

## CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
**ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE**  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER  
ON TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER 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, Shafe and Vassiliou  
Voting Members: 8  
Public: 2
- EA515/08 Apologies for Absence  
Apologies were received from Cllr Norman.
- EA516/08 Declarations of Interest  
The Chairman recommended that declarations of interest be made throughout the meeting if necessary.
- EA517/08 Representations from the Public  
Mr Munroe made representations regarding the basketball classes. He informed Councillors that he intended to answer some of the questions which arose at a previous meeting. He stated that Rickmansworth School had offered the gym at no cost on the proviso that the Parish Council paid for the Coaching. He added that the gym is only free on one day from 3.30pm – 6pm and in order to avoid congestion of children coming to the classes at the same time that children would be leaving school, the 11+ group could start their session at 3.30pm and this would mean minimum disruption. Finally he added that he had suggested not holding the classes during the Summer term ie 25 weeks per year rather than 38 weeks per year in order to save money. However, the downside to this may be that the continuity of the classes would be disrupted.
- EA518/08 Minutes  
It was proposed by Cllr Vassiliou and seconded by Cllr Martin that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2008 be approved as correct. The proposal was agreed and the Chairman signed the minutes.
- EA519/08 Matters Arising  
There were no matters arising.
- EA520/08 Active Works List  
The Chairman introduced this item and referred Members to the Active Works List that had been circulated with the Agenda. The Clerk was asked what the monthly B467 Arm Mower checklist meant and he clarified that it was a checklist for the maintenance of the side arm flail on the tractor.
- It was pointed out that the Watford Road hedge cut had been cut back very hard and looked bare in places, the top had not been cut and the tractor had churned up the grass. The Clerk confirmed that a hard cut helps new shoots to grow and that if needed, Hawthorn whips could be purchased to infill. The top could not be cut without a platform due to health and safety regulations and the grass was churned up due to the tractor not having grass tyres. It was suggested that whips may be obtainable free from Herts Groundwork and the Clerk said that he would look into that. It was then asked if infill whips could be planted in the hedge opposite the shops at the bottom end of Baldwins Lane.

EA521/08

Budget 2009/2010 and beyond

This item was introduced by the Chairman and the Clerk referred Members to the budget proposals that had been circulated with the Agenda and also to some that had not been received in time to circulate with the Agenda but were available at the meeting. The Clerk said that the Environment and Amenity budget would be discussed in account order:-

**4050/203, Benches (x2) for Croxleyhall Woods, Cllr Wynne-Jones, £2,000**

The Clerk informed Cllrs that the proposed benches are for Area 4 of Croxleyhall Woods, off All Saints' Lane and that the Rangers had suggested that sustainable benches could be made using fallen tree trunks. It was considered that these would be more in keeping in the woods, be less likely to be vandalised and also save the Parish Council £2,000. It was acknowledged that necessary permissions would have to be sought.

**4601/211, Garden Competition, Cllr Jefford, £240**

The Clerk stated that a budget proposal form would need to be submitted for this. It was asked what the money was spent on and Cllr Jefford confirmed that the money was spent on the presentation; the shield engraving and catering for around 60 people.

**4602/211, Charity Quiz Night, Cllr Jefford, £250**

There were no objections to this budget proposal.

**4605/211, Christmas Lights, £7,400**

The Clerk confirmed that 2009/10 will be year 3 of a three-year contract and provision is being made for Watford Road and Scots Hill.

**4607/211, Basketball Classes, £2,475**

Cllr Brading proposed that at this stage this item is left in the budget and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Dann and agreed.

**4609/211, Craft Day, Cllr Shafe, £1070**

Cllr Shafe stated that due to £500 not being spent on advertising last year, the request for this year is for £600 and there were no objections to this budget proposal.

**4611/211, Senior Citizens Seaside Outing, Cllr Seeley, £850**

It was considered that as this budget item was for the benefit of a very small number of people, it was not a Parish Council activity. Cllr Seeley advised that it was mostly attended by residents in sheltered housing. However, it was still deemed unfair that it was not a trip open to all senior residents of Croxley Green. The Clerk was asked if he was satisfied that only a small number benefit and he replied that it could be categorised as a Section 137. It was proposed by Cllr Birch and seconded by Cllr Vassiliou that this item is not put forward to Council for consideration but the proposal was not agreed and this item will be decided at Council.

**4612/211, Social Event for Community Bus Users (and Others as appropriate), Cllr Jefford, £200**

There followed a similar argument as the previous item, in that this afternoon tea was for a limited audience and is not open to all senior residents. It was again considered that it was not the role of the Parish Council to provide social and welfare events. It was proposed by Cllr Brading and seconded by Cllr Dann that this item be put before Council for approval and the proposal was agreed.

**4934/299, Flowers for Croxley, Cllr Seeley, £4,000**

Cllr Seeley stated that to date this project has only cost the Parish Council £350 plus the time of the Rangers and office staff. The remainder of the money spent being received in donations and from the Croxley Local Area Forum. Concerns were raised that this initiative had not been adopted by Council and also that the status of the group was uncertain; was it a Parish Council sub-committee or a Parish/Community Partnership? The Clerk advised that this matter had been discussed at a previous Environment and Amenity meeting and Council had subsequently adopted the Environment and Amenity report. The Clerk continued that the group was therefore currently a working sub committee of the Environment and Amenity committee. As Cllr Seeley had an interest in the initiative she refrained from the following discussion. Concerns were expressed that the budget detailed income from external sources and it was considered that the Parish Council should only show the contribution from the Environment and Amenity Committee. The Clerk stated that he would seek further advice regarding how to record the monies allocated to Flowers in Croxley. Concerns were then expressed about the sum requested on the budget proposal being £4,500 when the proposed expenditure for 2009/10 was only £3,436 and also that £640 for sleepers and compost for the School's project was included in the proposed expenditure for 2010/11 yet there was a separate budget proposal for this. It was finally agreed that the sum of £1,630 would plus £600 for the School flower beds be put into the budget at this stage.

**4936/299, School Flower Beds (S137), Cllr Seeley, £600****Development of Play Areas, Cllrs Martin and Shafe, £20,000**

The sum of £5,000 allocated for research and markings for the multi-sports court in 2008/09 was unspent and Cllrs recommended that this sum be put into Reserves and transferred out again to offset the £20,000. Cllr Shafe informed those present that children could be involved and the Schools could contribute by fundraising. It was proposed by Cllr Shafe and seconded by Cllr Brading that the sum of £20,000 stays in the budget at this stage and the proposal was agreed.

EA522/08

Closure

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.06pm.