

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON TUESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2008 AT 8.00 pm

Present Cllr Seeley in the Chair D Allison – Clerk to the Council
A Taft – Minute Taker

Cllrs Birch, Brading, Martin, Norman, Shafe and Vassiliou
Voting Members 7

Cllr Norman left the meeting at 9pm

Not Present - Cllr Dann

There were 4 members of the public present

EA423/08 Apologies for Absence
Apologies were received from Cllr C Jefford.

EA424/08 Declarations of Interest
The Chairman recommended that any declarations be made throughout the meeting as necessary.

EA425/08 Representations from the Public
There were representations from one member of the public regarding Flowers in Croxley. The speaker believed the Parish Council was ideally placed to see provision for tubs, flowerbeds and hanging baskets in Croxley Green and stated that members of the public would be willing to partake in a committee to raise funding. This item was discussed later in the meeting at EA431/08.

EA426/08 Minutes
It was proposed by Cllr Norman and seconded by Cllr Shafe that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2008 be approved as correct. The proposal was agreed and the Chairman signed the minutes.

EA427/08 Matters Arising
Regarding EA420/08 (Maintenance Contract with TRDC for the Green and Stones Orchard) it was questioned whether Cllr Brading being a Member of Three Rivers District Council's Executive Committee had declared an interest in this subject. Cllr Brading stated that this was unnecessary as there was no conflict of interest as the subject in question is not of a personal nature, and he has abstained from voting where necessary.

EA428/08 Active Works List
The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk apologised that the list had not been circulated with the agenda. The Clerk briefly outlined the content and pointed out that due to damage to the allotment fencing on footpath 11, there has been a 300mm exclusion zone agreed between the Allotment Association and the Parish Council. The damage was not due to any work undertaken by the Parish Council however.

It was asked if wood chippings could be scattered on the Orchard footpaths and the two entrances to the playing fields behind the Parish Council Offices.

The Depot reorganisation was queried and the Clerk pointed out that due to the small size of the depot in relation to its use, this was an task that needs to be ongoing for reasons of health and safety.

EA429/08

Budget 2008/09

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk stated that the budget for the Environment and Amenity Committee had been set at £36,530. The Clerk suggested that Members begin thinking about necessary actions needed to establish the agreed projects. The Chairman stated that the Craft Fair, War Memorial, Teddy Bears picnic and the Garden Competition should be advertised in the Parish Pump magazine.

The Garden Competition – Members are to consider the future arrangements regarding the management of the competition including the gradual handover to a third party.

Christmas Light Decorations – the Parish Council has the option to instruct a structural engineer to survey the lamp posts.

Youth Sporting Activities – the Clerk informed Members that the hall had been booked until March 2009 for the basketball classes. Structured future planning including better management and the possibility of alternative funding and grants, although it was recognised that the parents and children appreciated the Parish Council funding these lessons. Three Rivers District Council have recently started a youth club on Monday nights and it was suggested that discussion with them about what synergies may be possible. It was also suggested that the Multi Sports Court in Barton Way Recreation Ground could be used during the summer months to reduce costs. Cllr Birch proposed that quarterly attendance figures were provided together with a report from the Coach/Organiser and this was seconded by Cllr Seeley and the proposal was agreed.

Craft Day – dates suggested were 5 or 12 October 2008 and this is to be confirmed at the next Environment and Amenity meeting.

Christmas Lights Trip for Senior Citizens – things to consider for this event are the date of the trip, who is involved in the organisation of the event, booking the coach and which senior citizens go on the trip.

Teddy Bears Picnic – Dates suggested were May or early July, the exact date is to be emailed to the Clerk at the earliest opportunity. It was suggested that this event is held on Barton Way recreation ground as there are toilet facilities in the new pavilion and also the grounds are enclosed.

Play Areas – it was suggested that a Working Party is established to carry out research, liaise with Three Rivers District Council and investigate additional grants and funding that may be available. The Clerk was asked to set up a meeting with Alison Phin, Leisure Development Manager and the Working Party which will include the Clerk.

Upgrading the War Memorial – Members are to consider how any gathered information be presented on the War Memorial.

EA430/08

Village of the Year Competition

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk referred to the supporting documents that had been circulated with the agenda detailing the competition, which is made up of different categories. It was generally agreed that this was a wonderful opportunity to raise the Parish Council's perspective in the community and that it would be an indirect way of getting involved with other organisations in the community. The Business Planning Committee had already agreed to forge links with other organisations such as voluntary groups etc. A mini Steering Committee was suggested which could involve members other than Councillors. It was agreed that the Clerk presents this subject to all Committees and the gathered information from each to be referred to Full Council, ideally in February and if not in March 2008.

EA431/08

Flowers in Croxley

After hearing the public representations made earlier in the meeting, the Clerk referred Members to the supporting correspondence the Parish Council had received. It was considered that this would coincide nicely with the Village of the

Year Competition and that tubs, planters and baskets of flowers would enhance the village.

The Clerk pointed out that no budget had been set to provide for flowers and Members asked whether funding may be available from other sources. It was suggested that local businesses such as shop keepers may like to donate and local residents (including the initiator of this project) would like to be involved in this project. Residents could help source private funding, sponsorship and grants and would like to be a part of this, working together with the Parish Council and local businesses. The Chairman gave permission for the member of public who had earlier made representations to speak and he stated that a survey had been carried out and there had been '100% approval' for this initiative.

The Clerk suggested an action plan was needed and Members should consider the types of containers and plants. The Clerk was asked if the Rangers would be prepared to become involved. Watering of the flowers would not be a problem the Clerk stated, due to the new water storage tanks at the Parish Council offices and the portable bowser can be used as it has a full length lance.

Members agreed that a sub-group of the mini Steering Committee of the Village of the Year Competition be set up to include the project's initiator and the Rangers among others.

EA432/08 Chairman's Charity Quiz 2008

The Chairman introduced this item and advised Members that the quiz is to be held 5 April 2008 and the hall is booked from 4pm. Councillors were asked to volunteer their help on the day with setting up the hall, clearing up after the event, and also help with catering for the cold suppers. Councillors were also asked to donate a raffle prize; all proceeds go to the Chairman's two charities. The Clerk asked that anyone wishing to help let him know.

EA433/08 Tree Bulletin

No tree work to report.

EA434/08 Closure

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.21pm.