

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON TUESDAY 1 February 2011 AT 8.00 pm

Present Cllr Norman – In the Chair Cllr M Saxon – Office Manager

Cllrs Brading, Jefford, Martin, Seeley, Shafe, Birch

In attendance: Cllr Wynne-Jones

Voting Members: 7

EA731/11 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Dann & Vassilliou

EA732/11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

EA733/10 Representations from the Public

Nil

EA734/11 Minutes

Resolved:

- that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 January 2011 be approved and be signed by the Chairman.

EA735/11 Matters Arising

CC 823/10 British Waterways Adopter Scheme – Awaits further information from Karen Fishwick at BW.

Action: Office Manager to chase up

EA716/10 Dog Waste Disposal. Cllr Brading informed the meeting about the Three Rivers 'in house' collection scheme. He indicated that he thought the workforce would have the capability to undertake the additional collection of our 41 bins and that the cost may be such that the Parish Council do not suffer an increase in 'Special Expenses' It was noted that a TRDC figure of £3 per dog bin per collection may have been notified originally, but that since the service is now undertaken by its own workforce the figures were no longer relevant.

The Committee considered the pros and cons of our own collection and decided to keep the status quo and review the matter dependent on any price increases.

Post Meeting Note: The cost of each collection from our own contractors is £2.91 per bin.

EA736/11 Active Works List

The Chairman introduced this item and Members were referred to the active works list which was circulated with the agenda.

It was requested that Hertfordshire Highways Rights of Way Dept be contacted with regard to remedial action being undertaken on the chain link fence between the footpath at Owens Way leading to The Green.

Action: Photo taken of fence and email sent to Judy Raymond at HCC

It was requested that Peter Brooker be contacted at Three Rivers District Council concerning the enforcement of a 'No Parking' area outside the 'Dugdales' Cottages on The Green and the **Blue Chippings** placed outside one of the houses there.

Action: Photo taken and Peter Brooker emailed for the information of Peter Kerr & Julie Hughes.

Note: email reply from Peter Kerr shown below.

Dear Councillor Saxon

Peter Brooker has forwarded your email and photograph to me.

There are no parking restrictions at this location nor any proposed at the present time.

This Council has no budget available for new environmental improvement works in the current financial year.

All I can do is add to the list of schemes for consideration in the financial year 2011/12, and see whether any of the authorities - County Council, District Council or Parish Council - might be prepared (singly or in partnership) to fund improvements to the edge of the Green and the highway.

Regards

Peter Kerr

It was requested that Julie Hughes at Three Rivers District Council be contacted concerning the listed hedge outside Clarendon Cottage on The Green and also the 'A' frame chalkboard that was situated outside the Coach & Horses Public House. It was also noted that any Estate Agents boards appearing on The Green should also be notified to Julie Hughes.

Action: Photos taken of Clarendon Cottage hedge and the chalkboard and emailed to Julie Hughes.

Cllr Norman asked that he be notified on what chemicals are being used during the spraying operations.

Action: Rangers to be notified of this request.

Note: Information passed to Cllr Norman 2.2.11

EA737/11

School Garden Clubs

The Chairman introduced this item and Members were referred to the report which had been written by the Office Manager and circulated with the agenda.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin and seconded by Councillor Seeley that the recommendations contained in the report be accepted.

Action: Active works list for March – October to be amended to include details of the visits to schools.

Note: Information on the Malvern Way and Rickmansworth School clubs are still awaited.

Action: Cllr Shafe to seek advice regarding the necessity of obtaining individual CRB checks for each school.

EA738/11

Orphan Land, Watford Road

Awaits information on ownership from Julie Munro at Hertfordshire Highways via their land agents Lambert Smith Hampton.

Action: Office Manager to chase up

It was asked that Herts Highways were contacted regarding the overhanging ivy at this location.

Action: Photo to be taken and email sent to Herts Highways offering the services of the Rangers if necessary.

Note: Fault reference 1611001 refers.

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EA739/11

Parish Pump

This item was introduced by the Chairman who asked Cllr Martin to elaborate.

Four options were considered by the committee. 1) Keep the format as it is, 2) Shrink the size to a newsletter style, 3) Have a smaller print run and make copies available at specified locations and 4) Scrap it altogether.

There was considerable discussion on the pros and cons of each option. It was generally felt that the Parish Pump should continue in its current form as it was an important statement from the Council and that it should look significantly different from all the other monthly and periodical publications that are published in the area.

There was also some discussion on the advertising revenue collection but it was thought that the Administrative Assistant undertook this role very well.

It was proposed by Councillor Seeley and seconded by Councillor Jefford that Councillor Martin become the Editor of the Parish Pump and that publication move forwards to an early April date.

Action: Administrative Assistant to undertake make up of magazine.

Office Manager to contact Metro Printing to establish costs of producing a 4,8,12 or 16 page publication.

Note: Email sent 2.2.11 Awaits reply.

Office Manager to contact distribution agents for costings of next delivery.

Note: Email sent 2.2.11 Reply received 2.2.11 = £425 per delivery.

Parish Councillors to provide articles for publication.

EA740/11 Replacement dog waste bin

Complete

EA741/11 Bird Boxes

This item was introduced by the Chairman who asked Cllr Wynne-Jones to elaborate.

There was discussion over the merits of this suggestion especially as the Parish Council would appear to be a conduit between the schools and the RSPB.

The necessity of providing nesting places was not questioned due to the dwindling numbers of songs birds within the area.

The increase in 'carrion' birds, such as magpies and crows as well as the feeding of bread and other unsuitable fillers was considered to be one reason for the decline.

It was agreed that although an excellent idea, the schools themselves should be encouraged to contact the RSPB direct in order to obtain best advice regarding bird-boxes.

EA742/11 Tree Bulletin

There were no tree works to note.

EA743/11 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.04 pm.