

## CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
**ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE**  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER  
ON TUESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2007 AT 8.00 pm

Present Cllr Seeley in the Chair D Allison – Clerk to the Council

Cllrs Birch, Brading, Jefford, Martin and Shafe  
Voting Members 6

EA401/07 Apologies for Absence  
Apologies were received from Cllrs Dann, Norman and Vassiliou

EA402/07 Declarations of Interest  
None declared

EA403/07 Representations from the Public  
There was one member of the public present.

EA404/07 Minutes  
It was proposed by Cllr Shafe and seconded by Cllr Martin that the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2007 be approved as correct. The proposal was agreed and the Chairman signed the minutes.

EA405/07 Matters Arising  
With regards to item EA396/07 (Matters Arising, Active Works List), it was asked whether the Insurance Company had replied concerning the liability issues of glass clearance. The Clerk advised that no reply had been received to date.  
With regards to item EA397/07 (Active Works List), it was asked whether there was anything to report on the re-drafting of the Management Plan for Croxley Woods. The Clerk advised that he had not received any further information on progress.

EA406/07 Active Works List  
The Chairman introduced this item details of which were issued with the agenda.  
The Active Works List was noted.

EA407/07 Budget 2008/09  
The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk explained that a number of budget proposals for the E&A Committee to consider had been received namely:

- Enhanced Woodland Management proposals (Cllr Wynne-Jones);
- Charity Quiz Night 2009 (Cllr Jefford);
- Basketball Training 2008 (The Clerk);
- Craft & Hobbies Taster Day 2008 (Cllr Shafe);
- Senior Citizens Seaside Trip (Cllr Seeley);
- Senior Citizens London Christmas Lights 2009 trip (Cllr Jefford);
- Parish Community Bus Social Tea Afternoon (Cllr Seeley);
- Updating War Memorial as necessary (Cllr Seeley);
- Teddy Bears Picnic (Cllr Martin)

Each item was then discussed individually. The detail of the budget proposals, with the exception of the Hobbies & Craft Day and the Teddy Bears Picnic, had been circulated with the Agenda.

### **Enhanced Woodland Management – no direct costs**

The budget proposal was to undertake additional grounds maintenance particularly in the vicinity of the new Village Green. The matter of the ownership of the land was raised and following a short discussion it was agreed that the Clerk approach the land owners and also the Keep Croxley Green Group to set out the Council's willingness to undertake grounds maintenance in the area.

### **Charity Quiz - £205.00**

It was explained that this is an annual event and after a brief discussion Members agreed that this proposal should continue through the budget approval process.

### **Basketball - £8,321**

The Clerk explained that the basketball training sessions had proved extremely popular and that the Register of Attendees had now reached in excess of 130 students overall.

A question was raised as to how many students attend each session to which the Clerk advised he did not have the information to hand but it is recorded in the Register. It was generally agreed that the initiative was a good idea and should continue through the budget approval process. The Clerk agreed that he would make the Register available for inspection on the matter of class numbers.

### **Coach Trip to Seaside - £850**

It was explained that the previous trip had been a great success and enjoyed by those who went.

Concern was expressed as to whether this was the sort of activity the Council should be providing when there are other organisations who may be better placed to run such trips. It was suggested that, perhaps, the Council should be supporting other voluntary organisations to organise such trips.

Concerns were also expressed as to whether the trip should be more widely available to other senior citizens than those of the sheltered accommodation within Croxley.

Following a general discussion, it was agreed that the matter be progressed through the budget approval process.

### **London Christmas Lights 2009 trip - £325**

The comments and concerns expressed in relation to the seaside trip were raised. It was agreed, however, that the matter be progressed through the budget approval process.

### **Community Bus Social Tea Afternoon - £400**

The budget proposal was for 2 events during the course of 2008 and followed on from the successful event held in 2007. It was explained that as a result of discussions at the Business Development Group, the tea afternoon with senior citizens would be a very good way of seeking views and opinions from them on subject matters of interest of concern for them.

It was agreed therefore that the budget proposal for 2008/09 be reduced to one such event (i.e. financial provision of £200 for 2008/09) as the other would be held in early the new year for information gathering. It was agreed that this proposal be progressed through the budget approval process.

It was suggested that it would be helpful that when the details of the budget are approved that a calendar of Parish Council events and activities be produced for Members to assist in planning the year.

### **Updating War Memorial - £2,000**

It was explained that the War Memorial on the Green had not been updated with the names of any servicemen and women from Croxley Green who may have lost their lives in performing their duty for the Country. It was agreed that this was an excellent

proposal although there may be some extensive research time required and consideration would have to be given as to how best to modify the Memorial in the unfortunate event that this becomes necessary. It was agreed that the matter be progressed through the budget approval process.

**Craft & Hobbies Taster Day - £1,250**

It was explained that the event this year again proved exceedingly popular and that this success should be built in 2008. Following a discussion on focusing more on local groups to take part, it was agreed that the matter be progressed through the budget approval process.

**Teddy Bears Picnic - £200**

It was explained that the proposal would be to organise a picnic for the under 5's and parents/carers on The Green in the Spring or Summer next year which would be followed by a treasure/scavenger hunt. The costs involved were for advertising the event and for production of clues and prizes. It was agreed that the matter be progressed through the budget approval process.

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Cllr Brading advised that it was his intention to submit budget proposals for development of a comprehensive plan to deal with street trees and grass verges in Croxley and a proposal to enhance the play areas.

Cllrs Shafe and Martin advised that they were developing a proposal on play equipment enhancement, particularly as this had been a matter raised in the Junior Council meetings.

Cllr Martin raised the matter of additional litter bins to which the Clerk advised that this historically had been a TRDC matter but that was not to say the Parish Council should not consider additional bins. The Clerk continued, however, that the citing of bins is a very difficult matter and has to be considered with some care and sensitivity as no resident would really like a bin outside their house.

The Clerk advised Members that it will be necessary to increase the budget next year for the provision of dog waste bags as approximately 10,000 bags were being handed out approximately every 2 months. The Clerk continued that consideration may also need to be given to extending the twice weekly emptying of the dog bins and they are becoming very full soon after they have been emptied.

EA408/07 Maintenance Contract with TRDC for the Green and Stones Orchard

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk advised that there was nothing new to report at this time.

EA409/07 Best Christmas Shop Window Competition

The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Jefford to elaborate. Cllr Jefford stated that the interest in this competition had been declining progressively over the last couple of years and that in the circumstances the Committee should discuss whether the competition should continue.

Following a general discussion it was proposed by Cllr Brading and seconded by Cllr Shafe that the competition be discontinued. The proposal was agreed.

EA410/07 Garden Competition Presentation

The Chairman introduced this item and asked Cllr Jefford to elaborate. Cllr Jefford wished to thank all Councillors who attended the presentation and helped out during the course of the evening. In particular, Cllr Jefford wished to thank the Clerk for hosting the evening.

EA411/07 Tree Bulletin

No tree work to report.

EA412/07

Closure

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.42 pm.