

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON TUESDAY 3 JANUARY 2012 AT 8.00pm

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

Cllrs Bennett, Brading, Dann, Edmunds and Ridley

Voting Members: 6

Not Present: Cllrs Getkahn and Vane

In Attendance: Cllr Mitchell

EA833/12 Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

EA834/12 Declarations of Interest

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

EA835/12 Representations from the Public

There were no members of the public present.

EA836/12 Minutes

It was requested that the additional words “in association with the Residents Association” be added to Minute EA830/11 under Parish Boundary Walk and Carol Singing at the Library to indicate that these items were a joint initiative with the Residents Association.

Resolved:

- that the amended Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6 December 2011 be approved and be signed and amendments initialled by the Chairman.

EA837/12 Matters Arising

EA827/11 Matters Arising; (EA819/11) **Nectar/Oasis Areas**. The Clerk was asked if there had been any progress. The Clerk advised that he had heard nothing further as yet and it was perhaps a little early to chase the matter up given the Christmas holidays but he would do so.

EA829/11 **A Year in Croxley in Photographs**. The Clerk was asked for an update and he advised that he had reported on this matter to the last Council meeting and there was nothing further to report.

EA830/11 Budgets 2012/13 War Memorial (£200). The Clerk was asked whether he had received information on the ownership of the War Memorial to which the Clerk said he had not.

EA838/12 Active Works List

The Chairman introduced this item and Members were referred to the active works list for January.

It was asked how many bird boxes the Council have installed to which the Clerk advised he did not have that information available but would advise Members in due course.

The Clerk was asked about the term ‘Contractor’ against cleaning litter bins. The Clerk advised that this should be against dog bins and that the dog waste contractor would undertake this.

Members noted the Active Works List for January.

Budget 2012/13

The Chairman introduced this item and that Members no doubt have had the opportunity of studying the budget proposals for the Committee.

The Clerk referred Members to the draft budget (version 5) dated 9 December 2011 and stated that the only changes that had been made since then were the inclusion of £150 for a tree for the Queens Diamond Jubilee and a project item with no finance required at this time for seeking land for additional allotments within Croxley Green

A discussion ensued regarding allotment provision and it was suggested that should a suitable site be found in liaison with TRDC that there should be a fixed term of ownership given the demand. It was generally agreed however, that a fixed term was not a practical option. It was pointed out that most of the allotment associations undertake an annual inspection of their allotments and those that are run down the allotment holder is contacted with a request to improve the site or loose it.

Cllr Mitchell, who had put forward a budget proposal for a Farmers Market which was currently being shown under the Planning and Development Committee budget, asked whether this can be moved to the Environment & Amenity Budget. The Clerk had no objections to this indicating that it had only been included in the P&D budget for historical reasons. Accordingly, the budget provision was moved from Planning and Development to the Environment and Amenity budget.

A discussion ensued about the farmer market and the necessity of getting local shops involved and the use of the public car park as a potential side. It was pointed out that during the week the car park is extensively used by employees of local businesses. It was generally agreed that a farmer market is a good idea and that perhaps a week end would be suitable given the car parking issue.

It was suggested that other specialist markets should also be considered such as French or Italian but on a very infrequent basis.

The Clerk advised that having moved the farmers market budget provision the E&A draft budget was £39,179.

The budget proposal relating to minimising unnecessary roadside street furniture/signs was raised but it was pointed out that this is definitely a matter that falls within the auspices of the Planning and Development Committee.

Resolved

- that the draft budget proposals totally £39,179 be taken forward for Council approval.

EA840/12 Damage to The Green

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk stated that this item had been included on the Agenda to brief Members about the current position on reinstatement of the damage caused to the Green by contractor vehicles at Little Gillions. The Clerk added that this had now be superceded by events in that the reparation work was undertaken by a TRDC contractor on 20 December.

Cllr Brading advised that the cost of reparation would be at the tax payers expense as there was no apparent means of recourse to the contractors being used at the Little Gillions site.

EA841/12 Tree Bulletin

No tree works had been advised.

EA842/12 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm.