

HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL
RECREATION GROUNDS AND PROPERTIES COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 20 JULY 2010 AT 7.30 PM
At Heathfield Community Centre

PRESENT: Mr Bowdler, Mr Chambers, Mr Hart, Mr Newnham, Mrs Plant (Chairman), Mr Smith, Mr Waterhouse and Mr Wood.

The Clerk was in attendance.

One member of the public was also present.

10/62 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Clark, Mr Davis, Mrs Muddle and Mr Woodhouse.

10/63 **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The following disclosures had previously been made by Members.

Mr Chambers disclosed a personal interest in respect of Lucas Hall and House and Cattam Pavilion as a Member of the Committee

Mrs Plant disclosed a prejudicial interest in respect of Darch's Wood arising from her husband's Membership of Cross-In-Hand Amenities Society.

Mr Newnham disclosed a personal interest as the Parish Council representative (paragraph 9(c) of the Code of Conduct) on Cross-In-Hand Village Hall. He also disclosed a prejudicial interest in matters relating to Darch's Wood as Chairman of the Cross-In-Hand Amenities Society (owners of the wood).

Mrs Plant disclosed a personal interest as the Parish Council's representative on the Hardy Roberts Playing Fields Association.

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.

Mr Hart disclosed a prejudicial interest in respect of Broad Oak Village Hall as Vice-Chairman of the Committee and a personal interest in respect of the Waldron Management Sub-Committee as Vice-Chairman.

Mr Wood disclosed a prejudicial interest in respect of Heathfield and Waldron Rugby Club, as a Member of the Club.

Mr Smith disclosed a prejudicial interest in respect of Punnetts Town Village Hall as a member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

10/64 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2010, having been previously circulated, be amended at 10/50c to read "...that the Club should be given undefined use ..." rather than indefinite use. They were then confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

10/65 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

10/66 **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT AS AT 30 JUNE 2010**

The Committee approved the report.

10/67 **EMERGENCY WORKS OR WORKS ADDITIONAL TO CONTRACT**

The Committee noted that no emergency works had been carried out.

10/68 **REPORTS ON RECREATION GROUNDS**

10/68a **Lucas Hall and House, Waldron**

The Clerk reported that following Scott Owen's appointment as managing agents for the house, some potential tenants had been shown around and one family had expressed an interest. The Committee reiterated the need for the new tenants to respect the users of the Hall.

10/68b **Punnetts Town Recreation Ground and Village Hall**

Progress on New Hall

Mr Smith reported that it was hoped to open the hall by the second week of August and confirmed that agreement had now been reached with EDF regarding the electrical supply.

It was noted that the new access arrangements were working satisfactorily following the cutting back of the hedge and the situation would be monitored.

10/68c **Tower Recreation Ground**

Report on site meeting held on 17 June 2010

Following the site meeting with local resident, Mr Boniface, the Chairman reported that agreement had been made for the dog bin closest to the car park to be moved and for the bin in the south western corner to be replaced as it was rusting away. The paving slabs to the entrances would be installed soon, once the query over the route of the electrical cable had been established.

The Committee noted and approved work to rectify a collapsed drain which had now been carried out.

10/68d **Cade Street Memorial Ground**

The Committee noted that the Burial Grounds Committee had commented on the need to replace the dog sign.

10/68e **Broad Oak Recreation Ground**

New play equipment at Broad Oak

The Chairman reported that the equipment had been delivered and it would be installed in the next few weeks.

10/68f **Hardy Roberts Playing Fields**

New play equipment

The Committee noted that delivery was expected shortly.

10/68g **Leeves Common Play Area**

The Clerk reported that the internal auditor was satisfied with the proposed arrangements for the Council to act as accountable body in respect of the grant funding for the new project. It would be necessary to open a new bank account and this was being progressed.

10/68h **Sheepsetting Lane Recreation Ground**

The Clerk reported that Heathfield Hotspurs Football Club had now ceased to exist and requests had been received from Punnetts Town Football Club and the Rugby Club for permission to use the facilities at Sheepsetting Lane. A verbal request had also been received from Broad Oak and Horam Junior Football Club. The Committee considered the requests and it was agreed that as the Rugby Club already had use of Hardy Roberts and two pitches at Waldron, it would be unfair to offer them an additional pitch.

It was **RESOLVED** that Punnetts Town FC and Broad Oak and Horam JFC be offered alternate use of the pitch and that the Rugby Club be offered use of the informal area to the rear of the Community Centre for weekday training only, as use on a Sunday would be disruptive to the Church who use the Hall.

10/68i **Heathfield Community Centre**

Vehicular access at rear of building

It was reported that the NHS Trust were not willing to reinstate the access at the side of the building, because the Lease referred to pedestrian access only. The Clerk pointed out that the vehicular type access gate was in place when the Parish Council

took on the Lease and that it had been in use without any problems since 1990. The NHS were insistent that the only access should be via the gate at the bottom of the football pitch but the Committee expressed concern about the viability of the access when the ground was wet.

Report on meeting held with East Sussex Hospitals Trust

The Committee noted the contents of a letter from the Trust relating to matters discussed at the meeting. The main outstanding matter was the state of the changing rooms and corridor and a timetable for redecoration would be agreed. This could not be undertaken, however, until problems with the ventilation of the changing rooms and inadequate showers had been investigated by the Trust.

Details of the flooring materials had been sent to the Trust.

Microphone

The Committee considered a report from System Design relating to the sound system for the hall, indicating that the lapel radio microphone needed to be replaced. It was noted that the amplifier and control knobs were located in an office in the PCT part of the building and had been damaged probably during re-decorations. It was **RESOLVED** that the lapel microphone should be replaced together with a new dual channel receiver at a cost of £470 + VAT. The Committee also agreed that if possible the new receiver should be boxed in to prevent further damage.

10/68j **Waldron Recreation Ground**

The Chairman gave a report on the meeting of the Management Sub-Committee held on the 14 July 2010. It was noted that the work to the car park lighting had not yet been carried out as it needed to be undertaken in the winter months. There were no other outstanding matters.

10/68k **Jubilee Park**

The Committee noted that no further reports had been received about dog fouling since the article in the local press had appeared.

10/68l **Skatepark**

The Clerk reported that the Heathfield Youth Council had organised a litter pick in the skatepark, but it was disappointing to note that this had not encouraged the users to keep the area tidy.

10/69 **LICENCE TO OCCUPY**

It was noted that the Solicitor was still looking at the files relating to this.

10/70 **DARCH'S WOOD**

Members noted a report following an inspection of the wood and agreed that a

management plan should be put in place to remove the Rhododendron which was invading some areas, causing harm to the trees and other flora. It was agreed that reference should be made to the FWAG report produced some time ago, which identified different areas and strategies to manage the wood.

10/71 **LAND AT PUNNETTS TOWN**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the legal fees proposed by Mayo Wynne Baxter for progressing the registration of the three areas, at a cost of £1,200 plus VAT. The work would necessitate statutory declarations and the fee was based on the anticipated outcome but could increase if additional work was required.

This was an urgent item, allowed by the Chairman, for ratification at the next meeting.

10/72 **LAND AT THEOBALDS GREEN**

Following the appointment of Kember, Loudon and Williams as the planning consultations for the project, it was agreed that visits should be made by the Working Group to woodland burial sites at Clayton Wood and Hastings. A meeting of the Working Group would be called in due course.

10/73 **GREEN LANE PUBLIC OPEN SPACES**

The Committee noted a report regarding trees on the Council's land. A number of householders had asked for work to overhanging trees to be carried out and the Committee reviewed its policy regarding tree management on the estate.

It was **RESOLVED** that the existing policy should continue, whereby only dead, dying or dangerous trees would be removed or cutback at the Parish Council's expense. In other instances, householders would be required to obtain planning permission and carry out the work at their own expense.

10/74 **ALLOTMENTS**

The Committee noted that all the existing plots were currently let.

10/75 **SEATS, LITTER BINS AND BUS SHELTERS**

Request to replace seat at Thorny Close

The Clerk reported that several requests had been made in the office for the replacement of this seat, which was removed following incidents of anti-social behaviour in the area. The local Police had indicated that they had no objection to its reinstatement and it was **RESOLVED** that it be replaced in the Autumn.

WDC – new litter bin planning application

An application to replace litter bins in the parish had been submitted by Wealden District Council and was considered by the HPS Committee on 5 July. Wealden had

been informed that some of the bins belonged to the Parish Council and that those in the High Street should remain of the design set out in the supplementary Planning Guidance document adopted in 2002.

It was **RESOLVED** that no objections be made to the replacement of bins which were currently owned by the Parish Council but that, where possible, bins removed should be returned to the Council for re-use elsewhere.

10/76 **MILL ROAD PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

It was reported that further vandalism had taken place, with some of the plumbing fittings being removed on several occasions. It was noted that they had been replaced and it was agreed that the situation should be monitored.

10/77 **MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

There were none.

10/78 **CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17**

There were considered to be no implications under the above Act as a result of matters discussed at the meeting.

10/79 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The need for ongoing tree inspections and maintenance at Darch's Wood was acknowledged as a risk management issue.

10/80 **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Committee meeting would take place on Tuesday 20 September 2010 at 7.30 pm, in the Ian Price Room, Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield.

The meeting closed at 8.450 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

Dated: