

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON TUESDAY 7 JANUARY 2014 AT 8.00pm

- Present Cllr Edmunds – In the Chair David Allison – Clerk to the Council
- Cllrs Brading, Dann and Ridley
Voting Members: 4
Not Present : Cllr Vane
Members of the Public: 0
- EA1010/13 Apologies for Absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Seeley.
- EA1011/13 Declarations of Interest
The Chairman recommended that any declarations of interest be made, if necessary, throughout the meeting.
- EA1012/13 Representations from the Public
No members of the public were present.
- EA1013/13 Minutes
Resolved:
- that the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3 December 2013 be approved and be signed by the Chairman.
- EA1014/13 Matters Arising
EA1005/13 (Active Works List) – External Christmas Tree, Library. It was commented on how nice the external Christmas tree outside the library looked when lit up.
EA1007/13 Car Parking on the Green. It was asked whether TRDC had been approached for match funding for this project. The Clerk advised that no approach had been made as yet as the Council's budget proposal had not been confirmed.
- EA1015/13 Works List
The Chairman introduced this item and invited comments from Members about the list.
It was noted that references had been made to tree work in Stones Orchard. The Clerk commented that some very basic tree work maintenance that did not involve climbing has been undertaken and such maintenance work would continue but more significant work required following recent high winds had been reported to TRDC for action.
Resolved:
- That the Works List for January 2014 be noted.
- EA1016/13 Budgets 2014/15
The Chairman introduced this item and stated that as the budget had been discussed at the last Council meeting in December, the item was more for information.
The Clerk advised that this was indeed the case and the budget version being looked at was version 6 dated 20 December 2013, the updated version following the Council meeting and it was important Members had the current version to review.
A Cllr referred to the budget proposal for Commemorative Plaques for trees and suggested that a further sum should be allocated for a plaque for the Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) which is located outside the Parish Council office. It was

proposed and seconded that a further £250 be added to the budget.

Resolved:

- That £250 be added to the proposed budget of £2,200 making the budget proposal £2,250.

A Cllr referred to the submitted Revenue Budget Proposal Form which related to commissioning a survey for the drainage Pond on the Green near to Killingdown Farm. The Clerk stated that this item has now become a more generic budget for ponds generally as discussed at the Environment & Amenity Committee meeting on 3 December 2013 and subsequently at the Council Meeting on 19 December.

EA1017/13 Land Acquisition Working Group

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk advised that this item was for information to ensure that Members were aware of the meeting that had taken place with TRDC.

The Clerk, for consistency, read out the content of the Council Meeting Minute (CC1301/13) which reported that a meeting had taken place with Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) on Monday 9 December 2013.

“The Parish Cllrs had pointed out that the Council was looking for ownership of the land associated with The Green and Stones Orchard and there appeared to be some apprehension by TRDC as to why ownership was an important aspect. The Parish Cllrs commented that these were community assets and therefore should be held on behalf of that community by the Parish Council rather than District.

TRDC stated that they would need to look at and provide clarification as to the status of the land and were thinking that perhaps a long lease rather than ownership might be an alternative option.

TRDC indicated that they would have to quantify the value of the land and a further meeting should be scheduled towards the end of January 2014.”

A general discussion ensued about land acquisition in which it was commented that perhaps the matter of acquiring The Green and Stones Orchard should be the aspect focused upon at this stage and that other areas of land could be looked at after this issue had been resolved.

The Chairman stated that the leader of the Working Party on the Parish Council’s part had emailed other Cllrs to request that they identify other pieces of land that may be of interest but had little response. It was suggested that Dickinson Square be added to the list.

EA1018/13 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.