

HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING OF RECREATION GROUNDS AND PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 23 JUNE 2009 AT 7.45 PM

At Heathfield Community Centre

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

The Clerk was in attendance.

3 representatives of ESCC Children's Services and the Chairman of Punnetts Town Village Hall Committee were also present.

PUNNETTS TOWN VILLAGE HALL PROJECT

Mr Lambert-Gorwyn reported that all the funding was in place, the builder had been appointed and work was due to commence towards the end of July. The work would take 40 working weeks, with the surgery (Phase 2) to follow with a duration of 20 weeks. He gave details of forthcoming fund-raising events and indicated that the Football Club would be using the junior pitch when the works prevented use of the main pitch.

With regard to the School, they were aware of the project from an early stage but a further visit would be made to ensure they were fully informed. He thanked the Parish Council for its support.

USE OF HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Ms Pugh and colleagues explained in greater detail the proposed changes to the Community Centre to accommodate a Children's Centre. A number of aspects were discussed, including the suitability of the kitchen for cookery courses, the need for an office which could be used for confidential meetings and storage arrangements for existing users.

The Chairman said that she and the Clerk had visited the centre at Hailsham and had been very impressed with the services offered.

The meeting commenced at 8.28 p.m.

09/39 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr Hart took the Chair and thanked Mrs Plant for her hard work and Chairmanship of the Committee. Nominations were then invited and Mr Newnham nominated Mrs Plant, seconded by Mrs Clark. Mrs Plant was unanimously re-elected as Chairman of the Committee and re-took the Chair.

Mrs Plant then nominated Mr Hart for Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mr Newnham. A vote was taken and Mr Hart was unanimously re-elected Vice-Chairman.

09/40 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Chambers, Mr Davis, Mrs Oakes, Dr Rayner, Mr Waterhouse and Mr Woodhouse.

09/41 **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.

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).

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.

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

09/42 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2009 having been previously circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

09/43 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

09/44 **BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT**

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

A list of emergency works and works additional to the contract totalling £324.00 as at 31 May 2009 was presented to the meeting and duly approved.

09/45 **REPORTS ON RECREATION GROUNDS**

09/45a **Lucas Hall, Waldron**

No reports were made.

09/45b **Punnetts Town Recreation Ground and Village Hall**

The Committee congratulated the Village Hall Committee for their hard work and achievements on behalf of the Village. With regard to the Football Club, it was agreed that, if necessary, they could be offered use of the top pitch at Tower Recreation Ground or Waldron.

09/45c **Tower Recreation Ground**

The Committee were disappointed to learn that further vandalism had taken place in the play area, involving the new basket swing and graffiti. There was discussion as to whether CCTV would be beneficial and/or gates or bollards at the entrance to the car park.

It was agreed that the Police should be asked for their comments and invited to the next meeting of the Committee. Mrs Clark would extend the invitation at the next Local Action Team meeting.

It was reported that there was a hole in the tarmac surface of the car park and it was agreed that this should be repaired as a matter of urgency.

09/45d **Cade Street Memorial Ground**

No reports were made.

09/45e **Broad Oak Recreation Ground**

The Committee noted a letter from Mrs Lane regarding the type of new play equipment local people wanted in the play area and this would be progressed. A picnic bench had also been requested and it was agreed that this could be sited on the grass area adjacent to the play area, but permission for this would be required from the Village Hall Committee.

09/45f **Hardy Roberts Playing Fields**

The Chairman reported that the Solicitor acting for the Parish Council in drawing up the new lease to the Rugby Club had indicated that the extensions to the clubhouse, decking area and storage sheds to the rear should be included. A surveyor had been approached regarding the cost of drawing up new plans for the land registry and the cost would be £225 + expenses. It was **RESOLVED** that this work be carried out.

The Committee considered an email from Mr Jackson, a resident of Back Lane regarding parking in the lane by cars visiting the Rugby Club and the lack of

visibility for pedestrians from the play area entrance. The hedge had been cut back which had helped but it was considered that signs might help and ESCC Highways would be asked about this.

With regard to car parking, the new area needed to be signed more effectively and stewarding needed to take place. The Rugby Club would be asked to ensure the removal of an old car from behind the Clubhouse and reminded once again about the scrummage machine being uncovered.

09/45g **Leeves Common Play Area**

It was reported that minutes of the Unity meeting had been sent to some Members and invitations had been extended to the AGM on 13 July.

09/45h **Sheepsetting Lane Recreation Ground**

There were no reports.

09/45i **Heathfield Community Centre**

Children's Centre Proposals

The Committee considered the comments made by Ms Pugh and her colleagues and discussed the proposals at some length. It was acknowledged that there would be a benefit in terms of shared use of the new meeting room and some improvements. However, it was considered that existing user groups, some of whom had been users of the Centre for many years and were elderly, disabled or required a quiet environment, could be disadvantaged by reason of additional noise, inadequate storage arrangements and difficulties in shared use of the kitchen for cookery courses or demonstrations.

It was, therefore, unanimously **RESOLVED** that the proposals by ESCC Children's Services were considered inappropriate for the Heathfield Community Centre and should not be progressed.

09/45j **Waldron Recreation Ground**

(a) **Membership of Waldron Recreation Ground Management Sub-Committee**

It was reported that Mr Bassingthwaighte had resigned from the RGP Committee and it was, therefore, **RESOLVED** to appoint Mr Hart to the Sub-Committee to fill the vacancy. It was planned to hold a meeting in July.

(b) **Cattam Pavilion drainage**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the quotation from C and E Davis Limited for the installation of a gravity fed pipe to the drainage system at a cost of £989 plus VAT.

(c) Extension to car park

The Cattam Pavilion Committee had suggested that a 3m extension to the car park would help ease traffic congestion on match days. The Committee discussed possible surfaces, including tarmac or grasscrete but considered that it would be expensive to carry out the work and the number of parking spaces would be minimal. In view of this and the need to have regard to the Conservation Area, the Committee **RESOLVED** that no further action should be taken.

(d) Additional Litter Bin

It had been requested that an additional bin be installed in the car park as the existing one was often overflowing. It was agreed that this should be installed, the cost to be confirmed and ratified at the next meeting.

09/45k **Jubilee Park**

No report was made.

09/451 **Skatepark**

With regard to the new Lease, there was nothing further to report and the Clerk would pursue the matter urgently.

The Play Pathfinder grant had yet to be formally ratified and Mr Woodhouse and the Clerk, together with Ms Drury from Heathfield Youth Centre would be meeting representatives of ESCC and WDC to discuss the matter further.

09/46 **LAND AT PUNNETTS TOWN**

It was noted that the legal process with regard to first registration was continuing.

09/47 **LAND AT THEOBALDS GREEN**

The Committee noted that quotations would be obtained from planning consultants to enable plans to be drawn up for the site.

09/48 **ALLOTMENTS**

No report was made.

09/49 **SEATS, LITTER BINS AND BUS SHELTERS**

The Committee considered a report and quotations for the provision of a new bus shelter in Heathfield High Street. Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the quotation received from Bus Shelters Limited in the sum of £3,740.50 and that groundworks should be carried out by the Parish Council's contractor, C and E Davis Limited, at an approximate cost of £600.

09/50 **DARCH'S WOOD**

No report was made.

09/51 **MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

There were none.

09/52 **CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17**

Further consideration was to be given to try to alleviate vandalism and anti-social behaviour at Tower Recreation Ground.

09/53 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

Early action had been taken in respect of vandalism to play equipment at Tower Recreation Ground.

09/54 **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Committee meeting would take place on Tuesday 15 September 2009 at 7.30 pm, in the Ian Price Room, Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

Dated: