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Community Way
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Rickmansworth
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
LEISURE, EVENTS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD Online using ZOOM secure video conference
ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2020 at 8.00 PM

Present: Cllr Montague – In the Chair Ryan Bennett – Clerk to the Council
Amanda Gardiner – Administrative Officer
James Townley – Grounds Maintenance Manager

Cllrs Benner, Hughes, Kyriakou, Tobin, Vassiliou, Wallington

In Attendance: Cllr Cole

Voting Members: 8

Members of the Public: 0

LEE1571/20 Apologies for Absence

All Members present.

LEE1572/20 Declarations of Interest

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

LEE1573/20 Representations from the Public

No representations were made.

LEE1574/20 Minutes

Members had no comments regarding the Minutes.

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7 July 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

LEE1575/20 Matters Arising

No matters arising.

LEE1576/20 Mill Lane Parking

The Clerk introduced the topic of signs to discourage parking at the bottom of Mill Lane. Cars parked at the bottom of Mill Lane, adjacent to the Canal, reduce the width of access to the Canal and Common Moor causing problems for pedestrians, cyclists, and access for emergency vehicles. Herts County Council has designated it as a bridleway with vehicle access to garages and businesses. Feedback from HAPTC and NALC confirm that a bridleway should have not vehicular access across it. Members discussed an Access Only sign that had been removed from the top of Mill Lane and the belief that the missing sign gave the impression that parking was permitted. Members agreed to the production and installation of signs along the boundary with Weston Wood, but recognised that they are not enforceable.

Resolved:

- That a budget of £200 is set aside to purchase and install up to 4 Croxley

Green Parish Council branded No Parking Signs and wooden poles.

LEE1577/20 Ranger's Update

The Grounds Maintenance Manager gave an update on the activities completed by the Rangers. In addition to their regular activities, they had updates on:

- Limited growth on all grass and hedgerows due to high temps and lack of water over summer. Kept tidy, started growing again and grass is back to being green with the last few weeks of rain.
- Buddleia walk has had its summer trim – it was left later this year for the benefit of wildlife.
- Stone's Orchard bench has been vandalised. Liaising with TRDC to discuss who will pay for the repair, as it is not covered in our contract.
- New bicycle has arrived and been used regularly by the rangers to inspect footpaths and maintain social distancing.
- Perspex screen installed in the works vehicle to allow both rangers to use it where necessary if they are unable to take the bicycle as nowhere to lock up safely.
- Completed ditch renovation along the Green and Little Green Lane. Ditch was overgrown and filled in. The first section of the ditch has been re-trenched to hopefully help the road to drain better during heavy downpours.
- Rose restoration started on the library wall – fixed new cables and training roses to climb the wall.
- New brush cutter has been purchased as old one had completed 19 years of service and was no longer able to be repaired.
- New battery powered hedge cutter has been purchased. This is a trial to see how well the battery powered tools perform versus petrol powered tools. Battery powered tools are quieter and better for the environment.
- Works vehicle failed the MOT. Suspension bushes, wheel bearing, washer jets and number plate light were fixed at a cost of £505.75 to pass the MOT.
- Produce from Stone's Orchard and the Preschool Allotment has been available to the public at the office to prevent it going to waste.

LEE1578/20 Traveller Incursions

The Grounds Maintenance Manager gave an update on the 2 traveller incursions that took place in Croxley Green in August:-

- **7th – 12th August** – Approximately 5 caravans and 3 motor homes gained access to the Revels site on a Friday evening. At some point over the weekend, the access chain to the site was vandalised. TRDC acted to begin legal proceedings during the weekend. Travellers were served with an eviction notice to vacate by Wednesday midday. Bailiffs attended the site. Issues regarding members of party missing and claimed could not leave until they returned. Travellers moved off the Revels Site at 5 pm and were escorted away by a police vehicle.

A significant volume of waste was left behind, especially in the hedgerow, but a lot of it had already been bagged. Human waste was contained within the litter. Site was cordoned off with signs. On 13th August waste cleaning contractor attended the site to remove waste that the Parish Council could not

deal with. Parish Council removed 80kg of litter and waste cleaning contractor removed 25 large bio bags at a cost of £1,235.

- **19th – 20th August** – Approximately 5-8 caravans arrived on the Green outside Stone's Orchard on Wednesday evening. The travellers had been followed by police after leaving Chorleywood. Police spoke to the travellers and advised them against trying to enter Stone's Orchard and that they would be able to rest overnight, but must move on in the morning. Travellers left at 10:30 am and were followed by police until they had left the District.

The waste left behind included human waste. Site was cordoned off with signs. On 24th August waste cleaning contractor attended the site and removed 3 bio bags at a cost of £395.

The Grounds Maintenance Manager gave his thanks to the Councillors who helped out during and after both encampments.

Temporary concrete blocks were installed behind the gate into Stone's Orchard and the Revels entrance to discourage further access. A meeting is scheduled with TRDC Head of Property to discuss how to protect the sites from this increasingly frequent occurrence.

LEE1579/20 Litter Reduction Sub-Committee

Chairman provided a verbal update from the Litter Reduction Sub-Committee. Members discussed and shared opinions on the wording of the Litter Poster and agreed that it needed to be impactful. Members agreed the proposed anti-litter poster and the letter to be sent to local takeaways and shops. At the next meeting, Members will discuss creating litter picker volunteer groups.

LEE1580/20 Annual Grounds Maintenance Work Schedule

The Grounds Maintenance Manager introduced the topic of the updated Annual Grounds Maintenance Work Schedule which was shared with Members in advance of the meeting. The updated Annual Grounds Maintenance Work Schedule contains pictures, location maps and information on work activities. Members agreed that the Annual Grounds Maintenance Work Schedule should be posted on the Council website to promote what we do. Members requested the removal of the section on Baldwins Lane hedge as cutting the hedge should be the responsibility of the landowner. Members voted to adopt the updated Annual Grounds Maintenance Work Schedule.

Resolved:

- That the updated Grounds Maintenance Work Schedule is amended to remove section on Baldwins Lane Hedge and adopted by members

LEE1581/20 Events 2020

The Chairman gave a verbal update on upcoming events, confirming events that had been cancelled in 2020 and events that were still planned. It may not be possible to hold the Dog Show / Apple Day due to COVID-19 restrictions to limit outdoor gatherings to 30 people. Dog Show / Apple Day Working Group to investigate a virtual dog show. Cllr Benner and Administrative Officer to investigate holding a virtual pumpkin carving competition. Review success of virtual events to determine if other events can be run virtually.

LEE1582/20 LEE Budget Tracker Report 2020/21

The LEE Budget Tracker Report 2020/21 was noted.

LEE1583/20 Grounds Maintenance Apprentice Scheme

The Grounds Maintenance Manager introduced the topic of exploring the possibility of creating a Grounds Maintenance Apprentice Scheme. The Clerk explained that

this was just preparatory work and would not commit council to instigating the scheme. Members agreed that the Grounds Maintenance Manager should research setting up a Grounds Maintenance Apprentice Scheme and include information that identifies how it fits with the Council's strategic objectives.

Resolved:

- That the Grounds Maintenance Manager explores setting up a Grounds Maintenance Apprentice Scheme.

LEE1584/20

Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:16pm