

HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL
LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH 2017 AT 7.30 P.M.
AT PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES

PRESENT: Mrs Fraser, Ms Kift, Mr Ridley, Mr Robinson (Chairman), Mr Taylor, Mr Wood and Mr Woolley.

The Clerk was in attendance.

Mr Rhodes from Heathfield and Waldron Rugby Club and Mr Chavannes were also present and talked to the Committee about a planned fund-raising event in aid of the Air Ambulance, including a proposal to have a live band.

The Meeting commenced at 7.42 p.m.

19/17 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Hart, Mr Hatcher, Mr Hough and Mr South.

20/17 **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

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

21/17 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Leisure, Environment and Recreation Committee meeting held on 16 January 2017, having been previously circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

22/17 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

The Committee agreed that the following item should be brought forward on the agenda.

23/17 **HARDY ROBERTS PLAYING FIELDS**

The Rugby Club's plans for a fund-raising event to be held on 12th August was discussed, including the possible impact upon neighbours of live music. It was agreed that permission be given to use the playing fields, with live music until 11.00 p.m. providing the marquee for the band was positioned away from neighbouring properties as much as possible and that neighbours should be informed of the event by letter. There should also be adequate marshals and security staff.

23/17 **BUDGETARY MONITORING REPORTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016**

The Committee approved the reports as at 28 February 2017.

24/17 **REPORTS ON RECREATION GROUNDS**

24/17a **Lucas Hall and House, Waldron**

There were no matters to report.

24/17b **Punnetts Town Recreation Ground and Village Hall**

It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the request for use of the ground for a bouncy castle on 7th July in conjunction with a party in the Village Hall.

The Clerk reported that the fence around the car park had been damaged and a quote would be obtained for the repair.

24/17c **Tower Recreation Ground**

It was noted that the signs stating that dogs were not allowed in the play area had been erected.

24/17d **Cade Street Memorial Ground**

There were no matters to report

24/17e **Broad Oak Recreation Ground**

The Clerk reported that the Village Hall Committee were looking to replace the wooden fence with a wire one to help prevent damage by vehicles.

24/17f **Cross in Hand Village Hall**

There were no matters to report.

24/17g **Hardy Roberts Playing Fields**

See Minute 23/17.

24/17h **Leeves Common Play Area**

There were no matters to report.

24/17i **Sheepsetting Lane Recreation Ground**

It was reported that there was a gap in the fence in the corner adjoining Holbrook Lane and householder/s were letting their dogs out and not clearing up after them. The fence had been repaired in the past, but had been opened up again and it was agreed that the Council's Contractor should be consulted about the possibility of effecting a more permanent repair.

24/17j **Heathfield Community Centre**

(i) NHS charges

The Chairman gave a verbal update on the outstanding charges and contributions which had not been paid. It was noted that a meeting had been arranged for early May and that a new person was now dealing with the matter.

In the meantime, it was **RESOLVED** that the current “goodwill” payments of £975 per month should continue to be paid.

(ii) Hire of Hall

The Committee considered a request to hold a quarterly Antiques Fair in the Hall and it was **RESOLVED** that this be approved.

24/17k **Waldron Recreation Ground**

There were no matters to report.

24/17l **Jubilee Park**

There were no matters to report.

24/17m **Skatepark**

(i) Litter bins

The Committee noted that there were currently no litter bins in the Skatepark due to vandalism. It was agreed that a price should be obtained for a new polymer Glasdon bin and either this or the usual style bin which the contractor may have in stock, be approved by email and ratified at the next meeting.

(ii) Use of the equipment

The Committee considered a complaint about older teenagers gathering at the Skatepark which then made it intimidating for younger children to use. There was a lot of discussion about what could be done but it was agreed that there were no easy answers. It was agreed that the Police should be asked whether the PCSOs could patrol in the late afternoon to try and discourage the older groups.

25/17 **RENEWAL OF GENERAL WORKS CONTRACT**

It was reported that the Contractor had prepared new maps to go with the contract document and he and the Clerk had updated the pricing schedule, with new measurements. It was **RESOLVED** to ratify invoices totalling £700 + VAT from Agrifactors Limited in respect of this work.

The Committee noted that the tenders were due to be returned on Friday 7th April at Noon and it was agreed that Mr Robinson, Mrs Fraser and Mr Ridley should attend at the opening.

26/17 **ENGINEERING PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS**

The Clerk reported that the inspections were currently carried out by Zurich, the Council's insurers. However, concern had been expressed at the format of the reports issued which were difficult to print out and an alternative quotation had been obtained by RoSPA to carry out the work.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation from RoSPA in the sum of £598.50 + VAT.

27/17 **PLAY CHIP SAFETY SURFACING**

It was **RESOLVED** to agree the bulk purchase of play bark in the sum of £3,080 plus VAT. The Committee noted that most of the play areas needed to be topped up and the remainder of the material would be held in stock.

28/17 **GREEN LANE OPEN SPACES – URGENT TREE WORK**

Following the tree survey carried out on all the trees on the Green Lane estate, three quotations had been obtained for carrying out the urgent work identified. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation from D Stevens Arboriculture and Tree Services in the sum of £1,200 + VAT.

The Committee noted that planning permission would be required in respect of the removal of trees covered by the TPO and there would be additional costs associated with this.

29/17 **DARCH'S WOOD**

It was reported that the clearing of the main pond had been undertaken by Agrifactors Limited at the Amenities Society's expense and it had been requested that a sum of up to £300 be approved for clearing of the silt ponds at the same time, which was more economical than hiring equipment on a future date.

It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the silt pond clearance at a cost of up to £300.

30/17 **HIGH STREET PLANTING**

It was noted that where the tree had been removed outside 92 High Street, there was a difference in levels which was causing a trip hazard. It was agreed that the Contractor should be asked to make the area level and safe as a priority and that the possibility of having a sculpture designed by Heathfield Community College be investigated. The agreement of the owners/occupiers would need to be obtained in the first instance.

31/17 **HIGH STREET FURNITURE**

There were no matters to report.

32/17 **SEATS/LITTER BINS/BUS SHELTERS/NOTICEBOARDS**

The Committee noted that, as part of the Visioning exercise, the possibility of improving signage on the Cuckoo Trail into the High Street should be investigated to link the trail to the town centre more effectively. It was agreed that a Working Group comprising The Chairman, Ms Kift, Mrs Fraser and Mr Ridley be set up to progress the matter, with a view to reporting to the next meeting.

33/17 **MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

There were none.

34/17 **CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17**

There were considered to be no implications under the Act arising from matters discussed at the meeting.

35/17 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

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

36/18 **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held an Extra-Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 19 April at 7.30 pm in the Parish Council Meeting Rooms to discuss the tenders for the General Works Contract.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

Dated: