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Community Way
Croxley Green
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire WD3 3SU

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
LEISURE, EVENTS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2021 at 8.00 PM

Present: Cllr Montague – In the Chair
Ryan Bennett – Clerk to the Council
Amanda Gardiner – Administrative Officer
Anthony Bassenger – Senior Ranger

Cllrs Crabtree, Hughes, Kyriakou, Panju, Tobin, Vassiliou

In Attendance: Cllrs Benner, Birch, Gallagher

Voting Members: 8

Members of the Public: 0

LEE1654/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Yeung.

LEE1655/21 Declarations of Interest

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

LEE1656/21 Representations from the Public

No representations were made.

LEE1657/21 Minutes

Members had no comments regarding the Minutes.

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

LEE1658/21 Matters Arising

The Administrative Office updated Members on LEE1650/21 Christmas Decorations New Road and The Green. A 1 year trial has been entered into with Lamps & Tubes to affix Christmas decorative bows to 12 lamp-posts in New Road – between the Co-op and Barton Way.

A councillor asked for an update on residents' complaints - when bins are emptied, if litter drops out of the bin, it is not being picked up by the refuse operatives. The Chairman advised that an email was sent to TRDC.

LEE1659/21 Ranger's Update

The Ranger gave an update on the activities completed. In addition to regular activities, they gave the following updates:

- The Green is being cut, to ensure a lovely neat presentation for Carters Steam Fair coming to Croxley.
- Countryside footpaths have had a cut, making them an easier to walk down.

- The allotment has been nearly fully harvested and produce shared with Residents.
- Lots of people have approached me and the office for apples, as they have provided a beautiful crop this year. A very thankful resident made a delicious crumble.
- Most of the main footpaths have had at least one cut during August.
- The wildflowers on the Watford Road flowerbed have really come out and they look great.
- I will be looking into ordering winter bedding soon, does anyone have any thoughts or requests for planting this year? We usually get pansies, but I would be happy to investigate something else for this year.
- Hopefully our new pickup will be arriving soon. As well as a new ranger.
- Emailed Hertfordshire Rights of Way about the footpath leading to Copthorne road from Green Lane no reply yet.
- Emailed TRDC about the war memorial oak tree which needs a crown lift to enable participants of the Remembrance Day Service to gather round the war memorial.
- Emailed HCC regarding the hedges on Watford Road near the station.
- Installed webcam in the office as well as new paper towel and soap dispensers in the toilets to ensure COVID safe as more people come into the office.

[Senior Ranger Anthony Bassenger left the meeting at this point]

LEE1660/21 National funding for improvements to High Streets and other Retail Parades

The Clerk informed members that National funding is available for improvements to High Streets and other Retail Parades. TRDC contacted the Parish Council about running a market in the Community Way Car Park. Members discussed the difficulty of setting up a new market and whether local businesses would want to participate. Members suggested that TRDC purchase stalls and tables that could be loaned out to the PCs within Three Rivers rather than each PC buying them.

LEE1661/21 Forest School

Cllr Birch introduced the paper on running a Forest School in Croxley Green and how beneficial they are in equipping children with outdoor skills e.g. setting up campfires, making shelters and bug hotels. Members agreed that running outdoor sessions is of benefit to children in Croxley Green but determined that taster sessions should be run for as many children as possible, instead of a 6 week course for 12 children. The Clerk suggested that Weston Wood would be an appropriate location to use for the Forest School. A councillor suggested looking at charities that run these types of events e.g. Groundwork). Attendance will be limited to children living in Croxley Green.

Members agreed to amend the recommendations to “A trial forest school session in Dell Wood for up to twelve children aged between 4 and 10 years (parents present) at a cost of £200” to “A trial forest school of 6 taster sessions in Weston Wood for up to 12 children per session aged between 4 and 10 years (parents present) at a cost of £1200”.

Resolved:

- That a trial forest school of 6 taster sessions in Weston Wood for up to 12 children per session aged between 4 and 10 years (parents present) at a cost of £1200

LEE1662/21 Litter Reduction Sub-Committee

Chairman provided a verbal update from the Litter Reduction Sub-Committee. The sub-committee has not met since May. Graphic Designer has not responded to email requesting changes to the logo design. A community litter pick has been organised on Wednesday 22nd September to coincide with the Great Big Green Week.

LEE1663/21 Events 2021

The Chairman introduced the topic of Events 2021 and members reviewed the plan for this year. Preparations are underway for Autumn events the Dog Show, Village Treasure Hunt, Remembrance Day Parade, Christmas Market / Festive Karaoke and New Year's Eve Fireworks.

LEE1664/21 LEE Budget Tracker Report 2021/22

LEE Budget Tracker Report 2021/22 was reviewed. The Administrative Officer advised Members that £10,050 will be unspent by events and activities cancelled due to COVID-19.

LEE1665/21 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:39pm