

## CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present Cllr Norman in the Chair D Allison – Clerk to the Council  
A Taft – Administrative Assistant

Cllrs Brading, Dann, C Jefford, Martin, Seeley, Shafe and Vassiliou

Voting Members: 8

Public: 10 but reduced to 6 after the first public representation.

EA581/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Birch.

EA582/09 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and recommended that any declarations of interest be made throughout the meeting if necessary. No declarations of interest were given throughout the meeting.

EA583/09 Representations from the Public

Representations were made by one member of the public concerning item EA587/09 below (although as the 3 minutes allowed under Standing Order 36e was exceeded, the representations were concluded by another person). It was stated that although the COMMA funding had been applied for by the Parish Council, allocation of the under spend had bypassed the approval of the Flowers 4 Croxley group. It was alleged that the Parish Council have stalled Flowers 4 Croxley's schedule by restricting the Rangers' time, yet for the past year their time had been used effectively. The initial speaker then attempted to circulate a printed copy of the full representation made, together with accompanying documents to Cllrs. However, the Chairman advised that this was not in keeping with the protocol and etiquette in meetings must be maintained.

Four members of public left at this point in the meeting.

Representations were also made by another member of the public who, in regard to the previous representations hoped that a sensible solution could be achieved. In his role as Chairman of the Residents Association, he stated on their behalf that they would be very keen to see a Youth Club and they have members who would be willing to act as volunteers. He concluded by stating that the Keep Croxley Green Group would like to see village ponds of any size restored, reinstated or created in Croxley Green.

EA584/09 Minutes

The Clerk informed Members that under item EA574/09 (Minutes) it read 'Standing Order 38(f)I refers' when in fact it should read 'Standing Order 38(f)(i)'. It was proposed by Cllr Brading and seconded by Cllr Martin that the amended Minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2009 be approved as correct. The proposal was agreed and the Chairman signed the minutes.

EA585/09 Matters Arising

EA575/09 (Matters Arising; EA563/09 Matters Arising; EA552/09 Parish Pump Magazine). The Clerk was asked if, as stated, a copy of the correspondence was circulated with the Minutes and the Clerk and Cllrs confirmed it had been.

EA578/09 (Flowers 4 Croxley Partnership). Thanks were again given to the Cllr who over wintered the plants and apologies were given that some had still not been

planted.

With regard to the final paragraph of this Minute in which a Cllr's concerns about the lack of volunteers and the increasing drain on the Rangers' time had been noted, it was advised that there were now 20 volunteers who had recently planted the barrels, horse trough and containers at Scots Hill. However, one day of the Ranger's time will be needed to prepare and plant the beds on the Watford Road although it was advised that three or four volunteers would be available to assist. The Chairman stated that he would discuss the use of the Ranger's time with the Clerk. A Cllr suggested that an agreement 'pro tempore' was made at an appropriate level with an understanding of the number of hours needed for the future. It was asked how much time the Rangers spent in the last quarter and it was acknowledged that the Administrative Assistant had spent a significant amount of time and effort on the recent TRDC grant application.

*[Post Meeting Note: The total time spent on Flowers 4 Croxley by the Rangers (ie excluding admin and Management time) during the period of April – June was 73 hours and 35 minutes.]*

EA586/09

This item was discussed after EA587/09

#### Active Works List

The Chairman introduced this item and Members were referred to the Active Works List that had been previously circulated with the Agenda.

The Clerk was asked to remove the weekly Summer task of watering the horse trough as this task was no longer undertaken by the Rangers.

Under June works undertaken, a Cllr stated that one of the works listed; 'remove rubbish from Watford Road flower beds' was wrong. The Clerk replied that he had been advised of this by the Rangers via their day sheet.

*[Post Meeting Note: This was reported by the Rangers on their day sheets of 10 June 2009.]*

This led to a discussion about the Active Works List not being detailed enough in that it did not detail the time spent on each task. The Clerk advised Members that the Rangers' day sheets were available at the office for inspection by Cllrs and the Chairman added that the Clerk could be asked if further information was deemed necessary.

The Clerk was asked if, now that there is only one Ranger, he is unable to undertake some jobs and the Clerk confirmed that this was the case as some jobs required two men. It was then proposed by Cllr Brading and seconded by Cllr Seeley that the Ranger is allocated to Flowers 4 Croxley for one day or whatever time is necessary to prepare and plant the beds on Watford Road.

The Clerk was asked about the Maintenance Contract for the Green and Stones Orchard and the Clerk advised that this item was on the Agenda for the next Council meeting.

The Clerk was asked if the rumours about the Parish Council no longer maintaining the footpaths was true and the Clerk clarified that the Parish Council has a P3 Agreement with Countryside Management Service (CMS) for 18 footpaths in Croxley Green and therefore this rumour was not true.

EA587/09

This item was discussed before EA586/09

#### COMMA Funding – Grant to the Parish Council for Harvester Roundabout Planting

This item was introduced by the Chairman who advised Members that due to good purchasing power of the roses for the roundabout at Two Bridges there had been an under spend of the COMMA funding. Due to stipulations of the grant, the project needed to be completed and a completion form signed by the Clerk prior to his imminent annual leave.

Due to the fact that this item did not have a supporting paper or recommendation, it was proposed by Cllr Brading and seconded by Cllr Shafe that this item be deferred until such time as a supporting paper and recommendation were available.

*[Post Meeting Note: Copies of correspondence will be included with the supporting papers and will follow in due course].*

EA588/09 Youth Club at Village Hall

The Chairman introduced this item and advised Members that the subject of a youth club had been requested to be placed on the Agenda by a Cllr in order that ideas and suggestions could be discussed. Members were generally in favour of a youth club but agreed that consideration needs to be given as to how it would be set up and run; the age range/target audience and who could help. It was suggested that Three Rivers District Council may undertake a consultation with young people. It was asked who would do all the research and the Chairman stated that if this is put before Council, a Cllr may volunteer to oversee this project.

The Clerk was asked to find out if any of the neighbouring Parish Council's run youth clubs and if so what activities take place and these responses will form the supporting paper for discussion at Council.

EA589/09 Review of Village Ponds

This item was introduced by the Chairman who informed those present that six months ago, the Parish Council wrote to CMS regarding the pond at the corner of Croxley House by the entrance to Killingdown Farm. CMS replied giving advice about how to maintain the edges of the pond, which is actually not a pond but a drain. They added that it might need to be dredged out but it was not a likely space. The Chairman was asked if it would be suitable if it had a soakaway or a liner to which he replied that that would be for CMS to decide in the first instance and then TRDC to approve.

It was proposed by Cllr Brading and seconded by Cllr Dann that the Parish Council approach CMS and Julie Hughes of TRDC and the proposal was agreed.

EA590/09 Tree Bulletin

The supplement of tree works available at the meeting were noted. One Member asked which type of bird was nesting in the Scots Pine tree (Reference 09/0715/TPO) and the Clerk advised that he had not been informed of this.

*[Post Meeting Note: A TRDC Officer has since advised that he did not see any activity in the nest although it was obviously in use and regardless of species, all birds are protected.]*

EA591/09 Closure

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.13pm.