

# **HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **RECREATION GROUNDS AND PROPERTIES COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2008 AT 7.30 PM**

**At Heathfield Community Centre**

**PRESENT:** Mrs Archer, Mr Bassingthwaite, Mr Chambers, Mr Davis,  
Mr Newnham, Mrs Plant, Mr Waterhouse and Mr Woolley (Chairman)

The Clerk was in attendance.

4 members of the public were also present.

### **UNITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Mr Hedges reported that since the last meeting, he had obtained the support of the Police with regard to the installation of a Youth shelter at Leeves Common. A questionnaire sent round to residents had indicated support for the scheme, but this was strengthened by a proposal that this should not be the only shelter in the parish.

### **FORMER BUILDERS' YARD, PUNNETTS TOWN**

Mr Cattel-Killick expressed concern at the suitability of using this land for keeping bees. He considered there to be health and safety issues as the site abutted public highway and was close to a public seat and informed the Committee that he kept bees himself. He went on to indicate his interest in renting the land.

### **HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON RUGBY CLUB – USE OF SHEEPSETTING LANE**

Mr McIntyre spoke in support of the Rugby Club's request to use the grounds at Sheepsetting Lane for Under-7's as part of the rugby festival. As a result of building works, there was reduced capacity at Heathfield Community College and the Club were having to look at alternative sites. There would be pitch marshals and car parking marshals on duty and no physical marking of pitches would be required.

**The meeting commenced at 7.49 p.m.**

#### **08/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Basso, Mr Hart, Mrs Muddle, Mrs Oakes and Dr Rayner

#### **08/02 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

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 personal 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 personal interest in all matters relating to C and E Davis Limited (general works contractor) as the father of C I Davis and in respect of the Jubilee Park. He also disclosed a personal interest in Punnetts Town Village Hall as the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee.

Mr Woolley and Mrs Archer disclosed personal interests as the Parish Council's representatives 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.

08/03 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2007, having been previously circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

08/04 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

**For the convenience of members of the public, the following two items were brought forward on the agenda.**

08/05 **LAND AT PUNNETTS TOWN (FORMER BUILDERS' YARD)**

An email received from Mrs Cattel-Killick had been circulated to Members, objecting to the proposed use of the land for the keeping of bees. The Committee acknowledged that the arrangement with Mr and Mrs Thompson had been an informal one whereby Mr Thompson's use of the land recognised the work he undertook in keeping verges in the neighbourhood tidy and planted with shrubs and bushes.

Since the decision taken in May 2007 to allow use of the land for the keeping of bees, there had been no further contact with the bee-keeper in question and in view of information now received that bees were kept on Mr and Mrs Cattel-Killick's property, the Committee **RESOLVED** to formally rescind that decision and to give further consideration as to future use of the land. It was suggested that it might be possible to use it for allotments and it was agreed that Mr Woolley and Mr Davis should, in the first instance, visit Mrs Thompson and that further consideration be given at the next meeting regarding digging trial holes to ascertain the condition of the soil.

08/06 **HEATHFIELD HURRICANES – USE OF SHEEPSETTING LANE**

The Committee considered a request from Heathfield and Waldron Rugby Club regarding use of the recreation ground on 30 March for under-7's as part of the rugby festival. The Club had discounted use of the Waldron pitches because of car parking issues and the Committee considered that Tower Recreation Ground was not suitable for similar reasons.

Following discussion, it was agreed that use of Sheepsetting Lane recreation ground should be permitted providing use was restricted to the football pitch and adjoining area to ensure that the regular users of the Community Centre were not inconvenienced. It would also be a condition that 10 car parking spaces should be reserved for use by the PCT and users of the Hall and that no car parking be allowed on the grass verges in Sheepsetting Lane. It was suggested that Mill Road Car Park be used as a dropping off point, from which players could either walk or be transported to the Community Centre. It was further agreed that a fee of £25 be charged to cover the Caretaker's costs in unlocking and locking up the sports corridor to enable use of the toilets. Any litter would need to be collected and properly disposed of.

08/07 **BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT AS AT 31 JANUARY 2008**

The budgetary control report as at 31 January 2008 was noted by the Committee.

A list of emergency works totalling £2,476.94 as at 19 February 2008 was presented to the meeting and duly approved.

08/08 **REPORTS ON RECREATION GROUNDS AND PROPERTIES**

08/08a **Lucas Hall, Waldron**

The Management Committee had reported that the emergency exit doors were sticking which was making them difficult to open. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council's contractor be asked to ease them if possible and that quotations be obtained for the next meeting for their replacement.

08/08b **Punnetts Town Recreation Ground And Village Hall Project**

It was reported that the draft Lease was in the process of being prepared, and it was agreed that it should come into effect and be dated upon completion of the new Hall.

A report had been made by the Council's contractor that a large hole had appeared in the car park at Punnetts Town and it was **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure of approximately £450 to repair this.

08/08c **Tower Recreation Ground**

It was reported that the rope bridge forming part of the play equipment had had to be removed because it had become unsafe. It was believed that this was the result of wear and tear due to the age of the equipment, rather than vandalism. A

replacement bridge was likely to cost in the region of £1,000 and the Committee **RESOLVED** not to replace the bridge in view of the planned renovation of this section of play equipment later in the year.

It was also agreed that the project to replace the equipment be progressed and that 3 or 4 manufacturers be invited to prepare schemes which would then form the basis of an exhibition and public consultation exercise.

08/08d **Cade Street Memorial Ground**

No reports were made regarding this area.

08/08e **Hardy Roberts Playing Fields**

The Committee noted with concern that on some occasions a great deal of litter had been left around the rugby pitch and that a problem of lightspill onto the A267 from the floodlights was again an issue.

Members considered a report giving details of a site meeting with the Rugby, Bowls and Tennis Clubs during which drainage problems at the playing fields were discussed. It also gave details on a separate meeting with the Rugby Club regarding their lease of the pavilion and security of tenure.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that

- a) a letter of assurance be sent to the RFU in respect of security of tenure for the Heathfield and Waldron Rugby Club's use of the clubhouse, rugby pitch and training area
- b) that a new 30 year lease be prepared at a peppercorn rent to the Heathfield and Waldron Rugby Club in respect of the clubhouse
- c) that licence to occupy documents be issued to the Rugby, Bowls and Tennis Clubs in respect of their use of the playing fields
- d) that the two ditches be cleaned as a matter of urgency and
- e) that consideration be given to future attenuation measures to prevent flooding of the access road and other areas of the playing fields

08/08f **Leeves Common Play Area**

Youth Shelter proposal

The Committee noted the results of the residents questionnaire and **RESOLVED** to support in principle the provision of a youth shelter.

08/08g **Sheepsetting Lane Recreation Ground and Heathfield Community Centre**

Use of Grounds

The Committee gave approval to use of the grounds on 14 June 2008 in respect of a fundraising event being held by the Scouts.

The Heathfield Carnival was taking place on 28 June 2008 and the Rotary Club of Heathfield and Waldron had sought permission to use the grounds in conjunction with hire of the Centre. The Committee gave approval for this.

**Mr Bassingthwaite and Mr Waterhouse disclosed personal interests in the above as members of the Rotary Club.**

A request had been received for use of the grounds on 25 April 2008 by Heathfield Schools and this was approved.

All the above were subject to necessary risk assessments and insurance cover being in place and instructions that any litter was to be collected and appropriately disposed of.

Footlights – Hall

The Committee noted that it had been difficult to obtain quotations for footlighting in the Hall because of the specialist nature of the equipment and different options available. However, one quotation had been received, from Spectrum Lighting in the sum of £1,642.54. Members considered that this was a considerable outlay and there was some doubt as to how often it would be used. There was also concern about the need for it to be properly erected and operated during periods of hire. It was, therefore, agreed not to purchase footlighting at the present time.

Members noted that the existing stage lighting was due to have an inspection and the Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the quotation from Spectrum Lighting in the sum of £480 for this work.

Heathfield Hotspurs Football Club – Alterations to Sports Corridor

A letter had now been received from the East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust giving permission for the proposed alterations to the Centre, which had been circulated to Members. The permission was subject to the final detailed design being agreed with the PCT prior to commencement.

The Football Club would be provided with a copy of the letter.

08/08h **Waldron Recreation Ground**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to ratify the appointment of Mrs Plant as a member of the Waldron Recreation Ground Management Sub-Committee

The Minutes of the Waldron Recreation Ground Management Sub-Committee meeting on 30 January 2008 had been circulated and were noted. In respect of matters discussed, the Committee **RESOLVED** to raise the sum insured for the new pavilion to £150,000 and to notify the Lucas Hall SMC that the insurance for that building would be paid by the Parish Council. (NOTE: The Council would need to decide whether this sum would be reimbursed by the Waldron Recreation Ground charity)

08/08i **Jubilee Park**

The Clerk reported that the drainage work had been completed and appeared to be working satisfactorily so far.

08/08j **Skatepark**

Letter from WDC re: lease of Skatepark

At long last, a response had been received from Wealden District Council regarding renewal of the lease for the skatepark. Wealden had indicated that a longer term lease would be available and suggested that the whole area of the south cutting be included. The Committee noted that there were potentially substantial maintenance implications for this proposal, which would include the pedestrian access path, vehicular access to the tunnel and the banks surrounding the park.

It was considered that very little of the additional area would be actually usable for extending the skatepark whilst maintenance costs could be quite high and it was, therefore, **RESOLVED** that WDC be asked to extend the existing Lease on the same terms as previously.

Competition/exhibition at Le Marché

A request had been received from Councillor Woodhouse on behalf of the Organising Committee for use of the skatepark for a competition/exhibition on the August Bank Holiday Monday, as part of Le Marché. It was agreed that permission should be granted and that contact be made with the Twinning Association with regard to possible participation by French skaters.

08/09 **BUS SHELTERS**

There was nothing to report.

08/10 **GENERAL WORKS CONTRACT**

A report had been circulated to Members which explained that progress on the amendments to the contract had taken longer than expected because the opportunity was being taken of expanding the detail included on the site maps. This was being undertaken by an IT consultant with input from the Council's existing contractor.

The existing contract allowed for an extension of up to two years and Members noted that the work was being carried out to a good standard. It was, therefore, **RESOLVED** that the existing contract be extended for one year, until 30 April 2009 to enable the contract to be amended in time for advertisement in early 2009.

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

08/11 **MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

There were none.

08/12 **CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17**

The Committee noted the possible implications under the above Act in respect of the provision of a youth shelter at Leeves Common.

08/13 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

- a) to review risk list – the Committee reviewed the risk list for the areas of activity covered and considered that no amendments were required.
- b) to consider effects (if any) of decisions taken at the meeting – there were none.

08/14 **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Committee meeting would take place on Monday 12 May 2008 at 7.30 pm, in the Ian Price Room, Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield.

The meeting closed at 9.44 p.m.

Signed

Chairman

Dated