

CROXLEY GREEN JUNIOR COUNCIL

MINUTES OF the 14th MEETING OF THE JUNIOR COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 22 APRIL 2010 at 3.45pm

Present: David Allison – Clerk to the Council
Amanda Taft – Administrative Assistant
Charlotte Masters - Active Communities Officer, Three Rivers District Council (TRDC)
Steve Jacob – Police Community Support Officer

Junior Cllrs: as per the attendance sheet

JC075/10

Introductions

The delegates from the schools introduced themselves. The Clerk welcomed everyone present at the meeting and thanked them for attending.

JC076/10

Appointment of a Junior Councillor

It was agreed that Tom Pollard of Little Green School should Chair the meeting.

JC077/10

Barton Way Play Area

The Chairman introduced this item and introduced Charlotte Masters of TRDC. Charlotte asked the Junior Cllrs what ideas the children had and what type of planting they would like to see at the new play area . Suggestions included:

- Flowers – daffodils, tulips, pansies and crocuses
- Plants to attract butterflies and bees
- Bird boxes
- Shrubs
- Plants to stimulate all the senses in a sensory area – scented, colourful, interesting to touch plants such as rosemary, mint, lavender and lambs ear
- A mini maze

Charlotte advised the Junior Cllrs that a willow structure will be put in the new play area and added that although there is currently no funding available, there are environmental grants of up to £500 for which an application could be made. The Clerk added that the Parish Council may be able to assist financially subject to Council approval and it was also suggested that funds could be raised by Junior Cllrs at the Revels. It was estimated that the creation of a sensory bed and walkway could cost approximately £2,000.

The Junior Cllrs were asked if they had any other issues regarding the play area that they would like to raise. Charlotte was asked what was happening to the tyre swing that had been removed and she replied that a basket swing would be installed next week. The children raised the problem of the amount of litter at the play area and Charlotte stated that TRDC are aware of the problem and are currently investigating installing more bins, subject to budgets and funding. Another issue was the fact that the grass had not lasted well. Charlotte explained that the grass has diminished as the park has been so popular and well used but that more topsoil and grass would be put down.

The Clerk thanked Charlotte for attending this meeting of the Junior Council.

JC078/10

Graffiti Wall

The Chairman introduced this item and welcomed PCSO Steve Jacob to the meeting.

Steve asked the Junior Cllrs for their thoughts about the possibility of a graffiti wall. It was proposed that the rear of the garage block at the top of Baldwins Lane would be a suitable location. Steve suggested that there could be a mural on the back of the garages with the side wall used for temporary graffiti which could be painted over every month or so. Charlotte stated that Three Rivers District Council had a 'zero tolerance' policy when it came to graffiti and asked why a graffiti wall was wanted. Charlotte was informed that there was a lot of history to this and although it was not actually an initiative of this year's Junior Council it was one they supported. In the past, this location had been the site of offensive, abusive graffiti and it was considered that by giving ownership back to the older children in Croxley and by getting them involved in the project, this could greatly assist in preventing the wrong type of graffiti. The Chairman suggested that one letter is drafted by Little Green School on behalf of the Junior Council to support the Junior Cllrs desire to have a designated graffiti wall in Croxley Green and this will be sent to PCSO Steve Jacob and also to Ann Shaw, leader of TRDC.

The Clerk thanked PCSO Steve Jacob for attending the meeting.

JC079/10

Revels 2010

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk suggested that following the earlier discussions about planting in Barton Way play area, Junior Cllrs may like to consider raising funds at the Revels to contribute towards the planting. Various suggestions were made before the idea of 'Sponsor a Plant' was decided upon. Once a design has been submitted to the Parish Council, badges and possibly balloons will be made stating 'I sponsored a plant for Barton Way Rec'.

It was agreed that a timetable of 30 minute slots would be created for Junior Cllrs to cover their section of the Parish Council stall.

JC080/10

New Initiatives

The Clerk asked that if he is informed of any new initiatives, he would put them on the next Agenda.

JC081/10

Closure

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 4.30pm.