

# **HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **RECREATION GROUNDS AND PROPERTIES COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2009 AT 7.30 PM**

**At Heathfield Community Centre**

**PRESENT:** Mr Chambers, Mr Hart, Mrs Muddle, Mr Newnham, Mrs Plant (Chairman), Mr Waterhouse, Mr Wood and Mr Woodhouse.

The Clerk was in attendance.

There were 5 members of Unity Community Association present.

### **LEEVES COMMON PLAY AREA**

Mr Hedges, Chairman of Unity Community Association presented the Committee with a Petition asking that the Parish Council should provide match funding for the redevelopment of the play area. Unity had been successful in obtaining £30,000 from Wealden District Council's Housing Revenue budget. It was intended that local residents should be involved in the re-development project so that there was a feeling of ownership, but professional help would be obtained with regard to a design.

**The meeting commenced at 7.53 p.m.**

#### 09/73 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Clark, Mr Davis and Mrs Oakes.

#### 09/74 **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Mr Hart disclosed a personal interest in respect of Waldron Recreation Ground as Vice-Chairman of the Management Sub-Committee.

The following disclosures had previously been made by Members.

Mrs Plant disclosed a personal interest in respect of Darch's Wood arising from her husband's Membership of Cross-In-Hand Amenities Society.

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.

09/75 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2009, having been previously circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

09/76 **MATTERS ARISING**

The Committee noted that the request for a memorial seat at Waldron had not been confirmed and, therefore, the Parish Council would carry out the work as previously agreed.

09/77 **EMERGENCY WORKS OR WORKS ADDITIONAL TO CONTRACT**

The Committee considered and duly approved and ratified a list of emergency works and works additional to the Contract totalling £1,345.50 as at 30 September 2009.

09/78 **BUDGET 2010/2011 FINANCIAL YEAR**

A draft budget was presented to the Committee, including details of actual expenditure as at 30 September 2009.

Following consideration, the proposed budget for 2010/2011 was agreed at £154,400 as detailed below:

<b>Budget Heading</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Recreation Grounds	113900	New works £65,000: £15,000 play unit at Hardy Roberts £20,000 new equipment at Leeves Common £6,000 fencing at Skatepark £15,000 paths and other works at Tower Rec £2,000 works to play area Punnetts Town £5,000 safety works Broad Oak play area  £3,000 drainage Darch's Wood
Seats, High Street Trees	4000	
High St Furniture/Railings	4000	

Bus Shelters & Notice Boards	3000	
Public Conveniences	5000	
Green Lane POS	1500	
Heathfield Community Centre	10000	Re-carpet Hall, flooring to Sports Corridor
Grounds Maintenance Contract	28000	
From reserves	-15000	Tower Rec paths etc.
<b>Total</b>	<b>154400</b>	

In addition, it was proposed that an additional £10,000 be taken from reserves for new equipment at Leeves Common, giving a total budget of £30,000.

It was **RESOLVED** that a budget of £154,400 be put forward to FGP for consideration.

09/79 **REPORTS ON RECREATION GROUNDS**

09/79a **Lucas Hall, Waldron**

The Committee noted with regret that Mr Coltart, Chairman of the Lucas Hall Management Committee, was moving away in the New Year and expressed appreciation for all his hard work during the hall renovations and subsequent day-to-day management. It was possible that Mr Millard would take over as Chairman but a new Bookings Clerk would be needed.

The Management Committee continued to raise concern about the car park lighting and it was suggested that the existing security lighting could be improved by replacing the sensors and bulbs. It had been requested that a possible extension to the car park be re-considered at the next meeting.

09/79b **Punnetts Town Recreation Ground and Village Hall**

The Committee noted that work was progressing well.

09/79c **Tower Recreation Ground**

The Chairman reported that a new general sign was needed for the play area giving contact details and age restrictions before the new "Police" signs could be erected.

09/79d **Cade Street Memorial Ground**

No report was made.

09/79e **Broad Oak Recreation Ground**

The Clerk reported that a site visit would take place with Village Hall representatives and play manufacturer to ascertain what new equipment could be accommodated into the play area.

09/79f **Hardy Roberts Playing Fields**

Mr Newnham reported that both floodlights were in place at the Rugby Club and the scrummage machine had not been relocated onto the new field, as promised.

09/79g **Leeves Common Play Area**

The Committee considered a letter from Mr Hedges, Chairman of the Unity Community Association regarding re-development of the play area. It was noted that the fence by the ghyll was in need of repair but that this could not be replaced by a climbing wall because of the danger posed by the ghyll on the other side.

It was agreed that the offer by Wealden District Council of £30,000 towards the work should be taken up and commended Unity for their work in obtaining this grant. Concern was expressed about the lack of time available for the project as the grant from Wealden had to be spent by end March 2010 but works could be phased to meet this deadline. A consultant would need to be engaged to prepare a detailed design to incorporate safety measures.

The Committee welcomed the support from local residents for this project and it was **RESOLVED** to provide up to £30,000 match funding for re-development of the play area.

09/79h **Sheepsetting Lane Recreation Ground**

There was nothing to report.

09/79i **Heathfield Community Centre**

Proposed Children's Centre

The Committee noted the content of a letter from ESCC regarding this proposal.

Request from NHS Blood and Transplant for extra heating in the Hall

The Committee considered a request from the NHS Blood and Transplant Service for additional heating in the Hall during their sessions. At present they hired oil-filled radiators to bring the temperature in the Hall up to their required standard. It was **RESOLVED** that they be asked to part-fund the purchase of three oil-filled radiators, with the Parish Council funding the remainder

09/79j **Waldron Recreation Ground**

Verbal report following meeting of Waldron Ground Management Sub Committee on 28 October 2009

09/79k **Jubilee Park**

No report was made.

09/791 **Skatepark**

A verbal report was given on the meeting with local residents and traders held by the Police on 5 October 2009. As a result of discussions, the Police had requested that the seat and litter bin at the top of Thorny Close be removed to discourage young people from gathering in that area.

The Committee then discussed possible measures to prevent anti-social behaviour to residents of Westwood Mews from youths gathering in the Skatepark. It was **RESOLVED** that advice be sought regarding extending the height of the existing fence or erecting a new fence along the bank. It was agreed to approve expenditure up to £2,500 for this purpose. Members noted that extending the height of the existing fence may require planning permission.

09/80 **LICENCE TO OCCUPY**

A report on this matter would be made at the next meeting.

09/81 **LAND AT PUNNETTS TOWN**

An update on this matter would be made at the next meeting.

09/82 **LAND AT THEOBALDS GREEN**

An update on this matter would be made at the next meeting.

09/83 **ALLOTMENTS**

No report was made.

09/84 **SEATS, LITTER BINS AND BUS SHELTERS**

It was reported that the new bus shelter in the High Street would be erected within the next few weeks.

The Council's Contractor had supplied a quotation for repairs to the shelter at Cross-in-Hand in the sum of £260 and it was **RESOLVED** to approve this work. The Committee noted that the Contractor considered no repairs were needed to the shelter at Burwash Road at this time.

09/85 **DARCH'S WOOD**

The Committee noted that the main paths were in a poor state of repair in places because water had washed away the base material. It was proposed that drainage work be carried out to the paths in the next financial year.

09/86 **MILL ROAD PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

No report was made.

09/87 **MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

There were none.

09/88 **CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17**

The Committee considered that measures to prevent anti-social behaviour at the Skatepark would have a positive effect under the above Act.

09/89 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

- (a) To review risk list

The existing risk list was considered to be effective and relevant to the work of the Committee and no amendments were proposed at this time.

- (b) To consider effects (if any) of decisions taken at the meeting

Measures to control anti-social behaviour at the Skatepark and works to the bus shelter at Cross-in-Hand were considered necessary in respect of any risk to health and safety of local residents.

09/90 **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Committee meeting would take place on Monday 16 February 2010 at 7.30 pm, in the Ian Price Room, Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield.

The meeting closed at 9.27 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

Dated: