

HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL
LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 14 JUNE 2016 AT 7.30 P.M.
AT PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES

PRESENT: Mr Hatcher, Mr Hough, Ms Kift, Mr Ridley, Mr Robinson (Chairman),
Mr South and Mr Woolley

The Clerk was in attendance.

1 member of the public was also present

DARCH'S WOOD

Mr Plant, Chairman of Cross-in-Hand Amenities Society spoke to the Committee about management of the wood, including work already carried out, for which a contribution from the Parish Council was requested and work planned for the current financial year. He also mentioned the Society's wish to clear the silt ponds at a cost of approximately £5,000.

The meeting commenced at 7.38 p.m.

16/36 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

Mr Robinson was nominated as Chairman by Mr South, seconded by Mr Ridley. A vote was taken and he was unanimously re-elected as Chairman of the Committee.

Mr Woolley was nominated as Vice Chairman by Mr Hatcher, seconded by Mr Ridley. A vote was taken and he was re-elected as Vice-Chairman of the Committee. Mr South asked that his vote against be recorded.

16/37 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Fraser, Mr Hart, Ms Robinson, Mr Stevens, Mr Waterhouse and Mr Wood.

16/38 **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The following disclosures had previously been made by Members.

All Members of the Parish Council had an interest in respect of the sole trusteeship of Waldron Recreation Ground Charity.

Mr Hough disclosed personal interests in respect of Lucas Hall Management Committee and the Cattam Committee as the Parish Council's representative and as treasurer of the Lucas Hall Management Committee.

Mr South disclosed a personal interest in respect of Darch's Wood as the Parish

Council's representative on the Cross-in-Hand Amenities Society.

16/39 **TO RECEIVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 MARCH 2016**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Leisure, Environment and Recreation Committee meeting held on 15 March 2016, having been previously circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

16/40 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

16/41 **BUDGETARY MONITORING REPORTS AS AT 31 MARCH AND 30 APRIL 2016**

The reports were duly noted and approved.

16/42 **EMERGENCY WORKS ADDITIONAL TO CONTRACT AS AT 31 MARCH 2016**

No works had been carried out.

16/43 **REPORTS ON RECREATION GROUNDS**

16/43a **Lucas Hall and House, Waldron**

Following approval by the WRG Trustees, it was reported that the roofing works had been carried out and the painting would be undertaken shortly, together with erection of the new noticeboard.

16/43b **Punnetts Town Recreation Ground and Village Hall**

The following uses of the recreation ground were agreed:

- (i) 5th Birthday party on 3 July 2016
- (ii) 7 August 2016 for 70th Birthday Party
- (iii) Three Stoolball matches

A general discussion took place regarding requests to use recreation grounds and it was agreed that for usual purposes, permission should be given subject to the necessary insurance, appropriate licences, clearing and removing all litter and no damage being caused to the ground. Such requests would then be reported to the next LER for information. This matter would be put on the next meeting agenda for resolution.

It was reported that a meeting had taken place with two of the football clubs and all clubs had been asked to provide details of pitches they used, fixtures lists and contact details. The aspirations of Heathfield Soccer School to create a 3D pitch were noted

but suitable land would need to be found for the purpose as the Parish Council had no spare land available for this purpose.

Heathfield Soccer School (Dragons) had requested use of a full-sized pitch for use by a new Girls' team and it was **RESOLVED** that use of the pitch at Punnetts Town should be permitted, on a shared basis and following discussion with Punnetts Town Football Club.

16/43c **Tower Recreation Ground**

(i) Repairs to fence by Kings Church

Members of the Church had carried out repairs to the fencing at the recreation ground and the Committee asked that grateful thanks be passed on to the Church for all their hard work.

(ii) Request for a picnic by Kings Church on 3 July 201

It was **RESOLVED** to approve use of the recreation ground for this purpose.

16/43d **Cade Street Memorial Ground**

There were no matters to report.

16/43e **Broad Oak Recreation Ground**

There were no matters to report.

16/43f **Cross in Hand Village Hall**

There were no matters to report.

16/43g **Hardy Roberts Playing Fields**

There were no matters to report.

16/43h **Leeves Common Play Area**

Email from WDC re removing recycling point in Leeves Way, Heathfield

The information was noted.

16/43i **Sheepsetting Lane Recreation Ground**

There were no matters to report.

16/43j **Heathfield Community Centre**

The Chairman reported that NHS Property Services, who now owned the building, had sent invoices for the quarter April – June of £20,247.92. In the 2015/2016 financial year the costs were £11,700 for the whole year and the Parish Council had no budget to pay these additional costs, which represented a 700% increase. No

prior notice or consultation regarding the increases had been made by the NHS and a meeting was in the process of being organised with representatives from Property Services to discuss the issue.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

- a) to appoint Hedley Wellers Solicitors to look at the terms of the lease and a budget of £2500 was proposed to cover the cost of this, for ratification by FGP Committee
- b) to pay fees at the previously agreed rate of £975 until further notice
- c) that consideration of quotations for redecoration and new carpet to the hall be deferred until the next meeting and
- d) that consideration of fees and charges of hire be deferred to the next meeting.

16/43k **Waldron Recreation Ground**

Bench to commemorate the Queen's 90th Birthday

The Committee approved the proposal by Waldron WI to place a commemorative bench at Waldron, subject to satisfactory design and installation.

16/43l **Jubilee Park**

There were no matters to report.

16/43m **Skatepark**

A report had been circulated to Members by Ms Kift, giving details of anti-social behaviour in Heathfield Tunnel and the skatepark. It was agreed that the District Ward Members should be asked to discuss the possibility of closing the tunnel, at least temporarily to try and alleviate the problem.

16/44 **GREEN LANE PUBLIC OPEN SPACES**

There were no matters to report.

16/45 **DARCH'S WOOD**

Cross in Hand Amenities Society

A report on the meeting held with representatives of the Cross-in-Hand Amenities Society had been circulated to Members.

The Amenities Society were now aware of the correct procedure to be followed if they wished the Parish Council to fund works in the wood and they had been asked to prepare a 3 year costed plan for the Committee to consider.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure of up to £1,000 to deal with fallen trees, a contribution of £1,000 towards the cost of removing rhododendron and a contribution of £2,900 towards the cost of the work carried out in the last financial year in the sum of £4,188.

The Clerk reminded Members that this expenditure could mean that no money

remained in the budget to deal with emergency work, such as dangerous trees.

16/46 **HIGH STREET PLANTING**

There were no matters to report.

16/47 **HIGH STREET FURNITURE**

There were no matters to report.

16/48 **SEATS/LITTER BINS/BUS SHELTERS**

In response to a question, the Clerk would check the expenditure budget for the purchase of a seat and litter bin, which was agreed in the last financial year.

16/49 **MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

Questions from members relating to the skatepark and Heathfield Community Centre had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

16/50 **CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17**

Action was agreed in relation to Heathfield tunnel to try and alleviate anti-social behaviour in the area.

16/51 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Committee recognised a financial risk in relation to Heathfield Community Centre and was taking action to try and address the matter.

16/52 **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26 July 2016 in the Parish Council Meeting Rooms starting at 7.30 pm. **Please note the amended date and time.**

The meeting closed at 9.01 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

Dated: