

HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL
LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2013 AT 8.22 PM
AT PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES

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

The Clerk and Administrative Officer were in attendance.

13/71 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Hart and Mr Wood.

13/72 **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:

Ms Bowdler disclosed a direct pecuniary interest in respect of the community shelter proposal as an employee of Heathfield Works.

Mr Hough and 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.

13/73 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Leisure, Environment and Recreation Committee meeting held on 23 September 2013, having been previously circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

13/74 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

13/75 **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2013**

The Committee noted the above report.

13/76 **EMERGENCY/ADDITIONAL WORKS TO 31 OCTOBER 2013**

The Committee noted and **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure totalling £3592.00 + VAT.

13/77 **REPORTS ON RECREATION GROUNDS**

13/77a **Lucas Hall and House, Waldron**

It was reported that the installation of a shower had been approved by the Waldron Recreation Ground Charity meeting on 12 November and the provision of a tumble dryer vent was approved and would be ratified at the next meeting.

13/77b **Punnetts Town Recreation Ground and Village Hall**

The Chairman reported that the Fireworks display that had been held recently was a very successful evening.

13/77c **Tower Recreation Ground**

It was asked if Broad Oak Football Club had been contacted regarding a contribution towards the drainage costs of the football pitch. It was reported that no contact had been made but this would be actioned.

13/77d **Cade Street Memorial Ground**

A letter had been received from the Heffle Fair Committee asking permission for use of the Cade Street Memorial Ground on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 April 2014. It was **RESOLVED** to approve this.

13/77e **Broad Oak Recreation Ground**

There was nothing to report.

13/77f **Cross in Hand Village Hall**

It was reported that an AGM for the Hall had not yet been organised.

13/77g **Hardy Roberts Playing Fields**

It was reported that the 'No Parking Sign' had not yet been moved and this would be pursued. It was reported that a letter had previously been sent to Groombridges asking them not to park their vehicles in the Hardy Roberts Car Park. The Chairman

reported that the AGM went well. A member of the Committee had asked if dogs could be banned from using the field due to the large amount of excrement left. It was **RESOLVED** that signs should be erected asking owners to clear up after their dogs and the situation would be monitored. If there was no improvement, the Committee would consider what further action to take.

13/77h **Leeves Common Play Area**

The Committee had previously received a copy of a quote from C&E Davis Ltd for repairs to the play area at a cost of £4260.00 plus VAT. The works had been identified as being required for health and safety reasons during a recent safety inspection and needed to be carried out as a matter of urgency. It was **RESOLVED** to accept this quotation.

13/77i **Sheepsetting Lane Recreation Ground**

Health and Safety Audit – 13 November 2013

The Chairman reported that the audit had gone well.

PCT/NHS Meeting

It was reported that the next meeting of the above would take place on 27 November 2013.

13/77j **Heathfield Community Centre**

Possible provision of traffic cones for use on verge along Sheepsetting Lane

The Clerk addressed the meeting regarding the request by the Residents Association that traffic cones be placed on the verge outside the Community Centre when large events were taking place to prevent cars parking there. The Committee considered that the cones would have to be purchased in the first place and would involve the caretakers in additional work in terms of putting them out and collecting them afterwards. There was also the problem of storage. Members expressed doubt that cones would ease the parking situation and it was **RESOLVED** not to agree to this request.

13/77k **Waldron Recreation Ground**

To appoint a representative for the Waldron Ground Management Committee

It was reported that two representatives were required for the above sub-committee. Mr Landreth and Mrs Mackie volunteered to be members of the Committee.

Mr Chambers reported that he hoped planning permission would be granted from Wealden District Council for cricket nets.

13/77l **Jubilee Park**

It was reported that a notice asking users of the park to keep their dogs on lead had been removed within 24 hours of being erected.

13/77m **Skatepark**

It was reported that a resident of Westwood Mews had contacted the office regarding an ash tree in the skatepark which adjoined her property. The tree was inspected and found to be dangerous and was duly felled by the Contractor. The Committee agreed that a maintenance inspection of the trees in the Skatepark should take place twice yearly.

13/78 **TO CONSIDER BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR 2014/15**

A draft budget and report was circulated to Members for consideration. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend a budget requirement of £117,750 for approval by FGP Committee, as follows:-

Budget Heading	2014/2015	Variation over 2013/2014
Recreation Grounds	20000.00	+3000.00
Heathfield Community Centre	22000.00	-500.00
Seats, Litter Bins, Noticeboards	2500.00	+1500.00
Green Lane Public Open spaces	4000.00	+3000.00
High Street trees and Flower baskets	3500.00	0
Legal and Other Costs	0	0
Bus shelters	1500.00	+500.00
Grounds Maintenance contract	61500.00	+6500.00
Totals	103750	+14,000

13/79 **REPORT ON INSURANCE INSPECTIONS OF PLAY AREAS**

The Chairman reported that the previous playground inspection company had gone into liquidation. A new company had now been appointed and their reports had showed up very few problems. One immediate action that was noted was to top up the woodchip underneath the play equipment which had been carried out immediately. The Chairman wished to pass on her thanks to the Council's Contractor and his team for their regular inspections of the play equipment.

13/80 **TREES ON THE GREEN LANE ESTATE**

4 Larch Close

The owner of the above property had written to the Parish Council asking if they could pay for work to the trees at the rear of her property which were on Parish Council land. It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council contractor should be asked to obtain a quote from a tree surgeon which would then be discussed at the next LER meeting in January.

11 Magnolia Close

The owner of the above property had written to the Parish Council asking for a contribution towards tree work at the rear of her property. The Parish Council had carried out two Land Registry searches which had shown that the land did not belong to the Parish Council, but to a development company which has since gone into liquidation.

17 The Oaks

In the recent high winds a tree had fallen against the roof of the above property causing minor damage to the roof tiles. The cost of felling the tree was £250 but details of the cost of removal and repairs to the damaged tiles on the roof were awaited.

It was also reported that a leaning tree had been removed from The Coppice at an approximate cost of £750.00.

13/81 **DARCH'S WOOD**

Mrs Plant reported that work had taken place to installing a new path at New Pond Hill but unfortunately in the recent bad weather it had been washed away. It was noted that more drains would be installed in this area in the near future.

13/82 **DOG BIN AT THEOBALDS GREEN**

The Committee ratified the cost of the additional dog bin at Theobalds Green at a cost of £4.95 per week for emptying.

13/83 **GENERAL WORKS CONTRACT**

It was noted that Clause 15 of the General Works Contract allows for a cost of living increase. A copy of a letter from C and E Davis Ltd had been circulated to the Committee which asked for an increase of the hourly rate to £15.00. It was **RESOLVED** to approve this increase.

13/84 **HIGH STREET PLANTING**

There were no matters to report.

13/85 **HIGH STREET FURNITURE**

It was noted that the painting of the High Street furniture had been completed.

13/86 **MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

There were none.

13/87 **CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17**

The dog excrement at Hardy Roberts needed to be monitored.

13/88 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

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

The provision of an additional dog bin at Theobalds Green would help prevent the risk of disease from dog excrement.

- (ii) To consider risk list

The risk list was reviewed and approved.

13/89 **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 28 January 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 9.02 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

Dated: