

HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL
LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION
COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2011 AT 7.30 PM
At Heathfield Community Centre

PRESENT: Mr M Baker, Mr Bowdler, Ms Bowdler, Mr Chambers, Mrs Clark, Mr Newnham, Mrs Plant, Mr Smith, Mr Taylor, Mr Wood and Mr Woodhouse.

The Clerk was in attendance.

A member of the public was also present.

LAND AT PUNNETTS TOWN

Mrs Cattel-Killick, owner of the property adjoining the land asked about progress in registering the land and reiterated her interest in acquiring a lease on it.

The meeting commenced at 7.39 p.m.

11/89 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

11/90 **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

The following disclosures had previously been made by Members.

Mr Newnham, Mrs Plant and Mr Baker disclosed prejudicial interests in respect of Darch's Wood arising from their membership of the Cross-in-Hand Amenities Society.

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

Mrs Clark disclosed a personal interest in respect of Punnetts Town Village Hall as organiser of their Coffee Mornings

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

Mr Baker disclosed a prejudicial interest in respect of Cross-in-Hand Village Hall as a member of the Committee.

11/91 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Leisure, Environment and Recreation meeting held on 12 September 2011 having been previously circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

11/92 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

11/93 **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2011**

The Committee noted and approved the report.

11/94 **EMERGENCY/ADDITIONAL WORKS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2011**

There were none.

11/95 **REPORTS ON RECREATION GROUNDS**

11/95a **Lucas Hall and House, Waldron**

The Clerk reported that the tenant of the House had asked for permission to install a wood-burning stove, to reduce her energy costs. It was suggested that permission be granted on the basis that at the end of her tenancy the stove be valued to enable the Trustees to decide whether or not to purchase it and that a Certificate of Competence should be obtained from the installer. A meeting of the Trustees would be held to give formal approval.

11/95b **Punnetts Town Recreation Ground and Village Hall**

There were no matters to report.

11/95c **Tower Recreation Ground**

It was noted that the work to create a serving hatch in the pavilion had not yet been carried out.

11/95d **Cade Street Memorial Ground**

It was reported that the swings were in the process of being painted.

11/95e **Broad Oak Recreation Ground**

It was noted that the bark under the play equipment needed topping up and raking and the Council's contractor would be notified. It was reported that the hedge on the corner of the Twitten/A265 needed cutting and the Village Hall Committee would be notified of this.

11/95f **Cross in Hand Village Hall**

Verbal update on Car Park

No further information was available in connection with the works.

11/95g **Hardy Roberts Playing Fields**

Planning Application for Rugby Club

It was noted that the planning application for floodlighting to the training area had been submitted. The Committee noted that a meeting of the Association would take place on 30 November.

11/95h **Leeves Common Play Area**

The Clerk reported that the company carrying out playground inspections from January 2012 would be Digleys. They had been approached regarding the maintenance issues at Leeves Common and had indicated that the critical fall height for the multi-play unit was low enough to allow for a grass surface underneath.

11/95i **Sheepsetting Lane Recreation Ground**

There were no matters to report.

11/95j **Heathfield Community Centre**

Meeting with NHS

The Committee raised concerns about the continuing high cost of the shared maintenance liability with the NHS and noted that there had been no breakdown of the PPM costs for the current financial year, despite reminders. It was agreed that the possibility of seeking a variation to the lease to apportion costs more fairly should be pursued.

Ventilation to Sports Changing Rooms

It was noted that this work had commenced and was due for completion on 2nd December 2011.

Mobile Phone

The Committee noted that the mobile phone held by the Caretaker for use by hirers in an emergency was no longer working. The Caretaker had reported that it was very seldom used and Members considered that it was extremely unlikely that users of the Centre would not have their own mobile phone. It was, therefore, decided not to replace it.

Hiring Fees

It was reported that the Caretakers' fees for the 2012/2013 financial year would not be increasing. Consideration was given to the level of hiring fees and Members discussed the increasing costs of running the Centre in view of the NHS shared costs now being imposed. There was a need to keep fees at a level which would not discourage use of the Centre. It was **RESOLVED** to approve an increase of £5 on the fees per session, to be applied to new and unconfirmed bookings with effect from 1 April 2012.

Heating to Ian Price Room

A quotation had been obtained from the NHS contractors for works to the underfloor heating in the Ian Price Room and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the quotation in the sum of £103.45 + VAT.

11/95k **Waldron Recreation Ground**

It was noted that the planning application for the car park extension would be submitted shortly.

11/95l **Jubilee Park**

There were no matters to report.

11/95m **Skatepark**

There were no matters to report.

11/96 **BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR 2012/13**

A draft budget for the forthcoming year had been circulated to Members for consideration. It was **RESOLVED** that the following budget be submitted to FGP Committee for approval.

Budget Heading	2012/2013	Change
Recreation Grounds, Street furniture	60500	-30000
Community Centre	42600	+ 11100
Seats, Litter bins, noticeboards etc	5000	+1750
Hanging baskets, High Street trees	2750	0
Green Lane Public open spaces	2000	0
Grounds Maintenance contract	51000	+3000
Legal and Professional fees	3000	0
Total	166,850	+14,150
Less income (£18650) and amount taken from RGP Reserves (£30000)	118,200	

11/97 **LITTER BIN AT ST RICHARDS CAR PARK**

Following the request from St Richards Church for a litter bin at this location, Wealden District Council had been approached to see if they would empty it free of charge if the Parish Council provided the bin. However, Wealden had indicated that they were happy to provide the bin but the Parish Council would have to pay the emptying charge of £4.65 per week. It was considered that this would set a precedent for similar requests on other sites not owned by the Parish Council and it was decided not to agree to the request.

11/98 **LICENCE TO OCCUPY**

It was noted that the draft Licence had caused some concern amongst users of the Hardy Roberts Playing Fields and it was hoped that the issues could be resolved at the next meeting of the HRPF Association.

11/99 **DARCH'S WOOD**

The Tree Survey had been copied to Members for information and it was agreed that the emergency work identified within the report should be carried out. There was then discussion about the recommendations for ongoing maintenance, which included coppicing. It was agreed that a small area should be cleared in the first instance and that consideration be given to seeking help from the BTCV.

It was agreed that a tree survey should be carried out every four years and that Mr Wood, as the Parish Council's Tree Warden, should attend the next meeting of the Cross-in-Hand Amenities Society.

Mr Baker, Mr Newnham and Mrs Plant left the meeting room during consideration of the above matter and Mrs Clark took the Chair.

11/100 **LAND AT PUNNETTS TOWN**

The Clerk reported that the Assistant Clerk had contacted the Council's Solicitor with regard to first registration and it was hoped that the matter could be moved to a conclusion.

11/101 **MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

There were none.

11/102 **CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17**

There were no implications under the above Act in respect of matters discussed at the meeting.

11/103 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

It was agreed to carry out emergency works in respect of dangerous trees at Darch's Wood and Members considered the potential risk in respect of a public phone no longer being available at the Community Centre to be minimal in view of the high numbers of people now owning mobile phones.

11/104 **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Committee meeting would take place on Tuesday 24 January 2012 at 7.30 pm, in the Ian Price Room, Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield.

The meeting closed at 9.06 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

Dated: