

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON TUESDAY 4 MARCH 2008 AT 8.00 pm

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

Cllrs Birch, Brading, Dann, Norman and Shafe
Voting Members 6
Not Present - Cllr Vassiliou
There was 1 member of the public present

EA435/08 Apologies for Absence
Apologies were received from Cllrs Martin and Seeley.

EA436/08 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.

EA437/08 Representations from the Public
There were no representations from the public.

EA438/08 Minutes
It was proposed by Cllr Brading and seconded by Cllr Norman that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2008 be approved as correct. The proposal was agreed and the Chairman signed the minutes.

EA439/08 Matters Arising
Regarding EA429/08 (Budget) it was confirmed that the date for the Craft Day will be 5 October 2008.

The Clerk was then asked when the quarterly report from the Basketball Coach would be issued to which the Clerk replied that it would be at the end of the first term, therefore June/July 2008. It was asked if a report could be requested for January – March 2008 to be issued at the April meeting and the Clerk confirmed that he would request this. It was also asked if, at the same time, the Clerk could ask the Coach if he has managed to secure any funding yet.

Cllr Jefford informed Members that she, along with Cllr Seeley would be organising the Christmas Lights trip which is to be in early to mid December.

It was recommended that of the dates suggested for the Teddy Bears Picnic, July would be best as May would be soon to make the necessary arrangements. The Clerk said that a date had not been given to him as yet, but he would get in touch with the Councillor who is organising this event.

The Clerk was asked whether he had set up a meeting with Alison Phin, Leisure Development Manager at Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) and the Parish Council's Working Party for Play Areas. The Clerk said that as yet he had not done so, but a Councillor stated that TRDC Officers are quite happy to meet to discuss play areas as well as older children's play areas.

It was asked if an update of Budget items could be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Regarding EA432/08 (Chairman's Charity Quiz), apologies were given by one Member who is unavailable on that date and his apologies were duly noted.

It was asked whether Councillors could receive a regular report about the Police

Community Support Officers (PCSO's) with regard to crime figures etc. The Clerk pointed out that this falls under the remit of the Finance and Administration Committee and he would put it on the March Agenda to be discussed. The Clerk added that the Parish Council receives reports but they are not exclusively about the PCSO's, but he has taken this matter up with Inspector George Holland.

EA440/08

Active Works List

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk referred to the list that had been circulated with the agenda. The Clerk briefly outlined the content and pointed out that the new bench was now ready to install in area 3 of Croxley Woods, but that we are still waiting for permission from TRDC to install the second bench in area 4. One Councillor pointed out that what the Rangers were doing was admirable.

EA441/08

Village of the Year Competition

The Chairman introduced this item and handed over to Cllr Norman who informed Members that an encouraging number of replies had been received and new contacts had been established as a result of the publicity generated by this project. He added that now information has been received, it was essentially a matter of pulling it all together and filling in the application form. The Clerk pointed out that a copy of the application form had been previously issued to all Councillors for them to comment and participate in this competition. He added that it would be helpful for these to be returned to the office in order that different perspectives are considered.

It was acknowledged that due to this competition, the database of local clubs and groups has increased and one Member asked whether Councillors could have a copy of this listing or if it could be made into a directory. The Clerk informed Members about the Parish Council's press release regarding this project, and its subsequent publication in the Watford Observer and Cllr Norman stated that this was the positive publicity which the Parish Council is aiming to achieve.

EA442/08

Flowers in Croxley

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk gave a verbal report, informing Members that the first meeting had been held on Monday 3 March. Areas identified for floral displays were Rickmansworth School, 192-198 Watford Road, Two Bridges, the shops in Baldwins Lane, the new village signs, the Station and the area near to the Baptist Church. The Clerk is to write to Highways and TRDC to seek permission and also to try to obtain financial help for the provision of planters from TRDC as they have a Shop Enhancement Programme. The Clerk said that he would write to local businesses for possible support/funding/willingness to have floral decorations outside their premises. The project will be promoted at the Revels and it is hoped that local schools, groups and communities will become involved. It was noted that this project will be included in the Village of the Year competition.

EA443/08

Garden Competition

The Chairman introduced this item and informed Members that there had been a meeting with the Chairman and Secretary of Croxley Green Gardening Club on Tuesday 26 February when the Gardening Club agreed to undertake the initial judging of this competition. The Clerk added that closing dates for entries is Friday 11 July, the initial judging will take place during the week of 15 – 24 July and the final judging will be on Saturday 26 July. Final judging will be undertaken by the Parish Council with representatives of the Gardening Club. The reception and presentation is to be held in early Autumn.

It was asked whether there will be any new categories this year as the current ones are becoming a little repetitive. The Chairman replied that there is the problem with getting judges, but hopefully next year there will be different categories and the schools may like to become involved or the Gardening Club may have some

fresh ideas. The Clerk added that timing is not on our side to promote new categories for this year but if Members have any ideas to let him know as soon as possible in order to forward plan.

EA444/08

Chairman's Charity Quiz 2008

The Chairman introduced this item and advised Members that the quiz is to be held 5 April 2008 and the hall is booked from 4pm. Invitations for applications to apply for tickets have been sent out and are beginning to trickle in. Councillors were asked to volunteer their help on the day with setting up the hall and clearing up after the event. Councillors were also asked to donate a raffle prize; all proceeds go to the Chairman's two charities. The Clerk asked that anyone wishing to help let him know.

EA445/08

Tree Bulletin

There were no tree works to report. The subject of trees in Croxley Green was raised by a Member who was concerned about the loss of an Oak tree which was recently felled. The tree was not covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and this matter had been raised with Julie Hughes, Principle Landscape Officer at TRDC. Julie Hughes is quite open to reviewing the TPO list in Croxley Green but asked if the Parish Council could give them the details of trees worthy of a TPO. It was acknowledged that a full survey of trees would be a major undertaking but one which would be extremely beneficial. The Clerk had already considered this task in relation to reviewing the Rangers' objectives for next year.

EA446/08

Closure

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.44pm.