

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON TUESDAY 5 JULY 2011 AT 8.00pm

Present Cllr Dann – In the Chair Amanda Taft – Minute Taker

Cllrs Bennett, Edmunds, Getkahn, Ridley, Shafe and Vane

Voting Members: 7

In attendance: Cllrs Baldwin and Brand

Public: Steve Williams of Croxley Camera Club

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and suggested that as there was such a full agenda, Members keep their comments brief and to the point.

EA775/11 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Brading and Seeley. The Chairman also apologised that the Clerk was absent due to illness.

EA776/11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

EA777/11 Representations from the Public

There were no representations from the public.

EA778/11 Minutes

Resolved:

- that the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2011 be approved and be signed by the Chairman.

EA779/11 Matters Arising

EA767/11 (Representations from the Public). It was pointed out that a member of the public had spoken about Dickinson Square which was not an item on the agenda.

[Post meeting note from the Clerk: representations from the public should relate to specific items on the agenda].

EA769/11 (Matters Arising; EA761/11 Matters Arising; EA750/11 British Waterways Adopter Scheme). An update was requested and it was advised that the Clerk had given an update on this matter at the recent Council meeting and that as per the July active works list a walk/inspection along the stretch of towpath concerned would be undertaken.

EA770/11 (Active Works List). The matter of the overgrown hedge by the bus stop on Baldwins Lane was raised and it was advised that this matter had been reported to Hertfordshire Highways.

The Chairman was asked if item EA785/11 could be moved up the agenda to this point and the Chairman permitted this.

EA785/11 Photographs of Croxley Green

This matter was introduced by the Chairman and a discussion regarding locations, copyright and frequency of photographs ensued. It was advised that the copyright remains with the photographer but is easy to assign to another. It was suggested that potential locations could be submitted to the office. The representative from the Camera Club stated that they have a webmaster who would probably help (at no charge) with managing the photographs on the website.

Resolved:

- that this Committee adopts the idea in principle subject to ratification by Council following further liaison between Cllr Ridley and the Camera Club. Subject suggestions are to be given to the office

EA780/11 Active Works List

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

It was asked why there are two lines dividing the monthly works.

[Post meeting note: the works below the lines are one-off tasks for the month and the works above the lines are the annual works for the month].

It was asked if the Rangers water with rainwater or tap water.

[Post meeting note: whenever possible rainwater is used].

It was asked how many bus stops the Parish Council is responsible for and it was advised that both the brick and wooden bus stops adjacent to and opposite All Saints' Church are the responsibility of the Parish Council.

School Gardening Clubs – it was asked what 'help out' comprises of and if, when the Rangers have attended the school gardening clubs, they could give a description of the type of help they have given. It was also asked whether the time spent at the schools was logged and it was confirmed that the time spent at the schools would have been logged by the Rangers on their day sheets.

It was asked why the broken bench on the Green (next to Copthorne Road) was being replaced and whose responsibility it was.

[Post meeting note from the Clerk: this was a 'wish list' item if arrangements could be made with TRDC for replacement].

It was pointed out that 'plant new hedge on bunding' at the Community Centre was actually on the Guild of Sport's land which is leased from Three Rivers District Council and although they were not complaining about this, they would have liked to have been advised.

Although not on the agenda, a Cllr reminded Members that the Guild of Sport had, around two years ago, applied for a grant which was given in the form of the Rangers' time for cutting the Guild's field. It was advised that this was never taken up due to the then manager of the Guild of Sport and it was asked if the Guild could now utilise this grant. The Chairman advised that this matter be taken up with the Clerk and it was suggested that it would then have to be put before Council.

EA781/11 Dog Waste

The Chairman introduced this item and Cllrs requested that the Clerk asks for references, asks how long the company have been in operation and if we would be locked in on a contract. A Cllr pointed out that our current contractor is appallingly bad and this matter is one that should have been left to the Clerk to decide as an administrative procedure.

Resolved:

- That the Committee recommends to Council that subject to adequate and favourable references we move this suggestion subject to the terms of the agreement and the proposal was agreed.

EA782/11 Orphan Land, Watford Road (A412) junction with Sycamore Approach

A brief discussion regarding the email sent by Alan Davis on 6 May 2011 arose and members generally felt that if Lambert Smith Hampton had arranged for the work to be carried out we should let them as it may involve huge costs.

Resolved:

- That the Clerk writes to Mr Davis saying thank you for your email and thank you for offering to undertake the renewed maintenance programme to include the work detailed in his email of 6 May 2011 and that the Parish Council is under no obligation to do work there and the proposal was agreed.

It was asked if Robin Barber could be contacted to ask if TRDC have any involvement in the maintenance of the land. It was pointed out by a Cllr that in the minutes of 4 January, it stated that Hertfordshire Highways had admitted ownership of the land.

EA783/11 Stones Orchard

The Chairman opened this item and a Cllr suggested that the Parish Council could put more information about the types of trees in Stones Orchard on the website. The suggestion was that rather than have memorial plaques in the Orchard, residents can purchase a tree in memory of a loved one and could be involved in the planting and then the memorial would go on the website rather than in the Orchard.

The Chairman advised that there had been a tree planting programme some years ago and a tree database would be helpful to make it known what is there and what is planned for the future.

It was advised that Cllr Seeley had asked Cllr Edmunds to bring to the Committee concerns that the Orchard is being turned into a memorial garden and the Orchard is not the right or proper place. There were concerns that memorials and the accoutrements that often accompany them were not appropriate.

Resolved:

- That the Clerk enquires of TRDC tree officers to find out what database they have, what software they use and if we can share it and/or use a copy on our website and the proposal was agreed.

It was asked if the Rangers could check and report back on the plaque on the walnut tree in the Orchard as the wood backing is deteriorating. It was also pointed out that reverence must be given to the existing plaques.

The Chairman added that once the tree database has been obtained, the Committee could then take forward the adopt / buy a tree initiative and Council could discuss the recommendations on the supporting papers further.

EA784/11 Croxley Rail Link

The Chairman introduced this item and a plan showing the path of Croxley Rail Link was handed to those present. It was advised that the children's play area at Two Bridges would have to be moved or changed. It was generally considered that as we have no detail at this stage we cannot put alternative suggestions forward although it was considered that it would be useful to define the primary users of the play area. It was requested that the Clerk contacts Peter Kerr at Three Rivers District Council and asks to be copied in on all correspondence so that we can take any necessary actions at the appropriate time.

EA785/11 Photographs of Croxley Green

This item was discussed after Matters Arising - see pages 1-2.

EA786/11 Earth Mound in Baldwins Lane Park

This matter was introduced and a discussion began about the location, size and content of the earth mound. It was advised that youths gather behind the mound and that it was believed to be a site for drug activity. It was considered that if the mound was removed, the activity would move to another site and members generally felt that the problem rather than the mound should be addressed. The Chairman suggested it

would be helpful for the Police Community Support Officers, Police and District Councillor Roger Seabourne to become involved to try to deal with this problem. The Chairman stated that he would contact Cllr Seabourne to involve TRDC and the police about this problem. It was also felt that the PCSOs should give advice to residents about reporting issues so that the location becomes a 'hot spot' for policing. It was also felt that this would be a helpful subject for an article for the Parish Pump.

It was also asked that the Clerk contacts TRDC to ask what is under the mound.

EA787/11 Tree Bulletin

The supplement of tree works circulated with the Agenda was noted.

EA788/11 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.