

Tel: 01923 710250
Fax: 01923 896425
info@croxleygreen-pc.gov.uk
www.croxleygreen-pc.gov.uk



Community Way
Croxley Green
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire WD3 3SU

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON TUESDAY 3 JUNE 2014 at 8.00 PM

- Present Cllr Edmunds – In the Chair David Allison – Clerk to the Council
Cllrs Bennett, Brading, Mitchell, Seeley and Vane (part).
Voting Members: 6 reducing to 5 during EA1047/14
In Attendance: Philip Hinton, Parish Council Senior Ranger
- EA1042/14 Apologies for Absence
Apologies had been received from Cllr Dann.
- EA1043/14 Declarations of Interest
The Chairman recommended that any declarations of interest be made, if necessary, throughout the meeting.
- EA1044/14 Representations from the Public
There were no members of the public present.
- EA1045/14 Minutes
Resolved:
 - That the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4 March 2014 be approved and be signed by the Chairman.
 - It was noted that the meeting scheduled for Tuesday 1 April 2014 was cancelled.
- EA1046/14 Matters Arising
There were no matters arising.
- EA1047/14 Works List
The Chairman introduced this item and invited comments. The Clerk pointed out that at the present time the item regarding silt removal from the drainage 'pond' opposite Killingdown Farm should be deleted from the listing.
Members were extremely concerned that the grass on the Two Bridges roundabout had not been cut by the contractor for the company who has responsibility for this aspect. The Clerk shared Members concern and said that he would take the matter up with the company advising that if it was not undertaken within a week or so, the Parish Rangers will cut it and recharge.
The Senior Ranger commented that there had been works undertaken on the roses on the roundabout but there were a number which needed replacement. He continued that in regard to inspection and works on footpaths any necessary hedge trimming will be undertaken more regularly with a 'light' trim rather than a more heavy cut less frequently.
The Senior Ranger continued that with the Parish Pump magazine about to go to print, he had included at the Clerks request a call for volunteers that could be assembled for the Waterway Adoption Scheme and undertaking maintenance on the canal towing path. He continued that he had also recently met up with Cllr Dann to discuss the report and management plan that had been prepared for Stones Orchard.
It was pointed out that in the main the report was mainly addressing the trees and their

management and there was no reference to the hedges. The Clerk advised that the maintenance contract with TRDC did to some extent deal with the management of the hedges and a discussion incurred about the necessity to infill in places.

The matter of Croxleyhall Woods was raised and the Senior Ranger said that some works are undertaken in Areas 3 & 4 in respect of keeping the walkways maintained and clearing sycamore. However, he indicated that a more structured management plan was required.

It was asked whether the Rangers had been involved with the school gardening clubs to which the Senior Ranger advised that they had been recently clearing the pond area at Little Green School.

(Cllr Vane left at this point 8.21pm).

It was suggested that perhaps there should be a set mandate for the Rangers in terms of when they should be assist with the school gardening clubs but during discussion it was considered that the informality and not a structured approach provided the best flexibility for the schools and for the Rangers given other duties.

The Chairman of the meeting wished to record that since the Senior Ranger has joined the Council there had been a noticeable improvement in the maintenance of the area and this was greatly appreciated. Other Members concurred with this comment.

The Chairman also thanked the Senior Ranger for attending the Committee meeting.

Resolved:

- That the Works List for June 2014 be noted.

EA1048/14

Dog Fouling

The Chairman introduced this item and referred to the paper which he had prepared and was circulated with the Agenda. The Chairman stated that there has been an evident increase in the number of dog owners in Croxley and consequent resultant increase in dog fouling. Many of the complaints received were not only from none dog owners but were also from the conscientious dog owners who as a result of inconsiderate dog owners were giving them a bad name.

It was commented that many instances of dog fouling were as a result of youngsters taking the family dog out and it was not 'cool' to be seen to be dealing with their dog's waste. It was suggested that this could be a matter that could be discussed with the TRDC Youth Council as to a constructive way forward.

It was pointed out that a number of prosecutions have taken place but taking action was not a straightforward matter but it was accepted that more should be seen to be done in this aspect and publicised.

A discussion ensued about signage and the Clerk advised that at the last approach to TRDC about signs they had indicated that they did not have any signs to put up yet as they were waiting for an order to be processed.

It was emphasised that any dog fouling should be reported to TRDC and there should be encouragement to report such anti-social behaviour.

The Clerk advised that as the Parish Pump magazine was about to go to print he had included a short article in it about dog fouling and reiterated the 'ad' elsewhere in the magazine that dog waste bags are available free. The Clerk also had stated that he had asked the PCSOs to be alert to this problem and to take action where they can.

It was proposed that the recommendations in the paper be duly accepted.

RESOLVED:

- That the PC investigates what signage is available, either through purchase or via TRDC and agrees with TRDC and where necessary HCC/Highways, that the PC can affix signs in the most appropriate areas;
- Enforcement action is taken and seen to be taken by TRDC and the PCSOs;
- That a short piece on the subject is put into the next Village Pump;

- We liaise with the Croxley Green Residents Association and ask for some publicity on its website;
- That the Chairman of the Council makes mention of the issue in his regular piece in My Croxley

It was noted that Cllr Brading offered to take the issue of referral to TRDC Youth Council forward and that Cllr Bennett would liaise with the residents association.

EA1049/14 Land at A412 Watford Road, East of Sycamore Approach

The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Brading to elaborate. Cllr Brading stated that the paper provided the background to the matter and that when the matter had been previously raised with HCC in 2011 they had indicated that they would generally make the site safe and cut back overhanging trees and thereafter maintain the area.

Cllr Brading continued that the ongoing maintenance had not occurred and the site was now in a very run down state. The Clerk advised that the Senior Ranger will inspect the site in terms of what would be possible in practical terms and report back to him. It was the view of Members that some works should be undertaken, having obtained any necessary permission, and that the works be recharged to Highways.

It was proposed that the recommendations in the paper be accepted.

RESOLVED:

- That works to clear the site and carry out minor replanting be included into the work plan for the Council's rangers, subject to obtaining any necessary consent from Herts County Council and preparation of a risk management plan, and
- That works to replace the chain link fence be put in hand subject to agreement from Herts County Council as to costs.

EA1050/14 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.57pm.