

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON TUESDAY 1 JULY 2008 AT 8.00 pm

Present Cllr Seeley in the Chair D Allison – Clerk to the Council
A Taft – Minute Taker

Cllrs Birch, Brading, Dann, C Jefford, Martin, Norman, Shafe and Vassiliou
Voting Members 9

EA469/08 Apologies for Absence
There were no apologies.

EA470/08 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.

EA471/08 Representations from the Public
There were no public present.

EA472/08 Minutes
It was proposed by Cllr Norman and seconded by Cllr Jefford that the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2008 be approved as correct. The proposal was agreed and the Chairman signed the minutes.

EA473/08 Matters Arising
EA462/08 (EA451/08; Matters Arising). The Clerk was asked whether he had any more information regarding the Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) Youth Club to which he replied that the club was discontinued due to poor attendance. The Clerk was asked to find out whether TRDC may be willing to contribute towards the basketball club now that they are not funding the youth club.

EA462/08 (EA451/08; Matters Arising). The Clerk was asked about the basketball report for April to June 2008. The Clerk replied that he had requested the report be available for the July Council meeting.

EA465/08 (Play equipment for play areas in Croxley Green). The Clerk was asked for an update and he advised those present that TRDC have requested more detailed information and that this would be placed on the next Agenda for further discussion.

EA474/08 Active Works List
The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk referred to the list that had been distributed at the meeting. The Clerk was informed by a Cllr that the inspection of the two bus stops was on the Active Works List every month yet they had been in a filthy state for some months. The Chairman considered that this Cllr ought to have reported this to the Clerk beforehand. Other Cllrs agreed that it is part of their role to report issues - ex-Cllrs and members of the public assist the Parish Council by highlighting problem areas.

The Clerk was informed that footpath 10 was criticised at the TRDC Local Area Forum for being in a very poor state. The Clerk said that the Parish Council has a limited responsibility for this footpath and the overhanging trees are the responsibility of the Guild of Sport. The Clerk explained that the delay in clearing the brambles was due to the work required in preparation for the Revels. This led to a discussion regarding the need for record keeping to be robust and for the list of jobs and time taken to be quite detailed. The Clerk stated that he was working on a new time sheet which would show how much time is spent on each task.

After a discussion about works undertaken and work that needs to be done, the

Clerk stated that he would write to Hertfordshire County Council, TRDC, Countryside Management Service and the Guild of Sport to offer services such as litter picking, weeding, strimming and tree work in return for payment.

EA475/08

Village of the Year Competition

This item was introduced and Cllr Norman informed those present that he had attended the awards evening on 25 June and was pleased to be able to report back to Members that Croxley Green had received a commendation for the Environment category. The Clerk added that Flaunden won Small Village of the Year, Woolmer Green won Village of the Year East and Kimpton won Village of the Year West. The nominee to be entered into the Calor England Village of the Year Competition and overall winner is Woolmer Green.

EA476/08

Maintenance of the Guild of Sport Football Pitches

The Chairman introduced this item and referred Members to the correspondence which had been circulated with the Agenda. It was generally agreed that the Parish Council would like to support the Guild of Sport as around 250 youngsters use their facilities. Concerns were expressed regarding insurance and if our grass cutting equipment was suitable for a football pitch. After some discussion, Cllr Brading proposed that the Committee authorise the Clerk to enter an agreement with Croxley Guild of Sport to undertake a free of charge, trial cut to see how much time it takes and money it costs. This was seconded by Cllr Vassiliou and the proposal was agreed. It was acknowledged that an indemnity would need to be signed by the Guild of Sport.

EA477/08

Recycling Bins in Croxley Green

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk informed Cllrs that the Agenda should not read 'see attached' but 'see Junior Council Minutes dated 20/05/2008'. The Junior Cllrs had been asked the same questions as those in the questionnaire in the Spring/Summer edition of the Parish Pump. The Clerk added that one of the things they would like to see in Croxley Green is more recycling bins. Cllr Brading said the TRDC Youth Council had made a DVD on recycling which the Junior Council may be interested in watching. Cllr Brading also stated that he may be able to arrange to take the Junior Councillors on a trip to Waterdale Waste Transfer Station. The possibility of recycling batteries was suggested and Cllr Norman thought this would be advantageous for next year's Village of the Year competition. Cllr Brading added that if anybody had any ideas for the location of a bin, they should contact him.

EA478/08

Social Tea Party

The Chairman introduced this item and informed those present that 60 people had attended and enjoyed the tea party, not all of whom were Friday bus users. The Chairman added that only 3 Cllrs had attended the tea party and perhaps next year it should be held on a Saturday to enable more Cllrs to attend, although the budget may have to be increased. Some interesting ideas had been put forward, namely that the Parish Council arranges swimming sessions solely for the elderly and that the Friday bus go to places other than Watford. Funding would not be an issue as those at the tea party said they would be quite willing to pay for these services. It was agreed that this would be put on the Planning and Development Committee Agenda for further discussion.

EA479/08

Tree Bulletin

The Clerk referred Members to the tree bulletin that was circulated at the meeting and Members noted this information.

EA480/08

Closure

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm.