

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON TUESDAY 7 APRIL 2009 AT 8.00 pm

- Present Cllr Seeley in the Chair A Taft – Administrative Assistant
Cllrs Birch, Brading, Dann, Norman and Shafe
Voting Members: 6
- EA559/09 Apologies for Absence
Apologies were received from Cllrs C Jefford, Martin and Vassiliou.
- EA560/09 Declarations of Interest
The Chairman recommended that declarations of interest be made throughout the meeting if necessary.
- EA561/09 Representations from the Public
There were no public present.
- EA562/09 Minutes
It was proposed by Cllr Shafe and seconded by Cllr Brading that the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2009 be approved as correct. The proposal was agreed and the Chairman signed the minutes.
- EA563/09 Matters Arising
EA552/09 (Parish Pump Magazine). An update was requested and Cllr Shafe advised that the magazine was almost complete as there was only one page, five adverts and photographs yet to be inserted. The articles had all been proof read and the magazine is booked for delivery during the week commencing 27 April 2009. The Chairman suggested that mention should be made in the magazine that Cllr Shafe had edited the magazine and Cllr Shafe stated that she would be listed with the Committee on the back page. Cllr Shafe added that Cllr Martin had proof-read all the articles and had been instrumental in getting the magazine to this stage.
Cllr Norman then requested that the booklet created by Amanda Taft of clubs, groups and societies in Croxley Green be distributed to Cllrs for their comments.
- EA564/09 Active Works List
The Chairman introduced this item and Members were referred to the Active Works List that had been circulated with the Agenda.
It was asked if the nesting boxes that had been installed in the woods could accommodate owls, Amanda Taft replied that the boxes were for small birds. It was then asked if the Rangers could make and install some boxes suitable for owls.
The subject of watering the flower beds, planters and trough was raised and it was asked if the Rangers were mindful of their obligation to water these plants and also the newly planted roses on the Two Bridges roundabout. Amanda Taft stated that she would mention both of these issues to the Rangers.
- EA565/09 Flowers 4 Croxley Constitution
This item was introduced by the Chairman and Members were referred to the draft Constitution that had been circulated with the Agenda. After a brief discussion which acknowledged that the Constitution may need to be expanded in the future, it was recommended that the last aim be amended to read 'To raise **and manage**

funds in order to achieve the above'. It was proposed by Cllr Dann and seconded by Cllr Seeley that the amended draft Constitution be recommended to Council for ratification and the proposal was agreed.

EA566/09

Play Areas

The Chairman introduced this item and Cllr Shafe was asked to give an update. Cllr Shafe stated that she and Cllr Martin had met with Alison Phin of Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) last week and it had been confirmed that the multi-sports court could have the surface marking work undertaken as soon as possible. Three quotations had been received ranging from £3,500 - £4,000 and Cllrs Martin and Shafe were currently looking at the best deal in terms of guarantees.

The markings are to include footprints, a road to practice balance and steering as well as hopscotch, jump lines and targets. Cllrs Martin and Shafe hoped to hold an open morning when a play leader from the chosen company will attend to show the children how to play to make the best use of the markings. It was suggested that the Three Rivers Times, summer holiday leaflets or leaflets given out at schools advertising of the open morning would be a good way of promoting the open morning.

It had been agreed that the Barton Way play area would be extended and would incorporate an adult section as well as provision for toddlers but would be primarily aimed at 7 – 15 year olds. It was hoped that seating or picnic tables could also be installed. It was hopeful that Hertfordshire County Council would give funding of £50,000, TRDC have agreed to £120,000 and Croxley Green Parish Council had already agreed £20,000 in its recent budget. The intention was to consult with different groups and Cllrs Martin and Shafe would be involved in meetings and discussions regarding this scheme. The likely time span until completion of Barton Way play area is 18 months.

EA567/09

Community Centre/Village Hall

The Chairman introduced this item and in the absence of the Clerk read out a briefing paper that had been prepared by Croxley Green Community Centre (CGCC). The document read as follows:-

“Agreement between Croxley Green Parish Council & Croxley Green Community Centre

Residents of Croxley Green may now get free membership to CGCC, which needs to be activated by collecting a form from the Parish Council or CGCC. This then needs to be returned to PC to be checked that they are on the electoral roll.

This activation entitles the local residents to use the Community Centre facilities free of charge. They would then be able to join us for any events we put on.

With regard to Hall Hire if a local non-profit making organisation wants to hire the hall, they can do this for free as long as some sort of proof has been given that they are not charging people entrance or attendance fees.”

It was asked if a membership card would be issued and Amanda Taft confirmed this to be the case. It was then asked when the external refurbishment would be taking place. Cllr Norman stated that CGCC wanted to put bunding up alongside the building as this could prevent future flooding; this would also mean that access to the Guild of Sport would be via the footpath and not through the car park.

The Chairman requested that a bin be installed outside CGCC and also that the Parish Council Rangers complement the litter picking and sweeping undertaken by Sodexo. Cllr Norman offered to speak to Robin Barber at TRDC about the litter bin and Cllrs agreed to the litter picking and sweeping of CGCC's external area by the Rangers. It was hoped that the other planned external works could be moved forward and also that signage indicating it to be Croxley Green's Village Hall be installed. After further discussion it was requested that this item be placed on the

next Council Agenda for discussion regarding Cllr/s becoming involved on their Board.

Cllr Brading stated that he had been asked by the Guild of Sport and Social Club to see if the Parish Council would be willing to fund them on a capitation basis of £1 per resident in return for membership for Croxley Green residents.

EA568/09

Electricity

The Chairman introduced this item as she had requested that it be placed on this Agenda. The Chairman stated that she would like to see 'better housekeeping' as all the lights are always on and the building is usually over-heated. Better housekeeping by the Parish Council would result in saving money, be kind to the environment and set a good example.

It was recommended that the Rangers open all the shutters every day to allow more natural light into the building and that the heating be turned down, especially over the weekends. Amanda Taft stated that she would advise the Rangers of Cllrs requests. It was also suggested that advice be sought regarding additional insulation and movement sensor lighting.

[Post Meeting Note: The last quarterly electricity bill (estimated) dated 12 February 2009 was for £998.63]

EA569/09

Tree Bulletin

There were no tree works to note.

EA570/09

Closure

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.08pm.