

HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING OF RECREATION GROUNDS AND PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2008 AT 7.30 PM

At Heathfield Community Centre

PRESENT: Mr Bassingthwaighte, Mrs Clark, Mr Davis, Mr Hart, Mrs Muddle,
Mr Newnham, Mrs Oakes, Mrs Plant (Chairman), Mr Waterhouse and Mr
Wood.

The Clerk was in attendance.

There were 3 members of the public also present.

PUNNETTS TOWN VILLAGE HALL

Mr Lambert-Gorwyn, Chairman of Punnetts Town Village Hall Committee gave an update on the project, which was progressing to tender stage. The Hall should commence in Spring with the Doctors' surgery (Phase 2) in the Autumn. He confirmed that the contractors working area would not impinge upon the School football pitch area and stated that the School were happy with the arrangements. Two trees would be removed and replaced with suitable species. It was noted that safety for users of the play area would have to be maintained.

The Meeting commenced at 7.41p.m.

08/72 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Chambers and Dr Rayner.

08/73 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Mr Bassingthwaighte took the Chair and invited nominations for Chairman. Mrs Plant was proposed and seconded and following a vote was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee.

Mrs Plant then took the Chair and invited nominations for Vice-Chairman. Mr Hart was proposed and seconded and following a vote was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee.

Thanks were recorded to Mr Woolley for all his hard work on behalf of the Committee and he would be missed very much.

08/74 **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Mrs Plant disclosed a personal interest in respect of Darch's Wood as her husband is a Member of Cross-In-Hand Amenities Society.

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

The following disclosures had previously been made by Members.

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).

Mr Chambers disclosed interests under paragraph 7(1) in respect of Waldron Cricket Club and as the Parish Council's representative on Lucas Memorial Hall Shadow Management Committee and the Cattam Project.

Mr Davis disclosed a prejudicial interest in all matters relating to C and E Davis Limited (general works contractor) as the father of C I Davis, including Heathfield Jubilee Park. He also disclosed a personal interest in Punnetts Town Village Hall as the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee.

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.

Mrs Plant disclosed a prejudicial interest in respect of overhanging trees at Darch's Wood as they were overhanging her property

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

08/75 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2008, having been previously circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record but that the list of standard declarations of interest be added as an Appendix.

08/76 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

08/77 **BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT**

The budgetary control report as at 31 October 2008 was noted by the Committee.

A list of emergency works totalling £2627.75 as at 31 October 2008 was presented to the meeting and duly approved.

08/78 **REPORTS ON RECREATION GROUNDS**

08/78a **Lucas Hall, Waldron**

The matters of the central heating system and works to the emergency exit doors were agreed at the meeting of the Charity Trustees.

08/78b **Punnetts Town Recreation Ground and Village Hall**

The Committee noted the progress on the project and congratulated the Committee for all their achievements so far.

08/78c **Tower Recreation Ground**

It was noted that unfortunately the ground had been too wet to enable the new play equipment to be installed. A report would be prepared for the next meeting regarding quotations for additional works.

08/78d **Cade Street Memorial Ground**

There was nothing to report.

08/78e **Broad Oak Recreation Ground**

It was noted that a provisional sum had been included in the proposed budget for the 2009/2010 financial year to fund some improvements to the play area. During a recent inspection, there was concern about the state of the boundary with the highway which was considered to be the responsibility of the Village Hall Committee and/or ESCC. The roadside hedge was overgrown and this would be reported to the Village Hall Committee.

08/78f **Hardy Roberts Playing Fields**

It was reported that during a recent visit there was a lot of litter around the rugby pitch and the lights had not been lowered. Despite numerous requests, the scrummage machine remained uncovered. It was suggested that a meeting be called of the Hardy Roberts Playing Fields Association but it was not known who the current Secretary was.

With regard to the new pitch, concern was expressed about possible enforcement of the planning condition relating to the installation of the car park prior to any use of the pitch.

08/78g **Leeves Common Play Area**

It was noted that a Public meeting to discuss proposals by Unity Community Association to erect a youth shelter and future multi-ball court would take place on 24 November 2008.

08/78h **Sheepsetting Lane Recreation Ground**

A request had been received from East Hoathly Football Club for permission to use the football pitch at Sheepsetting Lane. It was intimated that the pitch was not fully utilised at present by Heathfield Hotspurs because of changes to their team. However, the Committee agreed that Heathfield Hotspurs be asked to confirm their use of the pitch to enable the matter to be considered further at the next meeting.

