

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON TUESDAY 7 JUNE 2011 AT 8.00pm

Present Cllr Seeley – In the Chair

David Allison – Clerk
Amanda Taft – Minute Taker

Cllrs Bennett, Brading, Edmunds, Ridley and Shafe

Voting Members: 6

In attendance: Cllrs Baldwin, Brand, Isard-Brown, Jordan and Martin

Public: 1

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Apologies had been received from Cllrs Dann, Getkahn and Vane.

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

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Representations were made by one person on two matters:

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Dickinson Square (four photographs were circulated)

“These four photographs were taken today at about 3.30pm in Dickinson Square. This historic garden in a Conservation Area is maintained, I believe, by Hertfordshire County Council. The grass remains uncut, the trees are overhanging to such an extent that the grass underneath them is brown and dying, rubbish remains uncollected from the waste bins, the borders are full of weeds and the shrubs and other flora have been left to go wild. Dickinson Square is not a wildlife garden, it is a Victorian formal garden surrounded by some of the oldest houses in Croxley and it should be maintained in a state suitable for community use.

I would ask that this Committee consider writing to Hertfordshire County Council asking them why they are allowing this important and historic part of Croxley to fall into disuse and explore ways of allowing the Parish Council to take over the maintenance contract for the Square in order to keep it in the condition it deserves.”

EA772/11 Two Bridges Roundabout

“I would like to speak on agenda item EA772/11 (Two Bridges Roundabout) as I, in my capacity as a Councillor and Temporary Office Manager for the Council between December 2010 and March 2011 was directly responsible for the removal of trees and shrubs on the aforementioned roundabout.

As a result of a staff discussion I contacted the company directly responsible for the maintenance of the roundabout, a company called UK Roundabouts. Via an exchange of emails, the Council obtained authority from them to go onto the roundabout and undertake remedial work to make the area look better and more visually appealing to those persons entering and leaving Croxley. Copies of these email authorising us to do this work were on file up to March 2011. At no point did UK Roundabouts indicate to me that they did not have authority to authorise this work. Had they done so then of course I would have approached the correct authority to seek authorisation to carry out the work as we had done on a number of occasions previously. So I thought we had authority from an authority who thought they had authority to give us authority. In hindsight, we now know that authority, UK Roundabouts was not the correct authority.

However, other than a couple of people, I received a large number of compliments from members of the public who believe the area to be much more visually appealing and more importantly safer for drivers entering the roundabout as they can now see who, what and where vehicles are in relation to their own position.”

EA768/11 Minutes**Resolved:**

- that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2011 be approved and be signed by the Chairman.

EA769/11 Matters Arising

EA761/11 (Matters Arising; EA735/11 Dog Waste Disposal) The Clerk apologised that the subject of dog waste was not on this agenda adding that the office had sourced a cheaper contractor. However, the Clerk advised that due to time constraints the supporting paper had not been prepared. The Clerk was again asked about the lack of dog waste bins on pavements and the Chairman stated that people would not want a dog waste bin near their home.

EA761/11 (Matters Arising; EA750/11 British Waterways Adopter Scheme) The Clerk reported that he had spoken to Karen Fishwick to discuss how best to move this project forward and a meeting had been scheduled so that a plan could be developed.

EA770/11 Active Works List

The Chairman introduced this item and Members were referred to the new-style, more comprehensive, active works list for June. The Clerk stated that he intends to bring a complete 12 month schedule to the Committee, after which only exceptional items will be listed.

The Clerk was asked if the litter bins at the Green and Stones Orchard were only emptied once per week (Fridays) and the Clerk confirmed this to be the case.

It was pointed out to the Clerk that using a petrol powered blower to 'blow' was a bad addition to our carbon footprint apart from the fact that the debris blown is merely moved from one place to another. It was suggested that a broom could be used to sweep the debris which could then be removed. The Clerk acknowledged these comments and said he would advise the rangers accordingly.

It was pointed out that the hedge by the bus stop at the bottom of Baldwins Lane should be cut more frequently as it is dangerous. The Clerk advised that this was the responsibility of Highways and the Chairman asked the Clerk to report the matter to them.

The Clerk was asked what was meant by 'Waste Transfer Depot – Empty trailer when needed' and the Clerk clarified that the trailer is emptied of arisings and rubbish on an as and when required basis.

It was pointed out that over the last 6-9 months, Stones Orchard has looked a trifle sanitised and manicured. It was requested that a slightly longer edging is left around the hedges. It was also reported that when the hedges are cut, the cuttings are left and dogs have had thorns in their paws. It was asked that a copy of the Management Plan be sent to Cllrs (copy enclosed with these Minutes).

EA771/11 Public Liability Insurance for Flowers 4 Croxley

The Chairman declared an interest in this item. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council's Public Liability insurance had been increased from £5m to £10m at no extra cost and also that the insurance now covered volunteers who are involved in Parish Council activities. Members noted this information.

It was asked if the Flowers 4 Croxley Constitution would be updated. The Chairman (who is the Chairman for Flowers 4 Croxley) advised that as well as herself, the Committee is comprised of Mrs Jefford, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Grant, Mrs Perry and the rangers.

EA772/11 Two Bridges Roundabout

The Chairman introduced this matter and the Clerk was asked if any complaints regarding the work at the roundabout had been received. The Clerk advised that he had only received positive feedback. A Councillor added that visibility for pedestrians had been enormously improved. The Clerk also added that the Parish Council has statutory powers to undertake Highways works.

The Clerk was asked if there was a list stating what land we were responsible for and the Clerk clarified that the only land in the ownership of the Parish Council was that on which the depot was built. There was no proposal put to the Committee for consideration.

EA773/11 Tree Bulletin

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

EA774/11 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.29pm.