

**HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION & AMENITIES
COMMITTEE HELD 12 SEPTEMBER 2018**

Cllrs. Present: Cllr. Margaret Allingham, Cllr. Paul Carnell, Cllr. John Jupe, Cllr Derek Pretty, Cllr. Cliff Morris, Cllr. Jane Welsh (Chair)

In attendance:
Brett Athow – Operations Manager
Chetana Greenwood – Allotment Committee Chairman
Andy Hallett – Allotment Committee
Maria Ross – Allotment Committee

R91 Apologies:
Cllr. Stephanie Arnold

**R92 Minutes & Matters Arising
Meeting of 11 July 2018**

The Minutes were signed and agreed as a true and correct record by the Chair. There were no matters arising

R93 Correspondence:

(i) Request to place a shed, greenhouse and fruit cage on Pink 4. Permission is sought for up to 8' x 6' in size to afford flexibility in design and availability. A slightly larger shed is requested as the partner uses a mobility scooter and needs regular rests due to medical reasons. Members agreed to the request subject to agreement on location to avoid shading issues with the Operations Manager.

(ii) Request from allotment holder I4 to build a new fruit case 2m x 3m and a new poly tunnel 2m x 3m depending on space availability and overall look. Members agreed to the request subject to design submission and appropriate location with the Operations Manager,

(iii) Request from allotment holder B5 to erect an 8 x 6 foot shed. Members agreed to this request subject to appropriate location in consultation with the Operations Manager,

(iv) Request from Hedge End Town Football Club to use Greta Park on Saturday afternoons. Members agreed to this request subject strictly to the production of a current valid public liability insurance certificate **prior** to any use of Greta Park.

(v) Request from AFC Whiteley seeking a home pitch, which is more accessible and play on the City of Southampton Youth League on a Sunday morning or afternoon as they can kick-off at 10.00am or 2.00pm. Members agreed to the use of Greta Park on Sunday mornings only subject to a valid public liability insurance certificate being produced at the rate of £62.00 per game.

(vi) Countryside Voice, Summer 2018. Noted.

(vii) ICCM Journal, Autumn Issue.

R94 Matters for Resolution

Consider and award successful Dowd's Farm Play Area Refurbishment Tender

The Operations Manager explained the tender and the brief behind inviting companies to tender for the specification of the play area refurbishment at Dowd's Farm. Members

**RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE – CONT'D PAGE 2
MEETING OF 12 SEPTEMBER 2018**

carefully examined the display and the tender designs. The Operations Manager advised members of the results of the public consultation and the initial scoring system. After significant debate it was RESOLVED to award the tender of £85,000 excluding VAT to Caloo subject to the following caveats for discussion with them:

- To remove the small trampoline from the design;
- That the additional proposed fencing should not include the Zip Wire;
- To negotiate perimeter fencing to be included in the design;
- To lose the roundabout with the grips.

RESOLVED

That the play area refurbishment tender for Dowd's Farm be awarded to Caloo at the tender price of £85,000 excluding VAT subject to the caveats specified above,

That the Town Council permits the Allotment Committee to rent a vacant plot, to be cultivated specifically for bees and looked after by the Allotment Committee

In light of there being no demand for the care of bees at the allotments, members agreed there was little point in pursuing this matter any further and the Motion was not discussed.

Consider proposal from Josh Gook concerning future tennis administration of the Woodhouse Lane Tennis Court

The Town Clerk advised members of the proposal brought forward by Josh Gook. Josh Gook is the current coaching provider and runs all Tennis related activities at the 3 court facility at Woodhouse Lane Recreation Park which includes- membership, court hire and coaching. Josh Gook is not proposing changing the legal ownership of the site (this will remain the council) purely the management of the site.

Josh Gook is proposing:

- 'One point of contact for everything Tennis related at the site;
- The council would not have to spend hours on the administration of the site;
- The council would not have to sort out any day-to-day issues with the site;
- That the skills and knowledge he possesses can drive Woodhouse Lane into a vibrant community venue;
- The limitations in the current arrangement with the council creates conflicts of interest to do with facility hire and court availability and his proposal would rectify this;
- There is no progression. Josh Gook pays a seasonal fee as the coaching provider and has to redouble efforts every Spring for the players lost during the Winter, not a sustainable model.

Josh Gook would ensure-

- That Woodhouse Lane Recreation Ground remains a community facility, with opportunities for all members of the community to participate in Tennis at an affordable price
- That the coaching programme would never exceed 30 hours a week court time, thus ensuring the above

**RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE – CONT'D PAGE 3
MEETING OF 12 SEPTEMBER 2018**

- Preserve the distinction between JG Tennis and the Public Courts, JG Tennis would simply be managing the facility. Josh Gook would not look to change any public perception of the courts and would want to maintain the 'park' and 'local' feel of the facility.
- That Josh Gook has a long term commitment to the site and would be looking to create a sustainable project over a period of at least 5 years.

Options

Josh Gook proposes one of the following financial models to ensure a successful partnership-

Option 1

JG Tennis Pay the Council a flat fee of £200 a month (£2,400 per annum) to cover all court usage at Woodhouse Lane. When the time comes for court resurfacing JG Tennis will pay for agreed % of the resurfacing costs.

Option 2

JG Tennis will pay the council 50% of all membership and court fee revenue (minus costs to stripe/payment portal) at source, invoiced either monthly/quarterly or annually
When the time comes for court resurfacing JG Tennis will pay for agreed % of the resurfacing costs.

Option 3

Currently the site brings in £3,600 annually (based on last 12 months).
The council are paid 80% of all fees up to £3,000, then 20% of all fees past £3,001 paid annually.
When the time comes for court resurfacing JG Tennis will pay for agreed % of the resurfacing costs.

Members considered the proposals carefully but felt that none of the options suggested by Josh Gook safeguarded the income stream for the Town Council and was not cost neutral. The business plan did not contain details of the projected income he would generate or details of his financial projections. Members felt that Mr. Gook should re-think and re-submit an amended business plan for future consideration. Accordingly, members REFUSED the financial proposals as submitted.

RESOLVED

That Josh Gook's proposal concerning future tennis administration of the Woodhouse Lane Tennis Court as submitted to this committee meeting be REFUSED.

R95 Allotments

The Chairman welcomed Chetana Greenwood and her colleagues to the meeting representing the allotment committee. Ms Greenwood put forward a proposition for a compost toilet to be situated on the Springfield Site. There is only one toilet servicing the 180 allotment plots. The committee advised that they were looking into funding options to raise the money for the compost toilet if the committee were in agreement to the placement of a compost toilet. Members felt that the compost toilet should be provided by the Town Council. Members were advised that to source a compost toilet would cost £1,500

**RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE – CONT'D PAGE 4
MEETING OF 12 SEPTEMBER 2018**

to include delivery. There are disabled options available and these cost approximately £3,500.

Members agreed that a disabled compost toilet should be sited at the Springfield Site and within the new financial year 2019/2020 and that a provision of £3,500 be considered as a project option on the budget list for consideration to enable this to happen.

R96 Operations Manager Report

Albert Road Cemetery

- 5 internments since last R and A meeting – 2 burial and 3 cremation. Again, the burials have been completed by our own staff to a fantastic standard. It is not easy work.

Allotments

- As of 10/09/2018 there are 0 vacant plots.
- Waiting list of 1.
- The offer of double plots has been suspended until the waiting list is cleared.
- Wood chip is due to be dropped off on a regular basis for use by allotment holders. This is to be trialled. If it is used, we will continue to supply hardwood chippings.

Dowds Farm

- Essential Jetty repairs are being undertaken by our staff, this includes replacement timbers, painting and a general tidy up.
- **Fishing at Dowds Farm pond** - We are seeing an increase in people fishing from the pond. This is unregulated.

For consideration – a) We install notices to say 'No fishing', b) we do nothing or c) we could talk to Eastleigh and District Angling Club about the possibility of managing how the site is fished. There could be benefits to this as they may be able to regulate and police its use, they may also be able to help manage fish stocks and aid with on-going maintenance. Members agreed that the Operations Manager should consult with the Eastleigh and District Angling Club as suggested to establish what options are available on managing how the site is fished.

St Johns Road Recreation Ground

- On going improvements to the pumphouse; this includes installation of fans to allow for air circulation, bays for chemical separation and PPE storage.
- Paddling pool is closing 14th September and will be decommissioned for the winter.
-

Local Nature Reserve

- Friends of Wildern Nature Park are helping to put together a plan for the Local Nature Reserve in full consultation with HETC. Thanks to their help we are hoping to submit to Natural England soon. Their information gathering has been amazing and we are getting a wonderful picture of the true benefits of Wildern Nature Park.

**RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE – CONT'D PAGE 5
MEETING OF 12 SEPTEMBER 2018**

Other News

- Memorial benches – These have now been installed at both Albert Road Cemetery and The War Memorial.
- 'Silent Soldier' installation has now been carried out at 2000 Centre.

R97 Consider an approximate 50cm shrub bed creation potentially from the Horticultural Society around the Bandstand and award a grant to the Horticultural Society to purchase shrubs accordingly.

The Chairman advised members that such a project of creating an approximate 50cm shrub bed would enhance the bandstand and felt that the Horticultural Society could be approached to enquire if they would consider undertaking such works. Members agreed that the Horticultural Society should be asked if they would like to undertake such works and a grant of £100.00 be offered.

R98 To update on the Recreation & Amenities Walkabout in August

The Chairman provided an update on the points raised from the walkabout, which members noted.

There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.25 hours,