

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2009 AT 8.00 pm

- Present Cllr Seeley in the Chair D Allison – Clerk to the Council
A Taft – Minute Taker
- Cllrs Birch, Brading, C Jefford, Martin, Norman, Shafe and Vassiliou
Not Present: Cllr Dann
Voting Members: 8
- EA533/09 Apologies for Absence
There were no apologies to note.
- EA534/09 Declarations of Interest
The Chairman recommended that declarations of interest be made throughout the meeting if necessary.
- EA535/09 Representations from the Public
There were no public present.
- EA536/09 Minutes
It was proposed by Cllr Shafe and seconded by Cllr Norman that the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2009 be approved as correct. The proposal was agreed and the Chairman signed the minutes.
- EA537/09 Matters Arising
Cllr Vassiliou requested it be recorded that at the meeting of 6 January, it was stated that the sum of £120,000 had been proposed by Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) towards Barton Way play area in Croxley Green. Following budget approval there will also be £20,000 from Croxley Green Parish Council towards Barton Way play area too.
EA529/09 (Budget 2009/2010 and beyond; 4038/203 Maintenance Contracts). The Clerk was asked about the outcome of his meeting with Peter Brooker to which he replied that he reported on it at Council this will be recorded in the Council Minutes.
- EA538/09 Active Works List
The Chairman introduced this item and the Clerk referred Members to the Active Works List that had been circulated with the Agenda. The Active Works List was noted.
- EA539/09 'Flowers in Croxley' Update
The Chairman advised that the next meeting of Flowers in Croxley will be on Monday 9th February and that a representative from each of the schools had been invited to discuss the school flower beds and there was an open invitation for all Cllrs to attend. The Chairman added that work had begun on the roundabout at Two Bridges and also that Cllr Dann had very kindly taken cuttings of last year's geraniums and was also planting seeds.
- EA540/09 Planting of Commemorative Tree
The Chairman introduced this item and handed over to Cllr Norman who advised that a grant of £500 had been awarded by the Chilterns Conservation Board to which the Parish Council needed to contribute 25% ie £125. This came as a result of Cllr Martin's article on Commemorative Trees on the Green in the Autumn/Winter edition of the Parish Pump (a copy of which was sent to the Chilterns Conservation Board). After discussions with TRDC, it had been agreed

that a tree or trees would be planted in Stones Orchard to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. The Clerk added that he hoped to obtain a semi-mature Caroon (Hertfordshire Black) or several saplings and that the existing Caroon trees in the Orchard may need to be grafted now for future planting. The Clerk added that he would send an invitation to Buckingham Palace for a ceremony at Stones Orchard. It was proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Seeley that £125 be contributed by the Parish Council as the 25% contribution towards the grant.

EA541/09

Access to Stones Orchard from the Guild of Sport Sports Ground

This item was introduced by the Chairman and the Clerk read out a statement from Cllr Brand in his role of Vice-Chairman of Croxley Green Guild of Sport which read:

“As Vice-Chairman of the Guild of Sport I'd just like to update the Parish Council on our plans to restrict public access through our ground into Stones Orchard.

Due to certain irresponsible dog owners who walk their animals on our football pitches has made this or has forced us to take this action.

We are a very successful football club with 23 football teams two of which are juniors (the ages of the Junior players range from under 6's to 18 years). (It is also our intention to form a ladies team in the very near future). The Guild is the only sports venue in the Croxley area to cater for all age groups, young and old. Our bowls and tennis sections are the envy of other similar clubs in the Three Rivers area.

There is nothing worse but to find dog 'poo' on our playing areas where our teams play. Before any football match can be played we have to inspect the pitches and remove any dog dirt. You may not be aware we could be penalised by the FA for not keeping our pitches clean.

Before any decision was made to restrict access legal advice was sought from TRDC and our own legal advisor. We referred to our Lease Agreement with TRDC which shows there is no 'legal right of way' into Stones Orchard through our playing fields. The only 'right of way' is from Yorke Mead School to Community Way.

Reluctantly we have been made to take this action and I sincerely mean reluctantly due to actions of a few, others suffer.

I would also point out we have decided to prosecute anyone male or female found to commit criminal damage to our fence.

I'm sure you will all appreciate our stand.”

The Clerk stated that there had been a meeting last week and that he would contact Sally Evans of TRDC tomorrow for an update although it was hoped that a compromise could be reached that would satisfy all concerned.

EA542/09

Garden Competition Presentation

This item was introduced by the Chairman and Cllr Jefford advised that 56 people were expected to attend the presentation evening on Thursday at 7.30pm. Cllr Norman would be presenting the certificates and all Cllrs were welcome to attend and help clear up afterwards.

EA543/09

Chairman's Charity Quiz Night

The Chairman introduced this item and Cllr Jefford informed those present that the Charity Quiz Night in aid of Herts Air Ambulance would be held on 21 February

2009 and help setting up, donations of raffle prizes and Cllr participation in the quiz itself would be most welcome.

EA544/09

Tree Bulletin

The supplement which was available at the meeting detailing applications for work to trees in Croxley Green was noted by Cllrs.

EA545/09

Closure

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.46pm.