

HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL
LEISURE, AMENITIES AND BURIAL COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2018
AT PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES

PRESENT: Cllrs Andrew, Fraser, Hart, Hough, Ridley, M Robinson (Chairman), N Robinson, South, Waterhouse, Wood and Woolley.

Cllr Robinson joined at 7.40 pm.

Administrative Officer in attendance.

2 representatives of Heathfield Bonfire Society and a member of Cross in Hand Amenities Society

HEATHFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY

A representative of the Bonfire Society addressed the Committee and said that they had identified a date for the Bonfire celebrations of 26 October 2019 and wished to hold them at Heathfield Community Centre. The Bonfire Society would get in touch with the football teams who usually play there to let them know of the date and would also obtain independent insurance and would arrange car parking on the evening. A member of the Committee said that the building is owned by the NHS and advised the Bonfire Society to contact them regarding their plans.

CROSS IN HAND AMENITIES SOCIETY

A representative of Cross in Hand Amenities Society addressed the Committee and said that last year the silt pond was dredged upstream and at present it was quite full and work would be required here to prevent the silt washing out. It was also reported that additional road plannings may need to be purchased in January or February to restore four miles of path depending on the winter. The Society were also looking to install an extra bench and were awaiting a quote for this.

The Meeting commenced at 7.45 p.m.

105/18 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Hatcher and Taylor.

106/18 **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

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

Cllr Andrew disclosed a personal interest in respect of Theobalds Green allotments as her daughter is an allotment holder

Cllr M Robinson disclosed a personal interest in respect of Theobalds Green allotments as his wife is an allotment holder.

Cllr Hart disclosed a personal interest in respect of Broad Oak Village Hall as being Chairman of the Committee.

Cllr Waterhouse disclosed a personal interest in respect of Heathfield Funeral Services as being a Director of the Company.

107/18 **SHEEPSETTING LANE RECREATION GROUND**

(Agenda item 120/18i) brought forward to accommodate public speaker)

The Committee agreed to the date of 26 October 2019 and looked forward to receiving a plan of the proceedings for the evening which covered all items.

108/18 **DARCH' WOOD**

(Agenda item 125/18 brought forward to accommodate public speaker)

Further to the Cross in Hand Amenities representative addressing the Committee a report had previously been circulated to members outlining the works that had been carried out at Darch's Wood on grants that had been obtained. The report also contained quotes for works to be carried out for plantings, removal of vegetation and the felling of a dead tree and works to a silt pond. The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve these at a cost of £1280.00 plus VAT but it was noted that the Committee could not commit to works to the silt pond and purchase of a bench being carried out at this time.

109/18 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Leisure, Amenities and Burial Committee meeting held on 24 July 2018 previously circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

110/18 **MATTERS ARISING**

The Committee noted that the Planning Application for the new Church Hall would be submitted shortly.

111/18 **BUDGETARY MONITORING REPORTS AS AT 31 AUGUST 2018**

The reports were then approved and adopted by the Committee and the Assistant Clerk was thanked for her work in preparing these and the accompanying notes. The Chairman reported that nothing had been received from NHS re the calculation of rent.

112/18 **EMERGENCY WORKS**

There were no emergency works.

113/18 **ST BARTHOLOMEW'S BURIAL GROUND**

- (i) Request to remove tree stump at St Bartholomews to enlarge car park

It was reported that a request had been received to remove the tree stump in the car park. It was **RESOLVED** to obtain an estimate for this work and this would be considered at the November meeting.

- (ii) To approve inscription for a headstone in the Ghyll Garden

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the inscription on the headstone.

- (iii) Verbal update regarding Burial Inspection on Friday 14 September 2018

It was reported that four headstones had been laid flat, dead flowers removed and it was also noted that more flower planters and memorabilia were being left on graves.

114/18 **BURIAL GROUNDS**

Old Heathfield

No matters to report.

Waldron

No matters to report.

Theobalds Green Burial Ground

- (i) To ratify spraying the bracken at Theobalds Green at a cost of £250.00

The Committee ratified the above.

- (ii) To ratify the siting of the memorial bench inside the Cart Barn

The Committee ratified the above.

- (iii) To consider requests regarding memorial bench, position of headstone and placing of tree in the Main Burial Ground

A report from a bereaved family had previously been circulated to members of the Committee regarding a memorial bench siting, position of a headstone and placing of a tree in the Burial Ground. The Committee considered the siting of the bench and it was **RESOLVED** that it should be sited vertically in the last bay of the Cart Barn looking out onto the main burial ground. The report had also asked that the headstone be erected at the foot end of the grave so that it was readable from the path. It was **RESOLVED** to allow this in this row only and the Committee asked that when plots were allocated that Funeral Directors and families were made aware of the position of the headstone. The Committee did not agree to the planting of a tree in the burial ground pathways.

(iv) To consider a request for a memorial bench to be sited in the Strewn Ashes area

The Committee **RESOLVED** to accept the siting of the memorial bench in the Strewn Ashes area of the burial ground.

115/18 **WAR MEMORIALS**

Waldron

It was reported that this would be cleaned in time for Remembrance Sunday.

Cade Street

It was reported that this would be cleaned in time for Remembrance Sunday.

116/18 **TO APPROVE POLICY FOR MEMORIAL BENCHES**

The Committee had previously received a copy of the policy for memorial benches. It was **RESOLVED** to accept this policy further to an amendment be made to the type of plaques allowed to be changed from 'brass plaques' to read 'bronze plaque with inrelief lettering'.

117/18 **ALLOTMENTS**

The Committee were shown a picture of the proposed benches to be installed into the Allotment area and these were approved. The Chairman reported that the Allotment Association AGM was being held on the 18 September.

118/18 **MILL ROAD CONVENIENCES**

There was no update on this matter.

119/18 **ROSPA INSPECTION REPORTS**

It was reported that a summary of the ROSPA inspection reports had been circulated to members of the Committee. Several members of the Committee and the Council's contractor would be looking at the recreation ground sites, equipment and fencing on Monday 24 September to identify items in urgent need of replacement.

120/18 **REPORTS ON RECREATION GROUNDS**

120/18a **Lucas Hall and House, Waldron**

It was reported that the floor had been sanded and re-oiled.

120/18b **Punnetts Town Recreation Ground and Village Hall**

A request had been received for use of the grounds for a dog show on 28 July 2019. It was agreed that permission should be given, subject to a suitable risk assessment being provided and the usual rules regarding litter, insurance and making good of any damage.

120/18c **Tower Recreation Ground**

Request for placing of memorial seat

A request had been received for the erecting a memorial seat at Tower Recreation Ground and a preferred location. It was **RESOLVED** to accept this request and to contact the Parish Council's contractor regarding the location.

120/18d **Cade Street Memorial Ground**

There were no matters to report.

120/18e **Broad Oak Recreation Ground**

It was reported that parking spaces had been re-lined and there was concern regarding long-stay parking which would be reviewed by the Broad Oak Hall Committee.

120/18f **Cross in Hand Village Hall**

There was nothing to report.

120/18g **Hardy Roberts Playing Fields**

Report on condition of the mature trees within the hedgerows

A report had previously been circulated to the Committee with regard to trees in the Hardy Roberts Playing fields. It had been noticed that there were dead branches on oak trees and these were beginning to split and there was concern that branches may fall into the road and that one ash tree looked unhealthy. It was **RESOLVED** to ask the Contractor to look at the site and report any urgent works.

Hedge between the Cypress car park and the tennis club entrance

The Committee considered this request and it was **RESOLVED** that this be discussed by the Planning Committee when the application was submitted.

Mr South left the meeting at 8.55 pm.

120/18h **Leeves Common Play Area**

There was nothing to report.

120/18i **Sheepsetting Lane Recreation Ground**

See 107/18.

120/18j **Heathfield Community Centre**

- (i) To consider obtaining quotes for blinds for the Ian Price Room

It was **RESOLVED** to obtain quotes for the next LAB meeting in November.

- (ii) Quote for ceiling blind

One quote had been obtained and it was reported that it had been very difficult to obtain further quotes as many of the companies are not located in the South East. It was **RESOLVED** to try and obtain further quotes and to look at alternative screening for the hall ceiling.

120/18k **Waldron Recreation Ground**

Concern was raised regarding the recycling area which had not been emptied for several weeks, Wealden District Council had been informed on these occasions.

120/18l **Jubilee Park**

There was nothing to report.

120/18m **Skatepark**

A quote had previously been circulated to members for the clearance of brambles, saplings and overhanging limbs from the steep bank on the south side of the Skatepark. The Committee **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £500.00 plus VAT from Agrifactors (Southern) Ltd.

121/18 **LAND AT PUNNETTS TOWN**

To consider responses to renting land at Punnetts Town

The Committee had previously asked that bids be submitted for the rental of the above land which was broken into three areas a section of the land is not included as it is rented out already. Three responses had been received one of which outlined their interest in the land but did not wish to enter into a bid situation. Another interested party wished to rent all three sections of the land for their horses and concern was raised regarding having to change the use of the land from agricultural to equestrian and also any damage to the land that may occur from the horses. The last interested party wished to rent all the land at a peppercorn rent and he had outlined that in return he would cut internal and road hedges and improve the soil and get moles under control. The Committee **RESOLVED** to accept this proposal providing references were obtained and a lease was drawn up with the successful applicant paying all legal fees and that the land was properly stock fenced by the applicant .

It was noted that five members of the Committee abstained from voting.

122/18 **REQUEST FROM RAG SOLUTIONS LTD**

An email had been circulated to the Committee from a textile recycling company in Kent who wished to install a clothes bank on Parish Council grounds. The Committee approved this in principle to agreeing a siting for the clothes bank and obtaining more information on the company.

123/18 **TREE SURVEY**

It was reported that tree surveys had been carried out by Ruskins Tree Consultancy for the Coppice, the Ghyll, Skatepark, St Bartholomew's burial ground, land at Punnetts Town and Punnetts Town recreation ground. It was **RESOLVED** to obtain three separate quotes for tree works to be carried out at the Skatepark and the Coppice and these would be considered at the November meeting.

124/18 **GREEN LANE PUBLIC OPEN SPACES**

There was nothing to report.

125/18 **DARCH'S WOOD**

See 108/18.

126/18 **HIGH STREET PLANTING**

It was reported that the quote for next year's planting would be considered at the November meeting and it was noted that there would be a small increase on last year's price.

127/18 **SEATS, LITTER BINS AND BUS SHELTERS**

There was nothing to report.

128/18 **HIGH STREET FURNITURE**

There were no matters to report.

129/18 **MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

No matters had been raised.

130/18 **CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17**

There were considered to be no implications under the above Act in relation to matters discussed at the meeting.

131/18 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

Tree surveys and loose headstones.

132/18 **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 20 November 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Council Meeting Room, 73 High Street, Heathfield.

The meeting closed at 9.21 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

Dated: