

**HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL- MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 10TH JANUARY
2024**

Cllrs present: Cllr Paul Carnell, Cllr John Jupe, Cllr Jane Welsh (Chair)

In attendance: Brett Athow – Operations Manager

R445 Apologies Cllr Margaret Allingham, Cllr Leigh Hadaway, Cllr Lucy Jurd, Cllr Dave Kinloch, Cllr Cliff Morris, Cllr Derek Pretty

R446 Minutes and Matters arising

Meeting 8th November 2023

R439 Cllr Paul Carnell commented that the removal of the fencing was a great improvement to the play area at Dowds Farm.

R447 Correspondence

(i) Request for the use of Greta Park for Hedge End Unwrapped on the 9th June 2024

Cllrs commented that this was a good event and should be allowed to continue.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed this application.

R448 To agree the Green Flag Award application 2024/2025 for Albert Road Cemetery and War Memorial

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that the 2024/25 Green Flag Award was applied for.

R449 Old School House

To agree the removal and replanting of trees

The Operations Manager explained that the trees planted in the late 1990's had been a species not suitable for this location, fast growing reaching a height in excess of 22m and spread of 15+ m.

Three trees over the last 5 years had already been removed due to damage to the car park surfacing. The root growth on the remaining trees had now increased leading to further deterioration in the infrastructure to the car park. It was recommended that there was no replanting of trees within the car park, however a small tree could be planted directly to the south of the car park, with an additional 4 large growing trees planted within St Johns Recreation ground to compensate.

Cllr John Jupe asked if shrubs could be used instead, it was confirmed that the area for planting would still not be a large enough area.

Cllrs were disappointed that these trees needed to be removed, however it was a necessity to stop further damage to the car park.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to the removal of x4 trees from the car park at the Old School House to prevent further damage, along with the agreement to replant x1 small growing tree species at the Old School House, with x4 large growing tree species in St Johns Recreation Ground.

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD 10TH JANUARY 2024 – Cont'd Page 2**

R450 To agree the removal of the damaged fencing in the open space north of Terrier Close

The Operations Manager reported that during clearance work a damaged fence had been discovered, the fence had protruding wires and many gaps so required either urgent repair or removal. It was presumed it had been installed to try and confine ball games, however there was no signage or other indication to say it was a designated area.

The area was a reasonable distance from properties, with other grass areas available for ball games.

As the fence was not serving any purpose, it was not worth repairing.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to the removal of the damaged fence in the open space north of Terrier Close.

R451 Gate closing times

- (i) To agree a standard change from Summer to Winter

Cllrs had been asked to consider a standard change from Summer to Winter for the closing of HETC gates located at Dowds Farm, Norman Rodaway, Turnpike, Drummond.

Two options had been given a) 1 October to 31st March b) During the British Summer Time.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that the change from Summer to Winter timings would be from 1 October to 31st March.

- (ii) Approve the change to the gates closing time to 5.30pm in the Winter
Car park gate closure had been an issue over the recent years, with concerns about lone working of the caretakers in locking the gates in Winter. Currently the gates were locked at 8pm in Winter changing to 9pm in the Summer or at the last hire.

All sites were pitch black by the time the locking up started at 8pm, taking approximately 45 minutes and sometimes the caretaker had no more hire to lock up for and would just have to come out purely at 8pm to do the gates.

Cllr Paul Carnell commented that any signage needed to be well displayed.

Cllr John Jupe asked if a notice could go into The Gazette.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that the closure of the gates to 5.30pm in Winter was approved.

R452 To consider the Biodiversity Strategy

The Operations Manager confirmed that there was a duty on the Council to have this strategy. This was the first draft and Cllrs were at this stage only being asked for any changes.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that this agenda item was deferred to the February R&A meeting to enable Cllrs to consider the document and for further discussion.

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD 10TH JANUARY 2024 – Cont'd Page 3**

R453 Play area strategy

Discussion following usage survey

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that this agenda item was returned to the February R&A meeting to enable Cllrs to consider the document and for further discussion.

R454 Operations Manager Report

The report contained the following updates:

- Albert Road Cemetery
- Allotments
- Conservation Volunteers
- Football
- Graffiti and Vandalism
- Local Nature Reserve
- Open Spaces

This report as usual would be made available on the Town Council website.

**R455 All members of the public and press are requested to leave the meeting -
Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960**

R456 Exempt Business

For discussion – Stubbs Drove

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.47pm