

**MINUTES OF THE CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 30<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2008**

Present : Cllr Joyce Rhodes (Vice Chairman), Cllr Andrew Brewer (Vice Chairman) Cllr Terrie Connor, Cllr Barry Thomas, Cllr Ron Arnold, Cllr Valerie Bache, Cllr Dave Smith and Cllr Thelma Smith\*

\* Cllr Thelma Smith left before the first item on the agenda of the Council meeting.

Also Present: County Councillor David Crowhurst, and District Councillor Teresa Seall

**PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS** There were no public announcements.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD** Mr Daniel Smy and Mr Bob Russell both expressed concern about the culture of gossip and innuendo being heard around the Village and offered a vote of confidence in the Clerk and Cllr Brewer. Mr Russell (Parish Council Chairman 2000 – 2007) informed the meeting that he had worked with Cllr Brewer during his time on the Council and thanked him for all his work in administering the Council Tax budget during his Chairmanship and spoke particularly about the Council being almost bankrupt when Cllr Brewer took on this task and astute financial administration has brought it to the solvent state it is in today. My Smy wished to ask Cllr Scard to confirm the names of the twenty residents who felt that the Council's integrity was in question and doubt inferred about the Clerk as responsible financial officer. (Cllr Scard was absent) . Mr Smy invited each Councillor to signify their confidence in the clerk. Cllrs Thomas, Arnold, Connor, Rhodes and Brewer all did so, Cllr & Cllr (Mrs) Smith and Cllr Bache advised they had nothing to add. Mr Russell pressed them once more but these Councillors declined to add anything. Mr Russell referred to comments that the previous Council "did nothing" offering to speak openly to those people who question this. Mr Russell asked that those people involved in these unhelpful comments think carefully about what they are saying. The Council was questioned regarding an alleged 'secret meeting' held the previous day. The Clerk confirmed that the only meeting held was a budget meeting to which all Councillors were invited and all attended except Cllr Stenning, who was on holiday, and Cllr Smith and Cllr (Mrs) Smith. Mr Smy spoke about the increasing costs of Standards Board cases being heard and ask all complainants to withdraw their complaints noting the cost to the tax-payer and suggesting the money being spent on these cases could have kept the library open! Mrs Fleur claimed discussions on Standards Board cases were sub judicy; this claim was dismissed. Cllr Arnold asked all to stop and listen and not stoke the fire of gossip (Cllr T Smith left the meeting). Due to the attempt to raise personal matters concerning an absent Councillor by Mrs Chitson the Council voted to exclude the public. Councillors then discussed various matters before allowing the public to rejoin the meeting.

The public were invited back in and the public participation continued. Mrs Jane advised the meeting of the forthcoming open meeting of the newly formed allotment society to be held in the School Hall on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November. Mr Russell questioned how much land would be required for allotments; Mrs Jane replied 2.5 acres.

**REPORT BY COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER** The Community Police Officers were not available.

**REPORT BY KRIS HALLETT, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER** Apologies were received from Kris Hallett. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes.

**REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR** Cllr Crowhurst's report is attached to these minutes.

**REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** Cllr Read was not present. A copy of Councillor Teresa Seall's report is to follow.

**THE MEETING**

CLLR RON ARNOLD SIGNED HIS DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT, WITNESSED BY THE CLERK AND TOOK HIS SEAT ON THE COUNCIL

**ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Apologies were received from Cllr Stenning.

**ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Cllr Thomas declared a personal interest as a member of the newly formed allotment society.

**ITEM 3 DECLARATIONS OF PREDETERMINATION** There were no Declarations of predetermination.

**ITEM 4 CORRESPONDENCE** None to report

**ITEM 5 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008** The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record and duly signed. Proposed Cllr Thomas, seconded Cllr Brewer **AGREED**

**ITEM 6 MATTERS ARISING** There were no matters arising.

**ITEM 7 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** Cllr Rhodes welcomed Cllr Arnold and wished him well as a new Councillor. Cllr Rhodes advised members that the Bus Shelter had been ordered and would be delivered and put in place in January (subject to Contractor).

**ITEM 8 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:**

**a. 1/D/08/001882 46 DICK O’ TH’ BANKS ROAD – DEMOLISH BUNGALOW AND ERECT REPLACEMENT BUNGALOW.** The Council raised no objections to these plans.

**b. 1/D/08/001849 LAND TO THE REAR OF 40 DICK O’ TH’ BANKS ROAD – ERECT BUNGALOW**  
Cllr Dave Smith raised concerns about the amount of infill properties in Crossways and questioned whether in these difficult times they would sell. Cllr Smith objected to this application. Cllr Bache raised the same concerns. Cllr Brewer questioned whether concerns about infill alone were grounds to object. It was agreed that the Council would not object to these plans but would raise concerns about infill in general.

AGREED

**c. 1/D/08/001825 14 WOODSFORD ROAD – ERECT REAR TWO STOREY EXTENSION AND A CONSERVATORY.** The Council raised no objections to these plans.

**d. 1/D/08/001961 62 DICK O’ TH’ BANKS ROAD – ERECT GARAGE** The Council raised no objections to these plans

**ITEM 9 TO HEAR DETAILS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS GRANTED**

1/D/08/001764 5 Redbridge Road – Approved.

**ITEM 10 TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER TO 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** Prior to reporting the expenditure Cllr Brewer stated that there has been no investigation into the Council’s accounts; and a clean bill of health has been received from the external auditor leading to the lowest audit fee. All cheques require two signatures and are traceable. Cllr Brewer concluded by stating that there are proper procedures if there is any doubt about the Council’s accounts and asked that these are adhered to. Expenditure (inc VAT) was noted as below:

	Expenditure
	£
Salary Clerk	730.65
Inland Revenue (PAYE)	302.20
F C Bearman & Son	46.43
Net Benefit (Web Site)	286.09
SLCC Part Payment Conference	216.00
Expenses Clerk (Mileage)	124.80
Expenses Clerk (Home as Office)	100.00
External Auditor	334.88
S Manuel (Grass Cutting CPC, DCC)	974.00
Reference Library (Knowles on Local Authority Meetings)	76.00
Nildram (Broadband)	15.99
Cleaners Pavilion	110.00
DAPTC Chairman’s Seminar	10.00

**ITEM 11 TO AGREE A SUM OF EXPENDITURE FOR LAND REGISTRY SEARCHES FOR ALLOTMENT LAND** Cllr Brewer updated Councillors on the provision of allotments. In the event of compulsory purchase WDDC would undertake this process but all legal costs would be borne by the Parish Council and these costs would be considerable therefore the way forward at this stage would be to attempt to find a willing seller. The cost of a search of the Land Registry is £3.00 per online search, £6.00 per map and £6.00 for a paper search. A provisional sum, not exceeding £135.00 was agreed. Proposed: Cllr Connor, seconded Cllr Arnold  
AGREED

**ITEM 12 PRELIMINARY REPORT BUDGET SETTING MEETING 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2008** Cllr Brewer thanked those Councillors who attended the pre-budget setting meeting for a good constructive meeting. Cllr Brewer advised that the precept setting process will be undertaken at the next full council meeting (27<sup>th</sup> November).

**ITEM 13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008** Confirmed

**ITEM 14 ANY LATE URGENT ITEMS AT THE CHAIRMAN’S DISCRETION –** There being no late items requested Cllr Rhodes apologised to members of the public for the disruption at the beginning of the meeting and thanked them for coming.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed ..... Chairman .....