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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2017 at 8.00 PM

Present: Cllr Edmunds – In the Chair
David Allison - Clerk
Ryan Bennett – Administrative Assistant

Cllrs Cole, Montague & Vassiliou.

Voting Members: 4

In Attendance: Cllr Wallington.

Not Present: Cllr Linhart

EA1327/17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Collingwood & Kaur.

EA1328/17 Declarations of Interest

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

EA1329/17 Representations from the Public

There were no members of the public present.

EA1330/17 Minutes

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3 October 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

EA1331/17 Matters Arising

EA1235/17 - A Cllr asked what was meant by a 'micro-habitat'. The Members explained that it was a man-made eco-system for insects and bugs to help contribute to increased bio-diversity within an area.

EA1322/17 – The Chairman asked whether the Council had received any response from CMS in regards to the comments submitted in relation to the Green Space Action Plans for Stone's Orchard and Croxleyhall Woods. The Clerk informed the Chairman that no response had been received at present.

EA1332/17 Works List

The Chairman introduced this item and invited any comments. A Cllr asked if there was a map with the locations and numbers of the footpaths on which the Rangers carried out their work. The Administrative Assistant informed the Cllr that there was and that he would include a copy with the minutes – see attached.

Following the previous enquiry about the footpath leading towards Byewaters from Common Moor being added to the works list, the Clerk said that he had not had the opportunity to investigate further.

A Cllr asked what work was currently being undertaken by the Rangers in Weston Wood. The Clerk informed members that the Rangers were undertaking regular inspections of the site and removing any litter that may have built up.

There were no other comments.

Resolved:

- That the Works List for November 2017 be noted.

EA1333/17

Byelaws

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate

The Clerk informed members that the Council should consider the application of byelaws to help prevent any unwarranted or unwanted activity from taking place on Council land. He added that although the byelaws could be introduced he would advise that there may not be a compelling case to until the Council became aware of any prolonged unwanted activities on Council land.

A Cllr asked whether it was possible to extend existing byelaws from neighbouring sites. The Clerk made members aware that this would not be possible as the land was in different legal ownership.

A Cllr asked the Clerk whether there was any significant cost involved in the creation of byelaws. The Clerk informed them that there was no initial financial cost involved but that the task would be significantly time intensive.

A Cllr added that many sites introduce byelaws to solve existing problems and were not particularly pre-emptive.

The Chairman informed members that any decision made will be submitted to full Council for further review.

Resolved:

- That the Council does not proceed with the creation of byelaws at the current time.
- That the matter be referred to full Council.

EA1334/17

Croxley Green Skate Park

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk advised that he had been contacted by the Leisure Development Officer at Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) in regards to the 'refurbishment' of the Croxley Green skate park. He added that TRDC planned to completely demolish the existing site and replace it with a multi-wheeled facility.

TRDC estimate that this project will come at a cost of £315,000.

He informed members that TRDC currently faced a shortfall of £82,000 and had approached Croxley Green Parish Council (CGPC) to see whether they would be willing to contribute funds towards the project.

A Cllr commented that CGPC were in no place to make a decision in regards to funding as they had not been informed of this project from the beginning, despite it taking place in the Parish, and that CGPC had not received any detailed information about the cost of the project.

There was a discussion over what consultation process TRDC had undertaken for the project, both from the users of the skate park and the residents of Croxley Green, and discussed whether the skate park was even in need of such a substantial refurbishment as TRDC were planning.

A Cllr commented that CGPC should not commit any money to the project, on the basis of this e-mail alone, until a detailed cost analysis was supplied from TRDC and information on how TRDC warranted the large scale of the refurbishment.

A Cllr commented that they felt that £315,000 could be better spent in other areas and that the whole project seemed unnecessary and overpriced.

Resolved

- That the Clerk writes to Three Rivers District Council to establish what the

intentions of the project are, what consultative process they had undertaken and the details of the projects budget.

- That the item be referred to full Council.

EA1335/17 Asset Replacement Policy / Programme – Replacement Ride on Mower

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk referred to the supporting paper circulated with the Agenda.

The Clerk pointed out that the matter of asset replacement fell within the auspices of the Finance and Administration Committee but he had set out some basic information in the paper to bring to Members the position regarding the ride on mower particularly as it is an essential piece of equipment used in maintaining The Green.

Members noted the situation.

Resolved

- A recommendation that an asset replacement policy/programme is developed based on the contents of the supporting paper;
- A recommendation that the Kubota ride on mower is replaced based on the contents of the supporting paper with further detail presented to the F&A for consideration leading to a recommendation to Council for its immediate replacement.

EA1336/17 Budgets 2018/19

The Chairman introduced the item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk drew members attention to the following changes to the E&A budget:

- Dog bins were now being budgeted for replacement due an increase in how often they had to be replaced due to vandalism and wear & tear.
- The funding for the Wassail & the Dog Show has been increased to £100.
- The inclusion of provision for the building of a micro-habitat.
- The inclusion of provision for the creation of a Parish Council allotment for pre-school aged children.

EA1337/17 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:00pm

