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Community Way
Croxley Green
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire WD3 3SU

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
LEISURE, EVENTS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD Online using ZOOM secure video conference
ON 2 MARCH 2021 at 8.00 PM

Present: Cllr Montague – In the Chair
Ryan Bennett – Clerk to the Council
Amanda Gardiner – Administrative Officer
James Townley – Grounds Maintenance Manager

Cllrs Benner, Crabtree, Hughes, Kyriakou, Tobin, Vassiliou
In Attendance: Cllrs Cole and Mitchell
Voting Members: 8
Members of the Public: 0

LEE1616/21 Apologies for Absence

All members were present

LEE1617/21 Declarations of Interest

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

LEE1618/21 Representations from the Public

No representations were made.

LEE1619/21 Minutes

Members had no comments regarding the Minutes.

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Monday 16 November 2020 and meeting held on 5 January 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

LEE1620/21 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

LEE1621/21 Ranger's Update

The Grounds Maintenance Manager gave an update on the activities completed by the Rangers. In addition to their regular activities, he gave the following updates:

- Re-coppicing and laying of live and dead hedge along Stone's Orchard boundary with The Green. Excellent positive feedback has been received from community.
- Hired a Flail Mower to use with the Council's ride-on mower. It has been used to:-
 - Clear along the internal boundary of Stone's Orchard, claiming back some space in the middle.

- Clear a large area on the Orchard boundary with the Guild. Approximately 40x15 feet. Removed all the mess within, reinstated the boundary line back to the hazel.
 - Beat back the brambles etc, and help clear more of the bottom half of Weston Wood.
 - Clear a number of footpaths.
- Mill Lane makeover. We have planted four trees on the bank, x2 Crab Apple and x2 Rowans. Planted a mixture of native wildflower bulbs around them. Also removed a large overhanging Hazel. Better sight lines down the Lane, and hopefully come spring a bit of colour and cheer.
 - Removed and reinstalled the handrail along public footpath seven steps. Very sturdy, hopefully last a long time. Very positive feedback from residents.
 - Assisted Malvern Way School, clearing a large patch of bramble and weeds for the site for their new poly tunnel.
 - 14th December, volunteer litter pick. Covid rules apply. 140kg of litter removed from various areas of Croxley.
 - Land Rover has been in for repairs this week, (£230) due to a large coolant leak.
 - We have noticed an increase in the amount of feedback we have been receiving both online and in person.

LEE1622/21 Litter Reduction Sub-Committee

Chairman provided a verbal update from the Litter Reduction Sub-Committee. Chairman advised Members that the next sub-committee meeting would be scheduled when the artwork for the sticker had been drafted. Cllr Hughes advised members that the local schools plan to hold a litter pick event on Earth Day 22nd April 2021.

LEE1623/21 Local Travel Map & Croxley Consumer Week

Cllr Benner provided a verbal update on the creation of a Local Travel Map. Cllr Benner should receive the draft Local Travel Map within the next 2 weeks and will circulate to all councillors for review. Plans for the Croxley Consumer Week are on hold until covid restrictions are lifted.

[Under Standing Order 13.1.10 the following 2 items were added to the Agenda]

LEE1627/21 Croxley Green Time Capsule

LEE1628/21 Wildflower Meadow Installation on Footpath 14

LEE1624/21 Wildlife Camera

The Grounds Maintenance Manager introduced the paper on purchasing a wildlife camera that was suggested by a resident as part of the Council's 'Call for Ideas' initiative. Croxley Green has an abundance of local wildlife that are not always visible to the public. The camera can be positioned in different locations in Croxley to capture images (photo or video) of local wildlife, which can be posted on social media.

Members agreed that a motion-controlled camera to capture and images of local wildlife was a great idea. Members recommended that a memory card with higher storage capacity is purchased. An amendment to the recommendation was proposed to increase the budget to £250.

Resolved:

- That the recommendation “That the Council agrees to purchase a wildlife trap camera up to a value of £200” is amended to “That the Council agrees to purchase a wildlife trap camera up to a value of £250”.
- That the Council agrees to purchase a wildlife trap camera up to a value of £250.

LEE1625/21 Community Sunflower Competition

Cllr Benner introduced the paper on extending the current schools sunflower competition to a community sunflower competition. It was proposed to issue sunflower seeds to residents, to plant in their front gardens for everyone to enjoy. Residents can submit the height and flowerhead measurements. Top 5 measurements would be validated by a representative from the council and small trophies issued to the winners.

Resolved:

- That the annual school sunflower competition is extended to include categories for the community in 2021.
- That the current competition budget be increased by £200 to cover the cost of extra sunflower seeds and small trophies for the winners.

LEE1626/21 Dog Bin Relocation

The Grounds Maintenance Manager introduced the paper on relocation of dog bins on Mill Lane, due to the increasing problem with litter and rubbish being fly tipped around the dog bins. Signs were placed by the dog bins to encourage people to take their litter home, but these have been ignored and the problem of litter persists. Members agreed that moving the dog bins away from the canal could help resolve the litter problem and not be too inconvenient for dog owners to locate. It is proposed to put notices on the dog bins to advise users that they will be relocated.

Resolved:

- That Council agree to remove dog bins 42 and 43.
- That Council agree to relocate one of the dog bins to the entrance to Weston Wood.
- That the second bin is not reinstated at this time, but the office investigates potential sites for relocation.

LEE1627/21 Croxley Green Time Capsule

The Clerk introduced the paper on creating a Croxley Green Time Capsule and asked Cllr Hughes to elaborate. As we emerge from the coronavirus pandemic, we will want others to learn from our experience and understand what life was like for us and to remember sacrifices made. Our working days, school and home life looked very different and as a community we worked together to keep the community safe. It is proposed to create a time capsule of items that tell the story of the pandemic in Croxley Green and to bury it in Weston Wood, not to be disturbed for 100 years.

Members agreed that an exhibition should also be arranged (at a date to be decided) to showcase the items to be put into the time capsule.

Resolved:

- That Recommendation 1 is amended to “That the Council agrees to bury a time capsule in Weston Wood and hold an exhibition of items to be put into the time capsule (at a date to be decided).
- That the Council agrees to bury a time capsule in Weston Wood and hold an exhibition of items to be put into the time capsule (at a date to be decided).
- That the Council consults residents on what they think should be included.
- That a budget of £500 be allocated for the project.

LEE1628/21 Wildflower Meadow Installation on Footpath 14

The Grounds Maintenance Manager introduced the paper on a Wildflower Meadow Installation on Footpath 14. The current area of grassland on Footpath 14 is maintained three seasons of the year, with the grass being mown and strimmed on a three week cycle to keep it tidy, which takes approximately 45 mins per cut. Wildflower meadows can provide a more ecologically varied and aesthetically pleasing vista in place of standard suburban amenity grassland. It can help increase the number and variety of species of wildlife within a localised area, improving the ecosystem and provide a vibrant and enjoyable parcel of nature within the village. It is recommended to install an Annual Meadow as a trial to gauge community feedback and test the area with regards to growing capability.

A recorded vote was requested:

Against	For
Cllr Vassiliou	Cllrs Benner, Cole, Crabtree, Hughes, Kyriakou, Montague, Tobin

Resolved:

- That, subject to appropriate permissions, the Council agrees to spend £1547.50 on establishing an annual wildflower meadow.

LEE1629/21 Events 2021

The Chairman introduced the topic of Events 2021 and members reviewed the plan for this year. The COVID-19 Lockdown means that it is not possible to hold the Charity Quiz Night, French Market or Senior Citizens Annual Seaside trip. Decisions on what events can be run in 2021 after covid restrictions ease will be discussed at LEE Committee meeting on 4th May 2021.

LEE1630/21 LEE Budget Tracker Report 2020/21

LEE Budget Tracker Report 2020/21 was reviewed. Members identified events and activities that are not going ahead in 2020/21 due to COVID-19. Budget from those items will be made available to Council to spend on its COVID-19 community response. Committee have allocated £800 from Budget 2020/21.

Please see below for updated Budget Tracker.

[*The Committee made this decision under Standing Order 19.12*]

LEE1631/21 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:57pm