

# **HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **RECREATION GROUNDS AND PROPERTIES COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2010 AT 7.30 PM**

**At Heathfield Community Centre**

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

The Clerk was in attendance.

Mr Hedges, Chairman of Unity Community Association, was also present.

### **LEEVES COMMON PLAY AREA RE-DEVELOPMENT**

Mr Hedges gave an update on the project and confirmed that WDC had ring-fenced their grant so that the funds would be available in the 2010/2011 financial year. Tenders would be issued shortly to appoint architects for the project and there was a need for an accountable body to be identified to handle grant funding from Community Spaces. It was hoped that the Parish Council would undertake this.

**The Meeting commenced at 7.46 p.m.**

#### 10/01 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Oakes and Mr Wood.

#### 10/02 **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.

10/03 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2009, having been previously circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

10/04 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

10/05 **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT AS AT 31 JANUARY 2010**

The Committee approved the report.

10/06 **EMERGENCY WORKS OR WORKS ADDITIONAL TO CONTRACT**

The Committee duly approved and ratified a list of emergency works and works additional to the Contract totalling £4,846.19 as at 31 December 2009.

10/07 **REPORTS ON RECREATION GROUNDS**

10/07a **Lucas Hall, Waldron**

The Committee noted that a meeting would be arranged with Downland Housing Association regarding the Lease to the house, which was due to expire shortly.

It was noted that Mr Coltart, currently Chairman of the Lucas Hall Management Committee, was planning to move away from the Village. The Committee expressed appreciation for all his hard work and wished him well for the future.

10/07b **Punnetts Town Recreation Ground and Village Hall**

It was noted that whilst an extension to the Lease for the Hall had been agreed, this Resolution needed to be formally recorded. It was, therefore, **RESOLVED** to confirm that an extension to the Lease be granted for a period of 40 years from 21 November 2008.

The Committee also noted that the Surgery building would be going ahead and there was a query over the reversion clause in the lease. It was disappointing to learn that there had been quite a lot of vandalism in relation to the new Hall.

10/07c **Tower Recreation Ground**

The Committee considered a letter from Mr Boniface regarding various issues

relating to the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that the request to move the dog bin so that it was accessible from the car park should be acted upon and that Mr Boniface be invited to attend a site meeting to discuss other matters, including a means of improving the pedestrian access to the ground.

10/07d **Cade Street Memorial Ground**

The Committee noted that some sections of the post and rail fencing needed to be replaced.

10/07e **Broad Oak Recreation Ground**

The Committee noted that a site visit with one of the play manufacturers would take place on 10 March with a view to seeing what new equipment could be fitted into the play area.

10/07f **Hardy Roberts Playing Fields**

The Chairman reported that the hedge at the entrance to the play area had been cut back but it was felt that it could be further improved in terms of shaping. It was queried whether the playground sign in Back Lane could be moved nearer to the play area itself.

The opening of the Rugby Club's new Cypress Field had been a great success with approximately 1,000 young people taking part. Parking had been an issue and it was suggested that perhaps the owner of the Market car park could be approached to see if it could be made available, as well as better use of Mill Road.

10/07g **Leeves Common Play Area**

Accountable body for grant purposes

Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council be appointed as accountable body for handling the grant funding. There was a staffing resource implication but the Committee noted that the Council's reasonable costs could be reimbursed from the grant.

10/07h **Sheepsetting Lane Recreation Ground**

Proposed Play Day on 11 August 2010

It was agreed that the Play Day should be authorised and that use of the Community Centre toilets and kitchen should be allowed.

10/07i **Heathfield Community Centre**

New crockery

The Committee noted that the existing crockery was nearly 20 years old and there was no longer sufficient quantity available when the Hall was used to capacity. It

was no longer possible to obtain the existing design and, therefore, it was proposed that new plain white crockery should be purchased so that 200 pieces of each item were available. Three quotations had been obtained and whilst the cost was an issue, Members noted that the china proposed was guaranteed against breakage during normal use and would be more hardwearing than domestic quality items.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation from Bentons for Profile crockery at a cost of £2,184.74 including VAT.

#### Hiring Fees

When reviewing the hiring fees last year, the Committee were mindful of the financial difficulties being faced by some local grounds and clubs that used the Centre and agreed that the matter should be looked at again early in 2010. The Committee noted that the caretakers fees would be increasing slightly by £50 per month and it was **RESOLVED** that the commercial hiring rate for the Hall only should be increased by £5 per session.

### 10/07j Waldron Recreation Ground

#### Cattam Committee

The Cattam Committee had asked whether they could have a share of the rental income from the Lucas Hall House, towards the running costs of the Pavilion. However, in view of the imminent expiry of the Lease, it was agreed that this request should be reconsidered by the charity trustees once the future of the house had been decided.

A request had also been received for a contribution from the Parish Council towards the cost of installing showers to the Pavilion. Three quotations were provided by the Cattam Committee for consideration and it was noted that the Cricket Club were able to contribute £1,600. It was **RESOLVED** that the quotation from G R Ansell should be accepted and that the balance of £1,080 should be met by the Parish Council.

#### Waldron Recreation Ground Management Sub-Committee

The Minutes of the Sub-Committee meeting held on 20 January 2010 had been circulated.

#### Septic Tank Emptying

The septic tank had been emptied at a cost of £173.63 and it was duly **RESOLVED** to approve this.

#### Possible Extension of Car Park

A further request had been received for additional car parking to the recreation ground because on match days in particular the village roads were very congested with parked vehicles. It was agreed that a site meeting should take place to look at

the possible costs and spaces that could be achieved.

### Security Lighting

Although previously the Committee had decided not to upgrade the lighting to the car park because of concerns about light pollution, it was considered that there was a health and safety issue for users of the hall who were returning to their cars in the dark. The Hall Management Committee had spoken to local electricians to see what could be done to improve the situation and a favoured quotation from Enlightened Engineering was copied to Members for consideration.

The Committee agreed with the proposal and it would be referred to the meeting of the Charity Trustees for approval.

### 10/07k **Jubilee Park**

The Committee noted with regret that the park was badly affected by dog excrement, despite the presence of the dog bin. This could present a health hazard for those using the park and it was agreed that local newspapers be asked to publish information stating that consideration would be given to banning dogs from the Park if owners did not pick up after their dogs.

### 10/07l **Skatepark**

The draft Lease had now been received and comments made for Wealden District Council's consideration.

### 10/08 **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

The Committee noted that the Contract was due for renewal this year and there was some discussion about where to advertise, given the lack of response to the advertisement last year in the Kent and Sussex Courier. It was suggested that the Wealden Advertiser might be suitable.

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

### 10/09 **LICENCE TO OCCUPY**

A report would be made to the next meeting.

### 10/10 **LAND AT PUNNETTS TOWN**

The matter had been passed on to the branch of Mayo Wynne Baxter in Brighton and the Solicitor dealing with the matter had suggested that a meeting take place in Lewes to discuss various queries. The Chairman of the Council indicated his interest in attending and a date would be agreed following his return from holiday.

### 10/11 **LAND AT THEOBALDS GREEN**

It was agreed that site meetings should be arranged with some local planning

consultants in order to obtain quotations for the cost of preparing plans and obtaining planning permission.

10/12 **ALLOTMENTS**

Request for provision of allotments from Ms Sutherland

A webmail response form had been received from Ms Sutherland regarding the provision of allotments. The Committee noted previous correspondence regarding the land at Theobalds Green in which the Clerk had answered various queries from Ms Sutherland, but she considered that the Council were not fulfilling their duties with regard to allotment provision.

The Committee were satisfied that Ms Sutherland's queries had been properly addressed. The Council had been mindful of its obligation to provide allotments and considerable efforts had been made in recent years to find and purchase suitable land. Although the proposed new plots at Theobalds Green would not be available for some time, there was a lot of work still to do in terms of obtaining planning permission for the layout of the site as a whole, including car parking, paths, drainage, access and landscaping.

10/13 **SEATS, LITTER BINS AND BUS SHELTERS**

Request for new bus shelter in Station Road

The Committee considered a request from Mrs Rose for the provision of a new bus shelter in Station Road. However, it was not clear where this could be sited because of the lack of verge width in the vicinity of the bus stop and the matter would be investigated further.

10/14 **DARCH'S WOOD**

The Chairman reported that the trees bordering Darch's Wood and her property had been removed. It was noted that the condition of the main paths was poor in places and it was agreed that future consideration should be given to installing additional drainage.

10/15 **MILL ROAD PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

There was nothing to report.

10/16 **MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

There were none.

10/17 **CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17**

The Committee noted the implications of vandalism at Punnetts Town.

10/18 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The issues regarding poor pedestrian access and drainage issues at Tower Recreation Ground would be investigated with a view to remedial action being taken.

Measures would be taken to try and reduce the possible risk to health due to dog mess at the Jubilee Park.

10/19 **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Committee meeting would take place on Tuesday 27 April 2010 at 7.30 pm, in the Ian Price Room, Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

Dated: