

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 5 JANUARY 2016 at 8.00 PM

Present: Cllr Edmunds – In the Chair David Allison – Clerk to the Council

Cllrs Greenman, Kaur, Taft and Vassiliou.

Voting Members: 5

Not Present: Cllr Kataria

EA1173/15 Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

EA1174/15 Declarations of Interest

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

EA1175/15 Representations from the Public

There were no members of the public present.

EA1176/15 Minutes

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3 November 2015 be approved and be signed by the Chairman.
- It was noted that the meeting scheduled for Tuesday 1 December 2015 was cancelled due to being inquorate.

EA1177/15 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

EA1178/15 Works List

The Chairman introduced this item and invited any comments.

Under Footpath (FP) inspections for FP3 and FP4 running from Green Lane across Cophorne Road to adjacent field, a Cllr mentioned that a resident had complained about the untidy state of a site after works to clear a fallen tree branch had taken place. The Clerk advised he did not have information available to hand to establish whether it was the Council's Rangers or not but he would check.

The Clerk advised that currently the Rangers were undertaking works in Croxleyhall Woods to clear some sycamore trees which are not native trees and are inhibiting the growth of the slower growing oak and beech trees.

A discussion ensued as to how residents know what works the Rangers are undertaking and it was pointed out that the monthly Active Works List is put up on the website each month as a Supporting Paper to this Committees meetings. The Clerk said that he would put the Annual Works Schedule on the website when time permits.

There were no other comments regarding the Works List.

Resolved:

- That the Works List for January 2016 be noted.

[Post Meeting Note: the works in question to clear a fallen tree branch across the footpath was not undertaken by the Council's Rangers].

EA1179/15 DriveSafe

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate.

The Clerk advised that this matter had been delegated to this Committee by Council from its meeting on 17 December 2015. The DriveSafe initiative had been a matter which the Planning & Development Committee had initially taken up following the demise of the local Road Safety Committee and those who had previously expressed an interest through the Road Safety Committee were sent a letter and DriveSafe details to ask whether they were still interested. Of the 28 packs sent out there were only 3 responses, two in the negative and one positive. Accordingly the Planning and Development Committee had concluded that there was not sufficient interest at this time to take the matter forward and had recommended that option to Council.

The Chairman commented that it is not unexpected that conversion of interest in a matter to one of practical help in taking it forward is difficult and perhaps further efforts should be made to encourage residents to volunteer.

It was stated that there were other roads in the area where speeding is a known issue and although there has been a focus on The Green, the other roads also need consideration.

It was agreed that more volunteers would be needed to take this matter forward and a number of ways of promoting this were discussed including through social media (Facebook and Twitter) and websites. It was considered appropriate that the Croxley Green Residents Association and other Associations be approached for support and practical help of volunteers and that the Chairman of the Council could put something about this in his monthly column of My Croxley News.

Resolved:

- That this Committee takes forward the DriveSafe initiative and takes appropriate actions to seek volunteers;
- Letters be sent to the Residents Association and to My Croxley News;
- A letter to Hertfordshire Constabulary be sent advising of current actions to take the initiative forward and to seek approval for extending the initiative to other local roads.

Cllrs Gallagher and Kaur offered their assistance in moving the initiative forward.

EA1180/15 Budgets 2016/17

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk advised that the budget schedule circulated with the Agenda was v8 dated 14 December 2015 which had been discussed at the Council Meeting on Thursday 17 December 2015.

The Clerk added that no changes were made at that Council Meeting and the draft budget figures recommended to proceed to the Council Meeting in January 2016 for ratification and for setting the Precept.

The Clerk said that no changes have been made to the Environment and Amenity Committee budget figures since the Council Meeting and this was a final opportunity for the Committee to review its budget.

The Clerk presented the budget figures on screen and advised that the current

year's budget was £35,310 and that the proposed budget for 2016/17 was £30,800. The reduction in 2016/17 was due to the removal of further budget provision for the development of play areas.

A discussion ensued regarding advertising income and sponsorship of events in which there were mixed views as to the suitability and practicability of the Council's website to do this versus the costs of implementing such changes and the exceptionally small amount of revenue from advertising hits that would result. It was pointed out that in regard to sponsorship, this had been used recently with the Christmas Festive Market although this was by way of promotion of the event rather than any derived income. It was pointed out that caution needs to be exercised to ensure that any sponsoring of events or activities remain to be seen as Council events for the residents rather than becoming the sponsors event.

There were no further comments on the proposed budget.

Resolved:

- That the Environment and Amenity Committee's budget for 2016/17 of £30,800 be submitted to the Finance and Administration Committee for final scrutiny and be recommended to the Council Meeting on 28 January 2016 for approval.

EA1181/15 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.47pm.