

# **HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MEETING OF RECREATION GROUNDS AND PROPERTIES COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2009 AT 7.30 PM**

**At Heathfield Community Centre**

**PRESENT:** Mr Chambers, Mr Davis, Mr Hart, Mr Newnham, Mrs Oakes, Mrs Plant (Chairman), Dr Rayner and Mr Woodhouse.

The Clerk was in attendance.

County Councillor Simmons and 3 members of Unity Community Association were also present.

### **UNITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Mr Hedges, Chairman of UCA, asked that the proposed new youth shelter at the Skatepark be installed as soon as possible and confirmed that funding of £4,000 from Awards 4 All and £4,000 from JAG had been agreed.

**The Meeting commenced at 7.40 p.m.**

#### 09/07 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Bassingthwaite, Mrs Clark, Mrs Muddle, Mr Waterhouse and Mr Wood.

#### 09/08 **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 Davis disclosed a prejudicial interest in respect of the quotation received for redecoration of Heathfield Community Centre from Michael Muddle, who carried out work for him.

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.

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

Mrs Oakes disclosed a personal interest in respect of Leeves Common play area as a resident of the estate but not in the direct vicinity of the play area.

09/09 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2008 and the Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary meeting held on 4 February 2009, having been previously circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

09/10 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

09/11 **BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT**

The budgetary control report as at 31 January 2009 was noted by the Committee.

A list of emergency works totalling £846.00 as at 31 January 2009 was presented to the meeting and duly approved.

09/12 **REPORTS ON RECREATION GROUNDS**

09/12a **Lucas Hall, Waldron**

Outstanding issues were reported under Waldron Recreation Ground Management Sub-Committee.

09/12b **Punnetts Town Recreation Ground and Village Hall**

The Committee received a written report from Mrs Clark.

09/12c **Tower Recreation Ground**

It was noted that the ground remained too wet to enable the installation of the play equipment.

Following discussion regarding the possible provision of a second youth shelter in the town, Tower Recreation Ground had been suggested and it was **RESOLVED** that a public consultation exercise be carried out with users of the Ground together with local residents.

It was anticipated that the cost of a shelter would be in the region of £10,000 and

09/12d **Cade Street Memorial Ground**

There was nothing to report.

09/12e **Broad Oak Recreation Ground**

The Committee noted that the provision of new play equipment would be undertaken in the next financial year.

09/12f **Hardy Roberts Playing Fields**

It was noted that a meeting of the Association had been arranged and two new representatives were required following the resignation of Mr Woolley from the Council and Mrs Archer's resignation from the RGP Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that Mrs Plant and Mr Newnham be appointed as the Parish Council's representatives.

09/12g **Leeves Common Play Area**

The Committee had resolved to look at alternative sites for youth shelters, including Heathfield Skatepark and Tower Recreation Ground. In respect of Tower Recreation Ground, it was **RESOLVED** to carry out a public consultation, including users of the recreation ground and local residents.

With regard to the establishment of a Working Group, it was agreed that Mr Woodhouse and Mr Hart should be the Parish Council's representatives.

09/12h **Sheepsetting Lane Recreation Ground**

There was nothing to report.

09/12i **Heathfield Community Centre**

**Re-decoration of Hall and Ian Price Room**

Three quotations had been obtained and were considered by the Committee. There was some disparity between the quotes and the Committee were concerned about the possible quality achievable in the case of the lowest price. Following discussion, it was, therefore, **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation from M. Muddle in the sum of £1,750.

**Mr Davis left the meeting room during discussion of the above matter.**

### Planters outside Heathfield Community Centre

The Committee considered a report regarding two different options for planters at the entrance to the building. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation from Europlants Ltd for two fully planted, green oak planters at a cost of £750 + VAT each.

### Refurbishment of kitchen

The Committee agreed in principle to the refurbishment of the kitchen subject to further consideration at the next meeting, including allocation of the necessary budget.

### Possible provision of new meeting room

The Committee considered a report regarding an approach from ESCC Childrens' Services for a possible new meeting room at the Community Centre. The Chairman and the Clerk had met with ESCC to discuss various options put forward and concerns over lack of storage space and the possibility of a new external door had been highlighted. The Committee noted the current position and a further report would be made in due course.

### Caretaking fees

The Committee noted that the fees had not been increased for the current year.

## 09/12j **Waldron Recreation Ground**

### Waldron Recreation Ground Management Committee

The Lucas Hall Management Committee had asked whether the hedges could be cut more frequently. It was agreed that they should be cut twice a year but the situation would be monitored with regard to any additional cuts. With regard to the grass, the LHMC would be asked to inform the Parish Council when it needed extra cuts.

### **Mr Davis left the room during consideration of the above matter.**

With regard to the request for additional lighting to the car park, the Committee decided that this was not appropriate in a Conservation Area which had no street lights and that users should be advised to bring torches if leaving the Hall in the dark.

### Fencing at Waldron Car Park

It was agreed that this work should be delayed pending a request that the car park be extended, for discussion at the next meeting.

### Financial position of Cattam Management Committee

A written report was circulated at the meeting and was noted by the Committee. With regard to the water supply for the showers, the Committee considered that once the showers were connected it would be possible to ascertain whether the existing supply was sufficient.

#### Reed Bed for Cattam Pavilion

It had been difficult to find companies with the necessary expertise to provide quotes for the reed bed and there was some discussion as to whether this would be a suitable system.

It was noted that one company would be visiting the site in the near future and it was suggested that, if possible, Mr Hart should attend that meeting.

**Mr Davis left the room during consideration of the above matter.**

#### Siting and size of Storage Container for Heathfield Rugby Club

The Committee considered a letter from MJB Architecture in relation to a planning application submitted for a metal storage container. This proposal was for a much larger container than originally approved and the Committee objected to its proposed size and location. It was noted that HPS Committee had made a recommendation that the application be refused.

#### Waldron Village Fete on 30 May 2009

The Committee gave permission for use of the Cattam for the above event, subject to usual conditions relating to insurance, collection of litter and the ground being left in a satisfactory condition.

#### 09/12k **Jubilee Park**

There was nothing to report.

#### 09/12l **Skatepark**

Mr Woodhouse reported that he had submitted a bid for Play Pathfinder funding on behalf of the Parish Council with the help of Mrs Drury of Heathfield Youth Centre. He stated that local County and District Members had been asked for their support with the bid, which was for the complete refurbishment of the Park. The Committee thanked him for all his hard work in completing the bid in a short period of time.

As part of the bid, reference had been made to the provision of a youth shelter but approval for this would need to be obtained from Wealden District Council. It was noted that the draft Lease had still not been received.

#### 09/13 **HIGH STREET PLANTING**

The Committee considered a report which included information for a 3-year contract with Europlants. Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** that a 3-year

contract should be entered into, at a cost of £600 + VAT for planting and maintenance costs of £136.75 per visit, with an estimated frequency of 11-12 visits per year. The costs for the following 3 years would be 2010 + 2.5% and + 3% in 2011 and 2012.

09/14 **WDC – DOG BIN EMPYTING SERVICE**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to continue with the existing contract through Wealden District Council at a cost of £4.35 per bin per emptying.

09/15 **LAND AT PUNNETTS TOWN**

The Chairman reported that given the poor quality of the soil and the effect upon neighbours if the land was used for allotments, it was suggested that a short term lease be offered to the owners of Cherry Mill Cottage. It was **RESOLVED** that the possibility of a 5 year lease should be investigated further.

09/16 **ALLOTMENTS**

It was reported that the work to tidy up the area had now been carried out and that three plots had been divided to provide 8 in total, which had now been let.

**Mr Davis left the meeting at 9.30 p.m. following consideration of this matter.**

09/17 **SEATS, LITTER BINS AND BUS SHELTERS**

**Bus Shelter in Heathfield High Street**

It was reported that ongoing complaints were being received in the office about the existing shelter, which had no front panels. It was agreed that quotes should be obtained for a shelter of similar size and design to the one by Mill Road Car Park.

**Seats**

It was **RESOLVED** to replace the seat at North Street, Punnetts Town at a cost of £260 + VAT and fitting.

**High Street Railings**

It was noted with regret that the existing railings had been vandalised and urgent repairs were needed to make them safe. It was **RESOLVED** that the work be carried out as a matter of urgency by the Parish Council's Contractor at a cost of £2,308. The work would be carried out on consecutive Sundays to minimise risk to members of the public.

The Committee were notified that the railings would need to be repainted in the near future to prevent deterioration and it was noted that this would be at considerable cost.

09/18 **DARCH'S WOOD**

It was reported that no site visit had taken place and it was hoped that a report could be made to the next meeting of the Committee.

09/19 **GENERAL WORKS CONTRACT**

It was reported that the re-wording of the contract, together with revised and more comprehensive maps was taking longer than expected and it would not be possible to meet the existing deadline. It was **RESOLVED** to extend the existing contract until end May 2009 to enable new tenders to be sought.

09/20 **MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

There were none.

09/21 **CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17**

The future provision of youth shelters was considered to be a positive initiative to reduce crime and disorder.

09/22 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Committee reviewed the risk list and **RESOLVED** to approve it without amendment.

It was considered that the state of the High Street railings presented a risk management issue and that repair work should take place as soon as possible.

09/23 **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Committee meeting would take place on Tuesday 28 April 2009 at 7.30 pm, in the Ian Price Room, Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield.

The meeting closed at 9.43 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

Dated: