

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON TUESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2013 AT 8.00pm

- Present Cllr Edmunds – In the Chair
David Allison – Clerk to the Council
Amanda Taft – Administrative Officer
- Cllrs Bennett, Ridley and Shafe
Voting Members: 4
In Attendance: Cllr Martin
Public: 3
- EA940/13 Apologies for Absence
Apologies were received from Cllrs Brading, Dann, Seeley and Vane.
- EA941/13 Declarations of Interest
The Chairman recommended that any declarations of interest be made, if necessary, throughout the meeting.
- EA942/13 Representations from the Public
Representations were made by three people regarding EA946/13 (Stones Orchard – Friends of Stones Orchard). It was stated that there were a group of people known as the Friends of Stones Orchard who were keen to become involved in Stones Orchard and complement the work of the Parish Council in the Orchard.
- EA943/13 Minutes
Resolved:
- that the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 January 2013 be approved and be signed by the Chairman.
- EA944/13 Matters Arising
There were no matters arising.
- EA945/13 Active Works List
The Chairman introduced this item and Members were referred to the active works list for February. The Clerk was asked whether the location of the bird boxes would be reported to Council and this question was duly noted.
- Resolved:**
- that the Active Works List for February be noted.
- EA946/13 Stones Orchard – Friends of Stones Orchard
The Chairman declared a non-pecuniary interest in this matter and said he was going to take the unusual step of asking the Clerk why this paper was on the agenda as he did not believe it was an appropriate agenda item. The Clerk stated that As the Proper Officer of this Council he was not at liberty to change the content of proposed motions submitted although there are circumstances where he can make a decision on a matter in terms of whether it is unlawful or improper and reject the motion/agenda item entirely.
- The Clerk advised that Council/Committee Meetings are there to make decisions on matters and are not there to provide third parties the opportunity to give an evening talk, lecture or presentation. This is why the Public Representation part of the agenda of all meetings is usually restricted to about 3 minutes or so.

The Clerk believed the motion put forward was improper and indeed, perhaps, should not have been included on this agenda either. However, the Clerk considered the general principle here was sufficiently strong, in this instance, to state this publicly and for future reference.

The Clerk added that if the intent of the 'Friends of Stones Orchard' was to indicate how 'everything' would work in relation to the Parish Council, our maintenance contract, our interest in the land, TRDC, a future Management Plan for the area that hasn't been drawn up yet and so on, the most appropriate way forward for them would be to document it and for that to be considered with any appropriate recommendations.

The Chairman then asked Cllr Ridley to elaborate. Cllr Ridley stated that if residents are willing to assist the Parish Council then this should be encouraged and he suggested the Friends bring the matter back to another meeting so Council could decide to endorse it or not. He added that the Parish Council's acquisition of the Orchard from TRDC was undecided and the Management Plan had not yet been finalised by TRDC.

A discussion ensued regarding the fact that the Friends of Stones Orchard had not yet been formally constituted and it was currently in a vague state. The Chairman felt that the Parish Council should have an appointed Member included in the new Friends of Stones Orchard Committee. The Clerk suggested that once the Friends had been formally constituted and the Management Plan was in place, they bring to Council further, more detailed proposals.

Cllr Bennett stated that any input needs to be measured and the proposal as it stood could not go forward unless in an amended way. He made a counter proposal which was seconded and agreed.

Resolved:

- that the Environment and Amenity Committee recommend the agreement in principle for Croxley Green Parish Council to actively work with the Friends of Stones Orchard once they are properly constituted.

It was requested that the Friends let the Clerk know once the group has been formally constituted so that this matter can be further discussed by Council.

EA947/13 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm.