

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON TUESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 8.00pm

Present Cllr Edmunds – In the Chair David Allison – Clerk to the Council
Amanda Taft – Minute Taker

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

Voting Members: 7

In Attendance: Cllr Brand

Public: 1

EA897/12 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Seeley

EA898/12 Declarations of Interest

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

EA899/12 Representations from the Public

A member of the Croxfest Committee stated that he would be available after the meeting for an informal question and answer session about Croxfest.

EA900/12 Minutes

Resolved:

- that the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3 July 2012 be approved and be signed by the Chairman.

EA901/12 Matters Arising

EA891/12 (Matters Arising; EA878/12 Matters Arising; EA868/12 Matters Arising; EA860/12 Active Works List). The Clerk was asked for an update and he advised that TRDC have said they would need to renegotiate the contract which would result in a significant cost to the Parish Council. The Clerk added that he intended to place this matter on the Council Agenda. One Cllr had understood that there would be a straight swap for undertaking the maintenance of Dickinson Square.

EA891/12 (Matters Arising; EA881/12 Matters Arising; Stones Orchard). An update was requested and a Cllr stated that he would be having a meeting with an Officer of TRDC on Friday morning regarding the way forward and the development of a new Management Plan.

EA891/12 (Matters Arising; EA883/12 Footpath between FP10 and New Road). The Clerk was asked for an update and he advised that TRDC said they believe that they own it and they have agreed to pay 50% of the cost of the resurfacing.

EA891/12 (Matters Arising; EA884/12 Installation of Posts on the Green). The Clerk was asked if this had been resolved yet and he replied that he had a meeting scheduled with the owners of Saltram Cottage but something cropped up and he was unable to take the matter forward.

EA893/12 (New Year's Eve Firework Display Quotes/Tenders). Cllr Ridley asked if a seconder is needed for a proposal and the Clerk clarified that under Standing Order 10.2 a seconder is necessary.

EA902/12 Active Works List

The Chairman introduced this item and Members were referred to the active works list for September. The Clerk pointed out that one day per month would be allocated as a staff training day. The Clerk was asked who had cut the hedge at the bottom of Baldwins Lane and who owned the hedge. He replied that there was an ownership dispute and that the rangers cut the hedge on behalf the Hertfordshire County Council. The Clerk was asked if there was a regime for the grass cut in the Orchard and he confirmed that there was although he did not have the exact details of the required length of the grass to hand.

Members noted the Active Works List for September.

EA903/12 Nectar/Oasis sites on third party land

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk advised that this matter had been ongoing for sometime and he did not believe the Parish Council has the powers to pursue this. He said that he had received an email from Hertfordshire Highways who were unable to agree to Scots Hill central reservation as a nectar / oasis area due to safety issues that would arise as a result of long grass. They added that they already promote a wildlife area in Scots Hill (on the left when going up the hill) and they would be happy to continue with this practice and would consider other highway areas. The Clerk further advised that TRDC had replied stating that they are not in a position to be able to commit additional funds or man power to this project. TRDC also said that they would require further information concerning what is actually proposed, ie what species, techniques for establishing wildflowers and a map showing the exact area.

It was asked if the matter could be placed on the next agenda; specifically locations to explore with TRDC. The Clerk advised that the supporting paper with suggested locations had already been sent to TRDC. Members were generally in favour of nectar / oasis sites but felt that as we are not legally empowered, we could only encourage TRDC to take up this initiative.

Resolved:

- that the Clerk sends an email to Councillors and the Residents' Association asking for potential sites that can be passed on to Hertfordshire Highways and TRDC to encourage them to implement and manage such sites.

EA904/12 Tree Bulletin

The supplement of tree works available at the meeting was noted. The Clerk pointed out to Cllrs the works to Lime trees in Dickinson Square and the Chairman added that there had been a lack of consultation as well as complaints from residents.

EA905/12 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.26pm.