

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2011 AT 8.00pm

Present Cllr Seeley – In the Chair David Allison – Clerk to the Council

Cllrs Bennett, Brading, Dann, Edmunds, Ridley, Shafe and Vane

Voting Members: 8

Public: None

EA812/11 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Getkahn.

EA813/11 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman recommended that any declarations of interest be made, if necessary, throughout the meeting.

EA814/11 Representations from the Public

There were no members of the public present.

EA815/11 Minutes

Resolved:

- that the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4 October 2011 be approved and be signed by the Chairman.

EA816/11 Matters Arising

EA808/11 (Active Works List). The Clerk was asked what the current situation is regarding the broken fence at the rear of Yorke Mead School adjoining Stones Orchard. The Clerk advised that it is believed the fence is owned by the school and that the PCSOs have been advised that the damage is resulting from antisocial behaviour in gaining access to the shelter in the school grounds.

EA798/11 (Dickinson Square). It was suggested that to assist in maintaining the Square that perhaps the Community Payback Scheme could be used. It was further suggested that the residents become more involved in maintaining the area. Cllr Edmunds declared an interest being a resident of Dickinson Square and advised that the residents already undertake some minor maintenance themselves in particular litter picking, bulb planting and light shrub pruning. Cllr Edmunds continued, however, that the main issue up to now has been the poor quality of workmanship from TRDC and that what is required is sympathetic attention, pride and professionalism that the Parish Council's Rangers would be able to bring to the maintenance of the area.

EA795/11 (Photographs of Croxley Green). An update on this matter was requested and the Clerk referred to Council Minute CC983.2/11 from the Council meeting held 27 October as he had already reported the current situation. For ease of reference, the Clerk read out the Minute which stated that the Croxley Camera Club had now made contact with him directly confirming the locations where the photography will be undertaken and that arrangements would now be made for a letter of authorisation to be prepared and passed to the Camera Club.

EA817/11 Active Works List

The Chairman introduced this item and Members were referred to the active works list for November.

A Councillor pointed out that the actions for the Multi Sports Court were referred to twice.

The Clerk advised that there were still some tweaking to be done on the Annual Works Schedule.

A discussion ensued regarding hedgerow infilling and it was pointed out that the hedge on Watford Road near to Berkeley Court was becoming thin where unofficial access through the hedge had been made.

It was pointed out that as far as trimming hedgerows were concerned, he had learnt that this should only be done once every three years but it was advised that it depended on the objective in that to develop a hedge coppicing may need to be done more frequently to stimulate growth but in general terms pruning should be done as little as possible.

Members noted the Active Works List for November.

EA818/11 Budget 2012/13

The Chairman introduced this item and stated that prior to the meeting she had asked the Clerk whether any budget proposals had been submitted to which he had indicated that there had been none so far.

The Chairman wished to encourage Members to put forward items for consideration not just for the sake of it but there may be items that would benefit the community. The Chairman of the Council endorsed this view.

The Clerk advised that at present on the budget schedule under Events there was a budget item for The Revels. The Clerk advised that the Council's sponsorship of the event has in the past been by the Council funding the provision of the toilets with the budget provision under Finance and Administration, Local Democracy, and by way of an S137 Grant upon application. Accordingly the entry under Events should be moved to the S137 Budget heading in the event a grant application is forthcoming.

A discussion ensued regarding the Committee's £10,000 budget provision for the redevelopment of the Baldwins Lane play area and that given the fact that this TRDC led project has been deferred for another year that the Council's provision could drop to £5,000 in 2012/13 with a further £5,000 in 2013/14. It was advised that a budget proposal will be put forward in regard to this matter for the Committee to debate in more detail.

EA819/11 Nectar/Oasis Areas

The Chairman introduced this item stating that she had been disappointed with the few number of Councillors who had put forward possible locations.

A few Councillors took exception to the comment advising that they had suggested sites either at the meeting or had endorsed the suggestions via email.

A discussion ensued regarding contacting the Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and the Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre to see what information they could provide on this matter. It was stated that there were a lot of interested groups in this sort of matter who doing 'their own thing' and that there should be better communication between the groups. It was considered that the communication issue was not a matter for the Parish Council but something which the Wildlife Trust and/or the groups themselves should be undertaking.

It was pointed out that some sites in Croxley Green are subject to maintenance plans so this matter needs to be considered very carefully and that the Council needs to be cautious in dealing with this matter as a whole. The Clerk added that he also was a little concerned that this matter may potentially be outside the remit of the Council to directly action in practice.

Resolved

- that the Clerk contacts the Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and the Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre for information.

EA820/11 Bee Keeping

The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Ridley to elaborate. Cllr Ridley stated that he had put this matter forward for consideration to see what could be done to

encourage bees.

A Councillor pointed out that this is a huge specialist issue in that the management of hive bees is a private/individual matter but catering for the solitary and bumble bee was a different situation entirely. It was generally agreed that everything should be done to encourage bees so they have suitable nesting sites and the right type of pollen bearing flowers but it was not something which the Parish Council could actively become involved in other than by way of encouraging and promoting others to provide an appropriate environs.

It was suggested that perhaps the theme for the Parish Council's stand at the Revels in 2012 could be to provide environmental information about butterflies, bees and associated flora and fauna.

It was considered that this matter should be treated in the same way concurrently with the action from the previous Agenda item.

Resolved

- that the Clerk contacts the Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and the Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre for information.

EA821/11 Tree Bulletin

There were no tree works to note.

EA822/11 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.46pm.