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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON 3 JULY 2018 at 8.00 PM

Present: Cllr Cole – In the Chair David Allison – Clerk to the Council

Cllrs Collingwood, Benner, Gallagher, Montague & Vassiliou

Voting Members: 6

Not Present: Cllr Kaur

EA1392/18 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Edmunds.

EA1393/18 Declarations of Interest

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

EA1394/18 Representations from the Public

There were no members of the public present.

EA1395/18 Minutes

Members had no comments regarding the minutes.

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5 June 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

EA1396/18 Matters Arising

EA1386/18 re EA1371/18 / EA1379/18 – Youth Project - Cllr Vassiliou advised members that the working party had met and that contact was going to be made with other local groups who provide youth activity to input their views for this project.

EA1397/18 Works List

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for circulating the Annual Works programme and invited Members to comment on the July works schedule. It was pointed out that Weston Wood was not mentioned and the Clerk advised he would update the works programme accordingly. The Clerk advised that the item referring to measurement of the Jubilee Oak tree on The Green should be deleted as this is only done once a year in October.

Resolved:

- That the Works List for July 2018 is noted.

EA1398/18 Parish Council Dog Show

The Chairman opened the item and asked the Clerk to elaborate.

The Clerk referred to the Supporting Paper circulated with the Agenda and as the paper stated that there had been some feedback from last years show from those attending on things that could be done to improve the event. The Clerk advised Members that he had received an email from a Cllr regarding some of the ideas that had been suggested

from the feedback and that the Clerk and the Cllr had considered a number of these in the past and that some were problematic due to organisational, safety and insurance reasons. The Clerk added that he continued to have that view but there was a need to try to encourage the non-winners of categories to stay for longer and, from the feedback, to provide some sort of refreshment and low key catering given the lunchtime start of the afternoon event. The Clerk advised also that an approach had been made to the Council about holding the show in the Guild of Sports ground who would make their facilities available.

A discussion followed and it was considered that Stones Orchard was a good location and was the most appropriate and that low key refreshment perhaps by offering a 'pitch' to an external mobile caterer may be a way forward to increase the attractiveness of the event.

Resolved:

- That the date of the dog show would be Sunday 23 September;
- That low key refreshment/catering be arranged.

EA1399/18 Croxley Green Beautification Project

The Chairman opened the item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk reminded Members that this was a project to install planters outside the shops in Watford Road and that progress was being made. The Cllr leading the project had identified two companies and the Clerk had found a third who would be able to provide and service planters on hire and that a site visit with one company was scheduled for the following day to discuss options.

The Clerk also advised he now had a direct named contact at Highways in order to progress the necessary permissions and it was hoped that a more detailed proposal with costings will be put before Council with a recommendation in the near future.

Members noted the update.

EA1400/18 Land Transfer

The Chairman advised that a meeting of the Land Transfer Working Party had met recently to discuss the next steps particularly in the light of an email from TRDC following a request from the Parish Council to meet with them.

The Chairman added that the TRDC's response appeared to be at odds with the policy agreed by TRDC at a meeting of the TRDC Policy & Resources Committee held on 25 January 2016 and that the Parish Council had sought clarity on the matter.

The Chairman commented that the Working Party had also considered the land associated with allotments in Croxley Green in that in January 2015, the Clerk had written to TRDC requesting the land to be transferred under a particular 1997 Act but TRDC had responded that in their view the regulations did not apply. Subsequently further legislation was also identified and the Clerk was asked to write again to TRDC requesting they review their position in the light of both pieces of legislation. The Clerk had also been requested to seek external legal advice on the question of allotment land transfer to the Parish Council.

The Chairman concluded that both he and another Councillor would be taking the land transfer of The Green and Stones orchard directly with the TRDC District Councillors for Croxley Green.

Members noted the update.

EA1401/18 Allotment for Pre-school children Project.

The Chairman introduced this matter and reminded members of the history of this proposal to encourage pre-school children to take an interest in where food comes from and to learn how to grow things.

The Clerk advised that Plot 60 had now become available in the Barton Way Allotments and had been offered to the Parish Council as being next on their waiting list. The

Clerk added that this had been accepted and the necessary paperwork with the Barton Way Allotment Association had been completed and signed by both parties. The Rangers have subsequently undertaken some preliminary tidying of the plot.

The Clerk added that although there is an existing shed on the site it was somewhat old and given the nature of the project and the involvement of pre-school children it is considered necessary to replace the shed with a new one on safety grounds. The Clerk outlined some of the ideas which the Rangers had put forward which included retaining the existing fruit plants on one side of the plot and that new raised beds using wooden sleepers be installed. This would minimise weed intrusion from ground level and make tending the areas easier for the children and new grass paths would be made between the raised beds. It would be the intention to prepare the plot for planting in February/March 2019.

The Chairman added that it was his intention of setting up a 'young' Facebook page to bring attention to the project to parents in Croxley Green and to engender interest. The Chairman added that he would be discussing the operational detail of the project with the Clerk and the Rangers and to review the budgetary requirements for the project.

Resolved:

- That a new 8' x 6' shed be purchased from the existing project budget.

EA1402/18 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:48pm