

**HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2011 AT 7.30 PM**  
**At Heathfield Community Centre**

**PRESENT:** Mr M Baker, Mr Bowdler, Mr Chambers, Mrs Clark, Mrs Muddle, Mr Newnham, Mrs Plant (Chairman), Mr Smith, Mr Waterhouse and Mr Wood.

The Clerk was in attendance.

Two members of the public were also present.

**JUBILEE PARK**

Mrs Drumgoon and Mrs Sheppard spoke to the Committee regarding problems with dogs not under control in the Jubilee Park.

11/41 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Mr Newnham took the Chair and nominated Mrs Plant for Chairman, seconded by Mrs Clark. A vote was taken and Mrs Plant was unanimously elected as Chairman for the following year. Mrs Plant then re-took the Chair and proposed Mr Hart as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mr Newnham. Although not present at the meeting, Mr Hart had indicated his willingness to stand and following a vote he was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman.

11/42 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

11/43 **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 and Mr Baker disclosed prejudicial interests in respect of Darch's Wood arising from their membership of the Cross-in-Hand Amenities Society.

Mrs Plant and Mr Newnham disclosed personal interests 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 Smith disclosed a prejudicial interest in respect of Punnetts Town Village Hall as a member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

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

At the meeting, Mr Waterhouse disclosed a prejudicial interest in respect of use of the Community Centre for a 16<sup>th</sup> birthday party as the applicant was his employee.

11/44 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the Recreation Grounds Properties meeting held on 15 March 2011 having been previously circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

11/45 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

11/46 **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT AS AT 231 MARCH 2011**

The Committee noted the report.

11/47 **EMERGENCY WORKS OR WORKS ADDITIONAL TO CONTRACT FOR 31 MARCH 2011**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure under this budget of £3354 plus VAT.

11/48 **REPORTS ON RECREATION GROUNDS**

It was **RESOLVED** to bring the following matter forward on the Agenda for the benefit of members of the public.

**Jubilee Park**

The Committee discussed possible measures in relation to the control of dogs in the park. It was **RESOLVED** that a sign should be erected on the gate reminding visitors of the need to keep dogs under control and that any incidents should be reported to the Police and the Parish Council Office. It was also agreed that Members of the Committee would visit the park at various times of the day to ascertain the extent of the problem.

11/48a **Lucas Hall and House, Waldron**

The Clerk reported that the house had been re-let and there had been no problems so far.

11/48b **Punnetts Town Recreation Ground and Village Hall**

(i) **Progress on Doctor's Surgery**

It was reported that the building should be complete by the end of the month.

(ii) Siting of new bin at Punnetts Town Recreation Ground

The Committee noted that it would be difficult to empty if the new bin was sited at the far side of the ground and it was agreed that it should be placed close to the car park instead.

(iii) Request for use of ground for Summer Fete – 18 June 2011

It was agreed that permission be given for this use.

11/48c **Tower Recreation Ground**

It was agreed that the Council's contractor should be asked whether the changing room doors could be cleaned to restore the surface to the original metal. It was noted that the razor wire on the pavilion roof was still missing.

The drainage works and access improvements were still outstanding.

11/48d **Cade Street Memorial Ground**

A neighbour had requested the removal of a dead Fir tree and trimming of a Holly. The Chairman had inspected the trees in question and they appeared to be healthy and not dangerous in any way. It was, therefore, agreed that no works should be carried out.

11/48e **Broad Oak Recreation Ground**

It was noted that the Village Hall Committee had not yet arranged for the repair to the damaged fence. A request had been received for an additional seat to be placed outside of the play area and it was agreed that this should be passed on to the Village Hall Committee for consideration.

11/48f **Cross in Hand Village Hall**

The Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, Mrs Howitt, had indicated at the APA that there were plans to extend car parking to the rear of the Hall. No further information had been received.

11/48g **Hardy Roberts Playing Fields**

New play equipment

The Chairman reported that the new play equipment was being well used.

Parking in Back Lane

A nearby resident had written to the Parish Council complaining about cars parking in Back Lane and obstructing the entrance to the children's play area. There was concern that this was a safety issue for pedestrians and children exiting from the play area. The Committee discussed possible remedies and it was noted that the white lines painted by ESCC were not being observed and they were not willing to introduce parking restrictions.

It was noted that there was insufficient room to install bollards and it was agreed that representatives of the Rugby Club should be invited to the next meeting to try and agree a solution to the problem. In the meantime, traffic cones would be made available so that they could be put in place during rugby matches.

11/48h **Leeves Common Play Area**

It was noted that the play area was now complete and the project had been very successful. An official opening would take place on Sunday 29 May and Members were invited to attend.

11/48i **Sheepsetting Lane Recreation Ground**

Request for use by Heathfield Community College (primary schools multi skills festival)

It was agreed that permission be granted.

11/48j **Heathfield Community Centre**

(i) Report on meeting with NHS on 4 April 2011

The Committee noted that no response had been received to the Parish Council's letter regarding the shared costs for the Centre.

(ii) Hiring Terms and Conditions – Returned cheques

The Committee noted that there had been one or two recent occasions when cheques had been returned unpaid by the Bank. This incurred a small charge to the Council and it was proposed that the Terms and Conditions be amended to say that a £10 charge would be imposed in such cases. It was **RESOLVED** to approve this amendment to the booking fees.

(iii) 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party

The Committee considered a request to hold a 16<sup>th</sup> birthday party in the Hall. It was noted that parties for teenaged children were not normally accepted but in this instance written reassurance had been received that there would be a large number of adults present. Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** to allow the booking.

**Mr Waterhouse left the room during consideration of the above.**

11/48k **Waldron Recreation Ground**

It was noted that the next meeting of Waldron Recreation Ground Management Meeting would be held on 8 June 2011

The Committee noted that planning permission was required for the extension to the car park and a meeting of the Trustees would be held to approve the fee of £167.50. It was also noted that the recreation ground was not part of the Conservation Area.

11/481 **Skatepark**

The Committee noted that the seat placed in the skatepark by Wealden District Council had been vandalised and subsequently removed. Therefore, a recycled plastic seat from the Parish Council's stock supply had been installed. The provision of an additional bin was queried and this would be confirmed and actioned if necessary.

11/49 **WDC DOG EMPTYING SERVICE**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the contract for a further year at a cost of £4.65 per bin with effect from 1 April 2011.

11/50 **LICENCE TO OCCUPY**

The Chairman reported that this was continuing.

11/51 **DARCH'S WOOD**

Tree Survey

A progress report had been received from the surveyor and was noted by Members.

11/52 **LAND AT PUNNETTS TOWN**

No further progress at this time.

11/53 **GREEN LANE PUBLIC OPEN SPACES**

A letter had been received from the occupier of 5 Mulberry Way regarding overhanging trees at the rear of her property. The trees had been inspected by the Council's contractor who had confirmed that they were not dead, dying or dangerous. The Committee agreed that the householder should be advised that the work could be carried out at her own expense, providing permission was obtained from Wealden District Council with regard to the TPO.

11/54 **SEATS AND LITTER BINS**

There were no matters to report.

11/55 **MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

Mrs Holmwood had raised the matter of a seat close to the entrance of the Cuckoo Trail which had been requested at the Joint Action Group meeting. Although the land was owned by ESCC, they had no objections but would not fund the provision of a seat. The Police had recommended the placing of a seat to discourage young people from gathering around Mary Burfield Court and it was **RESOLVED** that a seat and litter bin be installed and that the seat be positioned to allow a second one to be provided at a later date.

11/56 **CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17**

It was considered that the proposed seat at the entrance to the Cuckoo Trail would help prevent disorderly conduct in the vicinity of Mary Burfield Court and that action was being taken to try and prevent incidences of uncontrolled dogs in the Jubilee Park.

11/57 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The parking of cars close to the entrance to the children's play area at Hardy Roberts was considered to be a risk management issue and discussions would take place with the Rugby Club to try and resolve the problems.

11/58 **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Committee meeting would take place on Tuesday 26 July 2011 at 7.30 pm, in the Ian Price Room, Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield.

The meeting closed at 9.07 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

Dated: