

**HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
**TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 2014 AT 8.15 P.M.**  
**AT PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES**

**PRESENT:** Mr M Baker, Mr Bowdler, Ms Bowdler, Mr Chambers, Mrs Clark, Mr Hart, Mrs Holmwood, Mrs Mackie, Mrs Plant (Chairman), Mr Taylor, Mr Waterhouse, Mr Wood and Mr Woodhouse.

The Clerk was in attendance.

14/01 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Landreth.

14/02 **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The following disclosures had previously been made by Members.

Mrs Plant disclosed a pecuniary interest in respect of Darch's Wood arising from her membership of the Cross-in-Hand Amenities Society, of which she is a Committee Member.

In addition to the above, all Members of the Parish Council had an interest in respect of the sole trusteeship of Waldron Recreation Ground Charity.

Mrs Plant disclosed a pecuniary interest as Treasurer and authorised signatory of the Cross-in- Hand Village Hall.

In addition:

Mr Chambers disclosed pecuniary interests in respect of Waldron Cricket Club as Members of the Club

Mr Bowdler disclosed personal interests in respect of Heathfield Works and Punnetts Town Village Hall as Parish Council representative.

14/03 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the Leisure, Environment and Recreation Committee meeting held on 18 November 2013, having been previously circulated, be amended by the removal of Mr Hough under Disclosures of Interest and be then confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

14/04 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

14/05 **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2013**

Members queried some headings which were being shown as overspend and the relevant items of expenditure would be investigated. The Committee then noted the report.

14/06 **EMERGENCY/ADDITIONAL WORKS TO 31 DECEMBER 2013**

It was reported that no emergency works had yet been received, although it was anticipated that there would be tree works to be carried out following the recent storms.

14/07 **REPORTS ON RECREATION GROUNDS**

14/07a **Lucas Hall and House, Waldron**

Mr Chambers reported that the Hall was breaking even and appeared to be running well. Some of the fencing around the House was in a bad state of repair and this would be investigated as to whose responsibility it was.

14/07b **Punnetts Town Recreation Ground and Village Hall**

**Refuse Bin**

It was noted that the Parish Council had recently paid £524.16 including VAT for this and it appeared that this was an historic matter as all other village halls paid for their own refuse collection. It was, therefore, **RESOLVED** to inform the Village Hall Committee that they would be responsible for this in future. The Chairman of the Council would inform the Committee.

14/07c **Tower Recreation Ground**

**Drainage of Top Pitch**

The Clerk had spoken to the Football Club with regard to a possible contribution towards the cost of this work and the Club confirmed that they seldom used the pitch because it was under-sized. In the circumstances, therefore, it was agreed that drainage of the pitch should be held in abeyance but that the identified reserve should be maintained. In view of this, the Club would be asked to remove the goalposts so that the surface of the pitch could be preserved as much as possible.

The Committee were informed that there was a problem with youngsters gathering in the car park late at night, causing nuisance to neighbouring properties and it was agreed that the PCSO's should be informed.

14/07d **Cade Street Memorial Ground**

There were no matters to report.

14/07e **Broad Oak Recreation Ground**

Damaged fencing

The fencing around the play area had been damaged in the recent storms and the Committee noted that it would be repaired as soon as materials were available.

14/07f **Cross in Hand Village Hall**

It was noted that an Annual General Meeting had still not been held.

14/07g **Hardy Roberts Playing Fields**

The Committee noted that the Fun Day would be held on 2 August 2014 and the organisers would be seeking permission from the HRPFA.

14/07h **Leeves Common Play Area**

It was reported that most of the remedial work to the play area had been carried out and that confirmation had been received from the Unity Community Association that the £3000 balance from the project fund, held by the Parish Council, could be used in part payment.

14/07i **Sheepsetting Lane Recreation Ground**

There were no matters to report.

14/07j **Heathfield Community Centre**

The caretaker had reported that there was paint on the hall carpet and this would be investigated.

14/07k **Waldron Recreation Ground**

The Hall Management Committee had asked if the holes at the entrance to the car park could be filled as they were currently full of water.

Local residents had complained about parking in the village during recent Rugby matches. It was noted that this had been junior teams playing at Waldron because the area at Cross-in-Hand was too wet and the decision had been made at the last minute.

14/07l **Jubilee Park**

It was noted that the “dogs on leads” signs had been removed shortly after they had been put up and it was requested that further signs be erected.

14/07m **Skatepark**

There were no matters to report.

14/08 **TREES ON THE GREEN LANE ESTATE**

**4 Larch Close**

The trees had been inspected by a tree surgeon on behalf of the Parish Council who had confirmed that they were not dead, dying or dangerous. As previously reported, they were tall and quite spindly, which was a characteristic of the species. The Chairman and the Clerk had also been out on site with the Council's contractor and there was no evidence of disease or instability.

In the circumstances, it was **RESOLVED** that the trees should not be removed at the Council's expense but, in line with the previously agreed policy, the householder could have them removed at their own expense providing Wealden gave permission for this under the Tree Preservation Order.

**17 The Oaks**

The tree in question was an Ash, and the adjacent Ash tree had fallen down in recent storms and had caused minor damage to this property. The Chairman and the Clerk inspected the tree which was growing at an acute angle from a bank and the roots appeared to be fairly shallow. It was considered that there was a probability that the tree could fall and that it was, therefore, deemed dangerous.

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the tree should be felled as a matter of urgency.

14/09 **THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS**

The TVC had funding for the planting of native trees to commemorate the Centenary of WWI and the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WW2 in 2015. It was suggested that planting could take place in Darch's Wood or Jubilee Park and it was agreed that further information should be obtained with regard to the scheme.

14/10 **DARCH'S WOOD**

**Clearing of Culvert**

The access into the wood from New Pond Hill was almost impassable due to run-off from the culvert which was in need of clearing.

It was **RESOLVED** to carry out this work at a cost of approximately £500 + VAT.

**Gifting of trees**

A number of small Oaks had been offered free of charge via the Internet and Mrs Holmwood had arranged for about 20 to be reserved for the Parish Council. It was not clear if they had, in fact, been collected by the Parish Council's contractor and this would be investigated.

14/11 **HIGH STREET PLANTING**

There were no matters to report.

14/12 **HIGH STREET FURNITURE**

Railings outside Trading 4U

It was reported that the railings had been damaged by the scaffolding contractor during work carried out to the premises above Trading 4 U. A contact name had been obtained for the company and confirmation was awaited that they would accept responsibility for repainting the railings, which had been painted during the latter part of 2013.

14/13 **MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

There were none.

14/14 **CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17**

There were none.

14/15 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

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

The Committee had Resolved to remove the dangerous tree at the rear of 17 The Oaks, Heathfield.

14/16 **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 24 March 2014 in the Parish Council Meeting Rooms starting at 8.15 pm or upon the rising of the Burial Grounds and Amenities Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

Dated: