal walk would be planned in memory of Keith for anyone who would like to attend. Donations to the MKMRF Snowdrop Fund can be made on the Just Giving page – www.justgiving.com/lise-coughlan

York House School – RH reported that the site is not secure. No other information at this time

Partnership between PC and British Waterways – the canal towpath will soon be in desperate need of clearing. Nik Bennett agreed to look into this. It was suggested that we need an ad hoc short notice towpath tidy.

PC holding a quiz on Sat 24th March and a cake sale on 1st April from 11-3 in the village hall – proceeds to the Chairman’s charities.

Information leaflets for new homeowners in Croxley. DN had visited estate agents who gave details of a company who provide new homeowners with a welcome pack. There was no reason why the CGRA couldn’t provide information for this pack. BG would set the wheels in motion

Meeting ended at 9.45pm

Date of next meeting: 14th May, 2012