

**HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
**MONDAY 16 JANUARY 2017 AT 7.40 P.M.**  
**AT PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES**

**PRESENT:** Mrs Fraser, Mr Hart, Mr Hatcher, Ms Kift, Mr Robinson (Chairman), Ms Robinson, Mr South, Mr Taylor, Mr Waterhouse, Mr Wood and Mr Woolley.

The Clerk was in attendance.

Mr Baker from Cross-in-Hand Amenities Society also attended

01/17 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Hough and Mr Ridley.

02/17 **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 South disclosed a personal interest in respect of Cross-in-Hand Hall as the Parish Council's representative on the Hall Committee.

Mr Hart disclosed a prejudicial interest in respect of Broad Oak Village Hall as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee.

03/17 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the Leisure, Environment and Recreation Committee meeting held on 14 November 2016, having been previously circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

04/17 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

05/17 **BUDGETARY MONITORING REPORTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016**

The Committee noted that the NHS charges for Heathfield Community Centre were still in dispute and a letter had been emailed and sent by recorded delivery to NHS Property Services asking for clarification of their charges and reimbursement of the Parish Council's invoice in the sum of £10,000. A reply was awaited.

It was also noted that no request for funding had been received from the Cross-in-Hand Amenities Society in relation to Darch's Wood, and the budget for 2017/18 had been set at the same level as the current year.

**The Meeting closed at 7.49 p.m. to enable Mr Baker, Cross-in-Hand Amenities Society to speak.**

The Committee noted that the repair of the broken handrail on the bridge had not been carried out, despite reminders to the Contractor.

Mr Baker reported that the Society was trying to raise funds for works to clear the silt ponds, estimated to cost in the region of £10,000 or £1,000 per day for labour and equipment. He asked whether the Parish Council would agree to pay for some of the works from next year's budget. The surface of the Japanese bridge was damaged and also needed replacing.

The Chairman reiterated that any requests for work to be carried out should be put in writing to the Clerk to enable it to be put on the agenda for discussion at the next LER meeting.

**The Meeting re-opened at 8.05 p.m.**

**Mr Woolley arrived at 8.05 p.m.**

06/17 **EMERGENCY WORKS**

Cade Street – repair slide	£332.00 plus VAT
Leeves Common – remove wooden tower	£232.50 plus VAT
Tower Recreation Ground – remove broken rope ladder	£105.00 plus VAT
Leeves Common repairs following vandalism	£85.00 plus VAT

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the emergency works as listed.

07/17 **REPORTS ON RECREATION GROUNDS**

07/17a **Lucas Hall and House, Waldron**

There were no matters to report.

07/17b **Punnetts Town Recreation Ground and Village Hall**

The Committee noted that permission had been granted for the erection of a marquee for a wedding on 25 February 2017.

07/17c **Tower Recreation Ground**

The Committee considered the contents of an email in relation to dogs mess and lack of “no dogs” signs at the children's play area in Tower Recreation Ground. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the erection of appropriate signs at both entrances to the play area. If the signs achieved the desired result, consideration would be given to erecting them in all the Council play areas.

17/17d **Cade Street Memorial Ground**

There were no matters to report

07/17e **Broad Oak Recreation Ground**

The Committee noted that the fence adjoining the main road had been damaged once again by a car and quotations for repair were in the region of £1,500.

07/17f **Cross in Hand Village Hall**

Mr South reported that he was no longer a Trustee for the Hall charity, but remained the Parish Council's representative.

07/17g **Hardy Roberts Playing Fields**

The Committee noted that a local resident had asked for a section of hedging in Back Lane to remain uncut but after discussion it was agreed that there seemed to be no ecological reasons for this and that it should be cut as part of the Parish Council's management of the hedge boundary.

07/17h **Leeves Common Play Area**

An email had been received thanking the Parish Council for removing the wooden play tower. Concern had been expressed at the amount of litter around the area and local residents were considering organising a local litter pickup.

07/17i **Sheepsetting Lane Recreation Ground**

There were no matters to report.

07/17j **Heathfield Community Centre**

The Committee noted the current position regarding charges as reported in Minute 15/17.

07/17k **Waldron Recreation Ground**

There were no matters to report.

07/17l **Jubilee Park**

There were no matters to report.

07/17m **Skatepark**

It was noted that a general tree survey was needed across all land in the Council's ownership or management, including the skatepark.

08/17 **RENEWAL OF GENERAL WORKS CONTRACT**

The Committee considered a report setting out the anticipated timescale for

advertising and agreeing the new contract, which was scheduled to commence on 1 June 2017.

It was **RESOLVED** that an advertisement be placed in The Groundsman magazine at a cost of £490 + VAT for a ¼ page advert, as well as online, in the office window and on the Council's website.

It was also agreed that a Working Group be set up to consider responses and that an Extraordinary meeting of the Committee take place on Wednesday 19 April to discuss and agree the successful Tender.

09/17 **URGENT WORKS TO TREES AND HEDGES IN GREENWOODS LANE, PUNNETTS TOWN**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve urgent tree/hedgerow works in Greenwood Lane, Punnetts Town at a cost not exceeding £1,000.

10/17 **GREEN LANE PUBLIC OPEN SPACES**

The tree survey had been completed and sent to Members of the Committee. 14 trees had been identified for felling and it was **RESOLVED** that quotations be obtained for the work and the advice of Wealden District Council be sought with regard to the Tree Preservation Order. The cost of the work would be met from the remaining Emergency Works budget and LER reserves

Once quotations had been received and agreed, a timetable for the remaining works would be set out.

11/17 **DARCH'S WOOD**

Cross in Hand Amenities Society

The Committee noted the content of an email from the Chairman of the Society, which included a request for a copy of the Council's purchase requisition procedure. It was noted that the Council do not have such a process due to the scale of its activities and that the correct procedure for requesting work had been explained previously.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Society were due to retire at the AGM in April and no volunteers had come forward at this time.

12/17 **HIGH STREET PLANTING**

The tree outside Heathfield Health had died and the Committee considered a quote to replace it, in the sum of £280 + VAT. The Committee were informed that the tree had been replaced several times but did not appear to thrive in that location.

It was agreed that the tree should not be replaced but the area should be made safe.

13/17 **HIGH STREET FURNITURE**

It was **RESOLVED** to replace the flower pole outside Costa coffee at a cost of £135

+ VAT (the flower pole to come from stock).

14/17 **SEATS/LITTER BINS/BUS SHELTERS/NOTICEBOARDS**

There were no matters to report.

15/17 **MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

There were none.

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

There were implications under the Act in respect of the vandalism at Leeves Common and the removal of the wooden tower.

17/17 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Committee agreed to take action to mitigate risk in connection with trees at Green Lane.

17/18 **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 March 2017 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 8.50 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

Dated: