

HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL
LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 8.00 P.M.
AT PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES

PRESENT: Mrs Fraser, Mr Hart, Mr Hough, Ms Kift, Mr Robinson (Chairman), Ms Robinson, Mr South, Mr Waterhouse, Mr Wood and Mr Woolley

The Clerk was in attendance.

Mr Plant and Mr Baker, representing Cross-in-Hand Amenities Society, were also present.

DARCH'S WOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr Plant spoke to the Committee about the Management Plan for the Wood, which covered the 3 financial years to 2020, including requests for funding from the Parish Council for specific projects. Mr Plant was asked if the Amenities Society had thought about the possibility of applying for an annual grant from the Parish Council and taking over responsibility for future maintenance and he stated that this might be an option, depending upon the level of the grant. In the meantime, the Society might apply for a discretionary grant of about £5,000.

A quotation for works to clear the silt ponds had been obtained from the Council's contractor in the sum of £10,500 and alternative quotes would be sought. The Society were advised to ensure that these were from reliable and quality contactors due to the high risk of damage to the wood from use of heavy machinery to do the work.

Mr Plant stated that both he and Mr Thompsett would be standing down from the Society's Committee next year and replacement officers were still being sought.

The Chairman expressed appreciation for all the work carried out by the Society and its volunteers and said it was a well-used asset for the area.

The Meeting commenced at 8.17 p.m.

16/70 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Hatcher and Mr Ridley,

16/71 **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 Hart disclosed a prejudicial interest in respect of Broad Oak Village Hall as Chairman of the Village Hall 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.

Mr Stevens disclosed a prejudicial interest in respect of tree survey work at Green Lane estate as his son had quoted for the work.

16/72 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Leisure, Environment and Recreation Committee meeting held on 26 July 2016, having been previously circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

16/73 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

With the agreement of the Committee, the following item was brought forward on the agenda.

DARCH'S WOOD

The Management Plan had been circulated to Members for consideration and the Chairman welcomed it for being thorough and well laid out.

The Clerk reminded the Committee about expenditure already agreed and, following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that a further £1,383.90 should be committed towards the purchase of further plantings, this sum representing the whole of the identified reserve for Darch's Wood.

A comparison was made between Darch's Wood and the Millennium Green, for which an annual grant of £7500 was given. It was noted that the Parish Council were Custodian Trustees for the Wood, but had no legal responsibility for the Millennium Green.

It was agreed that an annual grant should be looked at for the 2018/2019 financial year. With regard to the silt ponds, it was anticipated that this work would be carried out in 2017/2018 and the Society would seek grants towards the cost of the work.

It was reported that a handrail was missing on the wooden bridge and this should be replaced urgently for health and safety reasons.

16/74 **BUDGETARY MONITORING REPORTS AS AT 31 AUGUST 2016**

The Committee approved and agreed the reports.

16/75 **EMERGENCY WORKS ADDITIONAL TO CONTRACT AS AT 31 AUGUST 2016**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve emergency expenditure of £165.00 for hedge cutting at Broad Oak, Tower Recreation Ground and Waldron Recreation Ground by the Council's contractor.

16/76 **REPORTS ON RECREATION GROUNDS**

16/76a **Lucas Hall and House, Waldron**

Mr Hough reported that all was in good order.

16/76b **Punnetts Town Recreation Ground and Village Hall**

The Village Hall Committee had asked the Parish Council to consider erecting signs stating "no golf to be played" due to broken windows in the Village Hall. The Committee considered that this would set a precedent and the signs would have limited effect unless there was monitoring and enforcement.

It was agreed that the VH Committee should erect temporary signs to see if they had any effect.

16/76c **Tower Recreation Ground**

Repairs to locks on door to Pavilion

The Clerk reported that the locks had been vandalised and emergency works to repair them had been authorised at a cost of £200 + VAT.

16/76d **Cade Street Memorial Ground**

There were no matters to report.

16/76e **Broad Oak Recreation Ground**

There were no matters to report.

16/76f **Cross in Hand Village Hall**

It was reported that the VH Committee was obtaining quotes for redecoration of the Hall and new flooring and an application for a grant may be made to the Parish Council towards the cost of the work.

16/76g **Hardy Roberts Playing Fields**

It was noted that a meeting of the Playing Fields Association would take place on 4 October and Mr Wood would be attending.

16/76h **Leeves Common Play Area**

The emergency repairs to the rope bridge were noted and the Committee were made aware that the remainder of the wooden planks would need replacing in due course.

It was reported that there was a considerable problem with litter at the play area and it was agreed that the Unity Community Association should be asked to help tackle the problem. It was also agreed that photographs should be taken which could then be passed on for posting on the Heathfield About facebook page. The erection of “take litter home” signs was discussed and the Keep Britain Tidy campaign would be contacted to see if free signs were available.

16/76i **Sheepsetting Lane Recreation Ground**

There were no matters to report.

16/76j **Heathfield Community Centre**

There was no further update in relating to maintenance and management costs from the NHS and this would be chased up once again.

16/76k **Waldron Recreation Ground**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the quotation for repairs to the fence at the recreation ground, including rabbit-proof fencing, at a total cost of £986 + VAT.

16/76l **Jubilee Park**

The Committee approved the additional hedge cutting at the Park, adjoining The Glade which had been requested by the householder.

16/76m **Skatepark**

It was reported, that after a quiet period following the closure of the tunnel, there had been some anti-social behaviour and vandalism which was reported to the Police, who issued a crime number but did not attend the scene and will not be investigating the incidents.

It was suggested that a record be kept of incidents of vandalism and remedial costs, which could then be published on Facebook with photos.

The need for an updated survey of the trees was discussed and the Council’s contractor would be contacted in this regard.

16/77 **GREEN LANE PUBLIC OPEN SPACES**

Tree survey report

Three quotations had been sought for the work and the Committee considered the two which had been returned. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from D Stevens Arboriculture and Tree Services in the sum of £300 plus VAT. Mr Wood

(Tree Warden) asked to be invited to the site visit when the survey was carried out.

Note: the third (unreturned) quotation had been given verbally as £300 and the other returned quotation was £1,900 more expensive.

Mr Stevens left the meeting room during consideration of the above matter.

16/79 **HIGH STREET PLANTING**

The Clerk reported that efforts had been made to obtain three quotations but one company had not returned a quotation and another would not be able to carry out the watering and maintenance of the baskets due to having no other contracts in the area.

The Committee were satisfied with the service from Europlants Ltd and it was **RESOLVED** to accept their quotation for planting and maintenance in 2017 at an anticipated cost of £2653.65, which included 12 maintenance visits. Additional maintenance visits would cost £161.71 + VAT.

16/80 **HIGH STREET FURNITURE**

There were no matters to report.

16/81 **SEATS/LITTER BINS/BUS SHELTERS**

Requests had been made for the Council to provide seats in a quiet area in the vicinity of the High Street but away from traffic. Members were unable to identify a suitable location for an additional seat and considered that there were several already available in various locations. It was also agreed that a seat in an isolated location might be subject to vandalism, therefore, the request could not be granted at this time.

16/82 **MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

There were none.

16/83 **CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17**

The anti-social behaviour and vandalism at the skatepark was noted.

16/84 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

(a) To consider effects (if any) arising from items on the Agenda

There were no matters identified.

(b) To consider risk list

The Committee's risk list, slightly amended, was circulated for approval. It was **RESOLVED** that it be adopted.

16/85 **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 14 November 2016 in the Parish Council Meeting Rooms starting at 8.00 pm, following the Burial Grounds and Amenities Committee meeting at 7.15 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.19 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

Dated: