

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON TUESDAY 5 OCTOBER 2010 AT 8.00 pm

Present Cllr Norman – In the Chair D Allison – Clerk to the Council
Amanda Taft – Administrative Assistant

Cllrs Brading, C Jefford, Martin, Seeley, Shafe and Vassiliou

Voting Members: 7

In Attendance: Cllr Brand

EA691/10 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Dann.

EA692/10 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

EA693/10 Representations from the Public

There were no members of public present.

EA694/10 It was asked why Cllr Brand had been recorded as 'In Attendance (as member of public). The Clerk advised that he had received information from SLCC stating that this was the correct way to report the attendance of non-Committee Members at Committee meetings. The Clerk was asked when he received this information. Cllrs considered that this change could not be implemented until such time as the new Standing Orders are adopted by Council. After some discussion, Cllrs requested that the words 'as a member of public' be deleted from the Minutes of 7 September 2010 in respect of Cllr Brand's attendance (as a non-Committee Member) at that meeting.

Minutes

Resolved:

- that the amended Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2010 be approved and be signed by the Chairman.

EA695/10 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

EA696/10 New Initiative(s) for Community Event

The Chairman introduced this item and advised those present that although the Clerk had not yet contacted the Horticultural Society, Churches Together or the Red Cross, he had himself informally discussed this matter with these groups. The Chairman added that any initiatives from Cllrs would be most welcome.

EA697/10 Active Works List

The Chairman introduced this item and Members were referred to the active works list which was circulated at the meeting.

September Works Undertaken

The Clerk was asked about two matters; firstly he was asked about the grass cut at footpath 17 and secondly the visit to the schools to quote for works. The Clerk replied that there had been a lot of nettles, ivy and overgrowth along footpath 17 which had been cleared as well as a tidy-up along the bottom of the path by the bridge and canal following heavy rain. In addition to these works, a drainage channel had been created. Regarding the schools, the Clerk advised that there is a sum included in the budget for the school gardens and the schools would be invoiced by the Parish Council if they exceed their individual share of the amount in the budget (as had been the case in setting up the Rickmansworth School garden).

October Works

The Clerk advised that the Rangers would ensure that any arisings are tidied up following the hedge trim at Watford Road/Mayfare and that he would arrange with TRDC if necessary for them to tidy up.

The Clerk was advised that to the west of the hedge, behind numbers 1-6 Dorchester Court there is a piece of 'orphan land' with trees on it. It is unclear as to who owns this land although the residents have tried to trace the ownership of it. The Clerk was told that the trees have large branches which hang over the main road and it would be a service to the local community if the Parish Council could undertake any necessary works and possibly adopt the land too. The Clerk stated that he was happy for the Rangers to undertake works there but that he was concerned about the land ownership issue. He added that he would contact Peter Brooker at TRDC about the matter.

The Clerk was asked about the rebuild of the bunding on the Green and he replied that the bunding was becoming compacted and needed to be rebuilt in order to raise the height. The Chairman added that he had spoken with Julie Hughes at TRDC and she was happy for this work to be undertaken.

It was reported to the Clerk that while the Rangers had been assisting in the maintenance of the Watford Road flower beds the Land Rover had been seen parked on the footway by Hazelwood Drive (which obscured visibility at the junction) when there was a parking space in the lay-by.

The Clerk was asked if a salt bin could be sited at the bottom of Sycamore Approach.

EA698/10 Budgets 2011/12 and Beyond

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk informed Members that budget briefing forms were now available together with budget submission forms and that the budget item would be on all Agendas. He advised Members to carefully consider any budget proposals in this current, economic climate and also requested that submissions are not left until the last minute.

The Clerk stated that he had already received two submissions; £2000 for the Revels from the Croxley Green Society and £2500 for Crocfest, also from the Croxley Green Society and that these would be discussed at the next meeting.

It was pointed out that the new Government have made it clear that Council Tax bills will not rise next year and that at District Council and County Council, every conceivable effort was being made to identify cuts. As the Parish Council does not receive and funding from Government (only the precept from TRDC), the Clerk was asked if he had received any guidance from NALC regarding precept restrictions. It was suggested to the Clerk that the Parish Council aims for a 0% increase in the precept which would mean that growth in some areas may mean cuts in other areas.

EA699/10 Tree Bulletin

The supplement of tree works available at the meeting was noted.

EA700/10 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm.