

# **HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **RECREATION GROUNDS AND PROPERTIES COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 27 APRIL 2010 AT 7.30 PM**

**At Heathfield Community Centre**

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

The Clerk was in attendance.

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

### **LEEVES COMMON PLAY AREA**

Mr Hedges updated the Committee on progress with regard to the redevelopment of the play area and showed a model of the proposed layout which had been presented at a meeting on site for local people to have their say. It was estimated that about 40 people attended and there were some positive comments. It was hoped that work would start around December 2010 and finish by March 2011. It was noted that the area would be seeded when finished but would probably need to be seeded again in the Autumn.

**The meeting commenced at 8.05 p.m.**

### 10/20 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

The Committee noted that Mr Davis had not attended the meeting because of his prejudicial interest in respect of the General Works Contract.

### 10/21 **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 and a personal interest in respect of the Waldron Management Sub-Committee as Vice-Chairman.

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

10/22 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2010, having been previously circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

10/23 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

10/24 **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT AS AT 31 MARCH 2010**

The Committee approved the report.

10/25 **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 £2,258.34 as at 31 March 2010.

10/26 **REPORTS ON RECREATION GROUNDS**

10/26a **Lucas Hall, Waldron**

The Chairman reported on a meeting at the House with the Housing Association. A schedule of works was agreed which would be carried out by Affinity Sutton before handing back the property. Wealden District Council had expressed an interest in the property for letting under the Affordable Housing scheme and a further report would be made in due course.

10/26b **Punnetts Town Recreation Ground and Village Hall**

It was reported that the official opening of the Hall was planned to take place in June. The Committee congratulated all concerned for a successful outcome.

10/26c **Tower Recreation Ground**

The site meeting with Mr Boniface had not yet taken place.

10/26d **Cade Street Memorial Ground**

It was reported that a branch off a tree had been removed as it had been deemed unsafe. The Committee gave approval for a dead tree to be removed as a matter of urgency.

10/26e **Broad Oak Recreation Ground**

New play equipment at Broad Oak

The Committee considered proposals and quotations from three play manufacturers for additional equipment in the play area. It would be necessary for a small additional area of safety surfacing to be installed and the fencing adjusted. Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the quotation from Playdale in the sum of £11,624 together with installation by the Council's contractor at a cost of £2,159, at a total cost of £13,783, with an anticipated cost of £800 for additional safety surfacing.

10/26f **Hardy Roberts Playing Fields**

(i) New play equipment

The Chairman reported that public consultation would be carried out with regard to the designs of the proposed new play equipment in the next couple of weeks.

(ii) Entrance to play area and car parking

The Chairman reported on a letter from Mr Jackson, a resident of Back Lane with regard to visibility splay for the entrance to the play area, irresponsible car parking and request for a new car parking area.

The Committee noted that it was planned to cut the hedge back further to improve visibility but it was agreed that it was not easy to find another solution in terms of a barrier or gate.

With regard to a suggested car parking area solely for users of the play area, it was considered that this was not practical because of the electricity cable which runs across that area of the site.

10/26g **Leeves Common Play Area**

The Committee noted the update from the Chairman of Unity Community Association and looked forward to seeing actual plans once they were available.

10/26h **Sheepsetting Lane Recreation Ground**

It was noted that the disabled access paths around the building impinged on the vehicular access and clarification on this was awaited from the PCT.

10/26i **Heathfield Community Centre**

Meeting with PCT

The Committee noted the contents of a letter from the East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust relating to the Council's lease of the Community Centre. It had been suggested that a meeting take place to discuss these matters and a date was awaited from the Trust.

Flooring to Sports Corridor

The Committee considered three quotations for vinyl flooring and three quotations for resin. Although more expensive, it was agreed that the resin surfacing was more suitable as it was longer lasting and it was a continuous surface, thus reducing any potential future trip hazards. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation received from Design in Resin at a cost of £2,970 + VAT.

The Chairman then reported that the Parish Council had been offered some rectangular and also round Gopak tables from Cross-in-Hand School, who were having new ones. It was considered that the rectangular ones could be used at the Community Centre and that a donation of £100 be made to the School. This matter to be ratified at the next meeting.

10/26j **Waldron Recreation Ground**

Families Day 12 June 2010

The Committee noted the above.

10/27k **Jubilee Park**

The problem of dog mess was considered again by the Committee and it was noted that further to the discussion at the last meeting, dogs were already only allowed in the park on leads. It was agreed that the Chairman would contact the local press to see if they would publicise the problem.

10/27l **Skatepark**

The Committee noted that the Lease from Wealden District Council had finally been received.

10/28 **HEALTH AND SAFETY SIGNS FOR PARISH COUNCIL RECREATION GROUNDS**

This matter would be progressed and a further report made to the next meeting.

10/29 **WDC – DOG BIN EMPTYING CHARGES FROM 1 APRIL 2010**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the revised dog bin emptying charges at £4.45 per bin with effect from 1 April 2010.

10/30 **LICENCE TO OCCUPY**

A report would be made to the next meeting.

10/31 **LAND AT PUNNETTS TOWN**

The Solicitors had requested a meeting at their offices in Lewes and this would be arranged.

10/32 **LAND AT THEOBALDS GREEN**

The Chairmen of RGP and BG Committees, together with the Clerk would be carrying out a site visit with a view to appointing planning consultants to prepare plans for the site.

10/33 **ALLOTMENTS**

The Committee noted that one plot had not been tended and the tenant was being contacted to see if it could be re-let.

10/34 **SEATS, LITTER BINS AND BUS SHELTERS**

There was nothing to report.

10/35 **DARCH'S WOOD**

The Committee noted that the AGM of the Amenities Society was taking place on 8 May 2010.

10/36 **MILL ROAD PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

There was nothing to report.

10/37 **MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

**Parking at Hardy Roberts Rugby Club**

The Chairman of the Council reported that several cars were being parked in the car park during the day, despite an existing sign stating that the car park was for users of the playing fields only.

It was agreed that two further signs should be provided, each side of the access gate and a further report made at the next meeting.

10/38 **CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17**

There was none.

10/39 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Committee considered measures to improve safety at the access to Hardy Roberts Playing Fields play area.

The Committee approved urgent action to remove a dead tree at Cade Street Memorial Ground.

10/40 **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Committee meeting would take place on Tuesday 1 June 2010 at 7.30 pm, in the Ian Price Room, Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield.

10/41 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion of the following item on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

10/42 **GENERAL WORKS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

The Committee noted a report regarding the outcome of the advertisement for the re-letting of the Contract.

Initially, five expressions of interest had been received but of these, only three provided the necessary accompanying documentation, despite reminders.

All three companies, Bourne Amenity Limited, G Burley and Sons Limited and C and E Davis Limited were invited to submit Tenders, references having been taken up in respect of Bourne and Burley who were unknown to the Council.

Only two tenders were returned, from G Burley and Sons Limited and C and E Davis Limited and the Committee were provided with an analysis of the pricing schedules received. The contract value, including sand dressing and pitch maintenance was £75,504.11 and £46,339.87 respectively. These figures exclude winter pitch maintenance, which is variable according to pitch wear and tear but for budget purposes could be £2,400 and £3,500 respectively, together with pitch aeration of approximately £4,250 and £2,250.

The Committee noted that Burleys had received excellent references but their tender was considerably higher than the Parish Council's existing Contractor, who provided an extremely good level of service and was based in the parish.

It was, therefore, **RESOLVED** to accept the Tender received from C and E Davis Limited for the period 1 June 2010 to 31 May 2015 with a possible extension to 31 May 2017 subject to satisfactory performance.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

Dated: