

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2013 AT 8.00pm

Present Cllr Edmunds – In the Chair David Allison – Clerk to the Council

Cllrs Brading, Dann, Mitchell, Ridley, Seeley, Shafe and Vane
Voting Members: 8

EA992/13 Apologies for Absence
There were no apologies to note.

EA993/13 Declarations of Interest
The Chairman recommended that any declarations of interest be made, if necessary, throughout the meeting.

EA994/13 Representations from the Public
There were no public present.

EA995/13 Minutes

Resolved:

- that the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3 September 2013 be approved and be signed by the Chairman. It was noted that the meeting scheduled for 1 October 2013 was cancelled.

EA996/13 Matters Arising
EA983/13 (Stones Orchard update). It was asked whether there had been any further progress with the Friends of Stones Orchard initiative to which the response was that it was progressing very slowly.

EA997/13 Active Works List
The Chairman introduced this item and invited comments from Members about the list.
It was noted that there were some items relating to tree pruning but the Clerk pointed out that this work would not be undertaken at this time given the absence of the Ranger. The Clerk continued that the Works List is an annual generic programme and the item was left in so that it was not missed for the future.

It was requested that the bulb planting item be moved from November to October.

It was commented that as the Council has been without a Ranger who was on sick leave that upon his return there will be a significant amount of catch-up work to do let alone the works identified for November. The Clerk stated that at present he was drawing up a list that would be used to brief the Council's contingency contractors.

A Councillor stated that given the recurring ill health of the Ranger that he should be consulting with his Doctor about the causes as it was obviously hindering his ability to undertake the work which the Council are expecting to be undertaken. The Clerk advised the matter will be progressed with the assistance of the Council's HR consultancy.

A brief update was given regarding the recruitment of a second Ranger.

It was noted that on the Works List was the delivery of the letters to residents adjacent to the Green about the New Years Eve firework display and Councillors volunteered to deliver these.

There were a number of comments made that because of the periodic absence of the Ranger on sick leave a number of ground work items were not being undertaken and that there has been a reduction in the high standard of maintenance that the Council expects.

The Chairman pointed out that there has been constant criticism about some grounds works not being undertaken but it should be recognised by Councillors that in a periods of reduced or no ground staff available it was not a matter of waving a magic wand for all the works to be done and done well. The Chairman continued that other contingencies are made to undertake the necessary work and that it would be helpful if Councillors were giving support rather than criticising.

In response to a number of questions the Clerk advised that the litter bins on the Green had been emptied by TRDC and that the tidying up of the War Memorial had also been doe by TRDC in the Rangers absence for which they may be making a charge.

Resolved:

- That the Works List for November be noted.

EA998/13 Budgets 2014/15

The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk referred to version1 dated 29 October of the Budget Schedule that was circulated with the Agenda.

The Clerk specifically referred Members to pages 8 to 12 which dealt with the Environment and Amenity Committee and pointed out that with a few exceptions where there are already known commitments, the budget figures were showing as £0 in anticipation of submission by Councillors of the Budget forms for the various events, activities and other items they wished included in the budget. As an example, the Clerk pointed out that there was currently no financial provision for fireworks next year.

It was commented that the Firework display was becoming a standard annual event and that there should be no need to submit a specific budget proposal form each year. After a short discussion it was suggested that the Committee should resolve that a firework budget be included in the budget as a matter of course.

RESOLVED:

- That a budget figure for the annual fireworks be included in the budget.

A Councillor mentioned that he was currently investigating putting forward a budget item for the production of a leaflet that would show cycle routes, local walks and facilities and would submit a budget proposal form in due course.

EA999/13 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.34pm.