

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON TUESDAY 2 JUNE 2009 AT 8.00 pm

Present Cllr Norman in the Chair D Allison – Clerk to the Council
A Taft – Administrative Assistant

Cllrs Birch, Martin, Seeley, Shafe and Vassiliou

Voting Members: 6

In Attendance: Cllr Brand

Public: 1

EA571/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Brading, Dann and C Jefford.

EA572/09 Declarations of Interest

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

EA573/09 Representations from the Public

There were no representations from the public.

EA574/09 Minutes

The Clerk informed Members that item EA568/09 (Electricity) was unconstitutional as it is a Finance and Administration matter (Standing Order 38(f)I refers). He added that it was not in the remit of the Environment and Amenity Committee to discuss this and as the Committee did not have the authority to discuss this matter it may be illegal. Members considered that electricity was an environmental issue but the Clerk assured them that it was a Finance and Administration matter as electricity relates to personnel and property. It was then requested that this item be transferred to the Finance and Administration Agenda.

It was proposed by Cllr Seeley and seconded by Cllr Vassiliou that the amended Minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2009 be approved as correct. The proposal was agreed and the Chairman signed the minutes.

EA575/09 Matters Arising

EA563/09 (Matters Arising; EA552/09 Parish Pump Magazine). There were complaints about the delivery of the Spring/Summer edition of the Parish Pump in that many residents did not appear to have received their copy. The Clerk read out a letter he had sent on 27 May and an emailed response received on 31 May 2009. The Clerk stated that he would attach a copy of this correspondence with the Minutes but he believed that there was no way of getting to the bottom of this matter. He added that the Parish Pump Committee will have an early meeting to discuss potential delivery options for the Autumn/Winter edition.

EA566/09 (Play Areas). It was asked when work to paint the surface markings on the multi-sports court would begin. It was advised that two Cllrs had had a site meeting last week and were currently waiting for the quote. The Clerk was asked that if the quote was deemed suitable, whether it could be accepted if it arrived whilst the Clerk was on his annual leave but the Clerk said that under law it could not be.

EA576/09 Active Works List

The Chairman introduced this item and Members were referred to the Active Works List that had been previously circulated with the Agenda. One Member asked when the hedge on the Watford Road would be cut and the Clerk stated that it was

cut last Autumn and then could not be cut again until a platform ladder had been purchased. He added that this ladder has now been purchased but now is not a suitable time to cut this hedge due to nesting birds.

The Clerk advised that new bunding would be formed on the western edge of the car park at the Village Hall and that the surrounding environ would also be landscaped. The Clerk added that the proposed external redecoration will be held in abeyance until the external flood prevention works had been completed.

The Clerk was asked about the watering of plants during hot, dry weather and he informed Members that there would be an element of volunteer labour to help with the increasing amount of watering required due to new floral projects.

A Cllr asked the Clerk whether the Parish Council could secure the contract for the footpaths maintained by Three Rivers District Council (TRDC). The Clerk said that he would look into this matter.

EA577/09

The Commons Act and the Commons Registration Regulations 2008

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk referred Members to the documents which had been previously circulated with the Agenda. The Clerk advised that this was a matter very appropriate to this Committee and Members should be aware of it.

The Chairman stated that he had looked into this matter in his capacity of a District Councillor and that all was in order. Members noted the information and the Clerk was asked to write to the HCC Rights of Way section accordingly.

EA578/09

Flowers 4 Croxley Partnership

The Chairman introduced this item and an update was given by a Cllr. It was advised that Flowers 4 Croxley desperately needs volunteers to help clear the flower beds on the Watford Road and to help with watering. An external tap has been fitted to make the watering of the flower beds easier and to allow volunteers to water. Many of last year's plants have been saved as they were kindly overwintered by a Cllr who also took cuttings. It is intended that these plants will be planted out over the next three weeks. It was added that a greenhouse has been donated and has been erected on a Cllr's allotment and that it is hoped that more hanging baskets will be mounted outside various shops. The recent grant application to TRDC has been recommended for approval and this will, in part, fund a floral cycle rack to be sited on the Watford Road shops opposite the Red House following a resident's request. The bank account is in the process of being set up and the Treasurer and Admin Assistant of Flowers 4 Croxley had attended a one day 'Successful Funding Course'.

The Clerk added that the work to revamp the roundabout at Two Bridges had been completed thanks to CDA for Herts and the Community Aggregates funding received from the successful grant application. The Chairman of Flowers 4 Croxley requested that the Minutes expressed the group's appreciation of the Admin Assistant's efforts with the sourcing and successful achievement of grants.

A Cllr expressed concern that what began with a resident's initiative for a Parish Council / Partnership to provide more flowers appears to have a lack of volunteers and is becoming an increasing drain on the Rangers' time. The Clerk added that the emphasis was on Partnership and that Flowers 4 Croxley is still in its early days. He added that he would be writing to Churches Together to try to drum up support.

EA579/09

Tree Bulletin

The supplement of tree works available at the meeting were noted.

EA580/09

Closure

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