08/78i **Heathfield Community Centre**

Conditions of Hire

The Committee noted with concern that on two recent occasions the fire alarm had sounded within the Centre and hirers of the Hall had failed to evacuate the building. On both occasions the Fire Brigade had arrived and it was found to be a false alarm, however, the Officers were concerned that despite the hirers being aware of their responsibilities, they had not followed the correct procedure. The Fire Service had suggested that an amendment be made to the Conditions of Hire to strengthen the responsibilities of the hirer in the event of an alarm sounding.

In addition to this, the Conditions had been amended to make it the hirer's responsibility to ensure that any licences required under Performing Rights legislation were obtained.

The Conditions of Hire were approved as amended.

Heathfield Community Centre Sub-Committee

The Minutes of the Heathfield Centre Sub-Committee meeting held on 3 November (unadopted) had been circulated to all Members. The Committee noted the proposals to obtain quotations for sports corridor flooring, redecoration, planters and new kitchen.

The Committee noted that there was a need for additional Gopak tables, together with a storage trolley and meeting chairs for the Ian Price Room and it was **RESOLVED** that these items be ordered, the exact cost to be confirmed at the next meeting.

08/78j **Waldron Recreation Ground**

Extension to car park

It was agreed that this matter be discussed at the next meeting.

Noticeboard for use by Cattam Pavilion

It was noted that the possible cost would be £650 + VAT and that this information be passed on to the Cattam Pavilion Committee. There was concern that the board should be sited so that it did not obstruct the visibility splay for the car park.

Reed Bed for Cattam Pavilion

The Cattam Committee had obtained quotations for a pumped system as well as a reed bed, which had been considered by the Sub-Committee. It was proposed that the reed bed system might be favourable subject to planning and environment agency consents. The matter would be investigated further and additional quotations would be obtained.

Mr Davis left the room during discussion of the above items.

08/78k Jubilee Park

There were no matters to report.

08/78l Skatepark

The Committee noted that a meeting had been arranged with Wealden District Council to discuss the lease and access arrangements on 8 December 2008.

08/79 LAND AT PUNNETTS TOWN

It was noted that the trial holes had not yet been dug and a letter had been received from a management company relating to 1 Clarklye Cottages objecting to the possible use of the land for allotments.

08/80 BUS SHELTERS, SEATS AND LITTER BINS

The Committee noted that as part of the redevelopment of the Isenhurst Service Station, the existing bus shelter would need to be replaced and re-sited. Further details were awaited.

It was noted that the railings in the High Street had suffered from vandalism and needed to be repaired and replaced where necessary. In addition, they needed to be re-painted, probably on an on-going basis and a budget sum would need to be included for this work in next year's budget. In view of the problems to the existing railings, it was agreed that a request be made to The Heathfield Partnership that any future street furniture should be vandal-proof.

08/81 ALLOTMENTS

The Chairman reported that the allotments required general tidying and some hedge works and strimming. It was agreed that this work be carried out as a matter of urgency to enable the vacant plots to be halved as previously agreed and re-let before the next growing season.

08/82 DARCH'S WOOD

It was reported that the overhanging tree was not on Darch's Wood land and that the Parish Council's contractor was meeting with ESCC Highways to discuss the matter.

08/83 **TO AGREE BUDGET FOR 2009/2010 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Committee considered a draft budget for the following financial year and it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to FGP Committee that a budget of £150,200 be proposed as follows:-

Pitch Maintenance	£26,750.00
Play Equipment	£20,200.00
Repairs	£51,600.00
Grass/Hedge Cutting	£1,150.00
Drainage	£4,000.00
Extend Car Park	£3,500.00
Pitch Drainage	£15,000.00
Maintenance Contract	£28,000.00
Total	£150,200.00

08/84 **MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

There were none.

08/85 **CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17**

The need for vandal-proof High Street railings and street furniture was noted by the Committee.

08/86 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The possible risk relating to the Committee's ability to carry out its responsibilities had been considered when setting the proposed budget. The amendments to Conditions of Hire of the Heathfield Community Centre were considered to address the risk of hirers not adhering to requirements to evacuate the building when a fire alarm sounded.

08/87 **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Committee meeting would take place on Monday 23 February 2009 at 7.30 pm, in the Ian Price Room, Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield.

The meeting closed at 8.58 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

Dated: