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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 7 JULY 2020 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, Hughes, Tobin, Vassiliou, Wallington
In Attendance: Cllrs Cole, Gallagher, Taylor
Voting Members: 8
Members of the Public: 0

LEE1559/20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Kyriakou.

LEE1560/20 Declarations of Interest

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

LEE1561/20 Representations from the Public

No representations were made in writing to the Clerk.

LEE1562/20 Minutes

Members had no comments regarding the Minutes.

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5 May 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

LEE1563/20 Matters Arising

No matters arising.

LEE1564/20 Ranger's Update

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

- Rangers back to working full time, staying separate and not sharing tools to maintain social distancing.
- Regular work on public footpaths is continuing. Narrow footpaths were shut with notices posted in advance to advise residents to find alternative routes. Wide footpaths remained open and Rangers used masks and stepped aside to avoid close contact with walkers.
- Summer bedding plants have been planted in the beds in front of Watford Road shops. Now Garden Centres are open, summer bedding plants for the Welcome Signs and Wooden tubs will be purchased and planted next week.

- Hedges encroaching onto footpaths have been cut back opposite All Saints Church, bottom end of Baldwins Lane and Watford Road. The Chairman commented that TRDC should be asked to send enforcement letters to residents to maintain their hedges that encroach onto the pavement.
- Orchard Trees – suckers growing out of the Cherry Trees have been replanted to see if new trees can be grown. 1 is currently growing well, 2 did not survive.
- Artwork in Stone's Orchard that was put up by children during the COVID-19 lockdown has been removed to maintain the health of the trees. Unfortunately, string tied around branches can negatively affect the growth of trees, even within the space of one growing season. We have appreciated the colour and cheer that the artwork has brought to the parish in these difficult times. Information was shared on social media for owners of the artwork to collect it from the Parish Council office.
- Broken Bench on The Green by entrance to Owens Way footpath has been replaced with one made by the Rangers. Rangers are aiming to spruce up other benches that are in need of repair.
- Litter picks have been increased to address the issue of large gatherings on Croxley Common Moor and Stone's Orchard leaving behind litter. 143 recyclable items were removed from one bin. The Clerk mentioned that recyclable items were separated from the general waste and placed in the office recycling bin to save them going to landfill.
- Wildflower Meadow – investigating wildflower meadow options with Pictorial Meadows to install on footpath 14.
- Vegetables are growing well on the Preschool Allotment and when ready to harvest will be donated to local food charities.

The Chairman gave thanks to the Rangers for dealing with the litter problems around Croxley Green so promptly.

A Cllr asked if the Council could share on social media information about donating the vegetables from the Preschool Allotment. Another Cllr mentioned that the Watford Road hedges are growing through the railing from TFL owned land and that TFL should be encouraged to maintain the hedges and clear the litter.

LEE1565/20 **Works List**

The Clerk gave a verbal update on the Works List. The Clerk informed Members that the rewrite is in progress and a separate footpath and seasonal rather than monthly works list is being prepared.

LEE1566/20 **Events 2020**

The Chairman gave a verbal update of the Events 2020, confirming events that had been cancelled in 2020 and events that were still planned. Dog Show/Apple Day is planned for 3 October 2020.

LEE1567/20 **LEE Budget Tracker Report 2020/21**

The LEE Budget Tracker Report 2020/21 was noted.

LEE1568/20 **Christmas Tree**

The Clerk gave a verbal update on the options for a Christmas Tree for 2020 as the current supplier is not able to provide a tree. Members suggested alternative suppliers and/or alternative display and asked the Clerk to present options at the next LEE Committee meeting.

LEE1569/20 **Creation of a Litter Reduction Sub-committee**

The Chairman introduced the topic of the creation of a Litter Reduction Sub-Committee to help address the increased litter being left in green spaces in Croxley Green. Examples were shared of pictures of litter left behind by large groups; damage to the Common Moor from BBQs; fences onto the Common Moor being cut to avoid using the gate and additional costs incurred to empty dog bins surrounded by general litter bags. Members agreed that there is a problem and agreed that the creation of a sub-committee would enable a campaign and take your litter home signs to be created; working with local businesses to display socially responsible messages about litter and support local resident litter picking initiatives with resources. Cllrs Hughes, Montague, Taylor, Tobin, Vassiliou expressed an interest in joining the sub-committee.

Resolved

- That LEE set up a Litter Reduction Sub-Committee to review and implement actions that could be taken to address the increased littering taking place in our open spaces.
- That the draft Terms of Reference are adopted.
- That a budget of £2,500 be set aside for the Litter Reduction Sub-committee.

LEE1570/20 **Closure**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:58pm