

**HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL – MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER  
2023**

**Cllrs present:** Cllr Paul Carnell, Cllr Leigh Hadaway, Cllr John Jupe, Cllr Lucy Jurd, Cllr Derek Pretty (Acting Chair)

In attendance: Brett Athow – Operations Manager  
Mr North – Allotment Tenant  
Maria Ross – Chair Allotment Association

There being no Chair or Vice Chair present, Cllr Derek Pretty was elected to chair the meeting.

**R434 Apologies** Cllr Margaret Allingham, Cllr Cliff Morris, Cllr Jane Welsh

**R435 Minutes and Matters arising**

Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023

R427 – Cllr Derek Pretty had been disappointed with the response made by committee. He confirmed that he had approached HEWEB for possible funding towards this play area and was looking for approval by members to proceed.

**RESOLVED: All agreed that Cllr Derek Pretty could continue this request for funding.**

The Minutes were signed.

**R436 Correspondence**

None received.

**R437 Allotments**

(i) Retrospective request for 7' x 5' shed Red 9a, Kanes Field

**RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that this retrospective request for the shed was approved.**

(ii) To consider the use of pesticides at the allotments

Mr North spoke of his concerns for use of Pesticides at the allotments. He explained that these were not good for people and the environment with these substances lasting at least 6 months in the ground and longer in any water courses.

The Operation Manager confirmed that if there was a ban on the use of pesticides, it would be very hard to enforce, as the use of them was still legal and readily available and how would we be able to tell if they had been used or not.

It was felt that the way forward was to educate Allotment holders. The chair of the Allotment Association confirmed that this was something she could get involved in, to try and instil in the Tenants the effect they have when used.

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE  
HELD 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 - Cont'd Page 2**

**RESOLVED:** All Cllrs acknowledged the concerns put forward, however agreed that there would be no ban on the use of pesticides at the allotments. That all Tenants were contacted reminding them of the clause for the use of pesticides. It was also asked that they were reminded of the correct procedure for sheds, polytunnels etc.

**R438 To review the T&C's for Junior Football Coaching**

Cllrs considered the new T&C's.

**RESOLVED:** All Cllrs agreed that these new T&C's were approved.

**R439 To consider the removal and realignment of Dowds Farm Play Area**

The fencing between the 2 play zones created a bottleneck that had led to excessive wear on the path surface and gate. Removal would make the play area more accessible, safer with minor realignment of the boundary fence and relocation of x2 benches.

**RESOLVED:** All Cllrs agreed that this removal and realignment takes place.

**R440 To consider the siting of a clothing bank for HIOWAA at Woodhouse Lane**

A request had been received for the placing of a clothing bank at Woodhouse Lane car park. Other banks sited on HETC land were not respected by those using them, bags were left at the side of the bins when full, with the banks not being monitored or emptied enough. Cllrs felt that there were many other banks in the area for use, along with collection bags delivered to homes. Even though this was a good concept it was felt no more banks would be accepted for siting on HETC land.

**RESOLVED:** All Cllrs agreed that this request for a clothing bank at Woodhouse Lane car park, or any other HETC car parks was rejected.

**R441 To provide a steer on the Play Area Strategy**

Cllrs were given a brief outline by the Operations Manager. At this stage councillors were just being asked for their thoughts and comments on how they wished the strategy to progress.

Cllr Derek Pretty commented that this was part of the Capital Strategy programme at P&R.

Cllrs agreed that the following 4 parks, Dowds Farm, Locke Road, Norman Rodaway, Greta Park were HETC 'core provision' and that when/if the Barnfield Way and Hedge End Way sites were transferred by EBC that they should be added to the 'core provision' due to the geographical locations and catchment areas they served.

The Operations Manager asked Cllrs if they could list all 11 Play Areas in order of priority, Cllrs felt this was difficult without additional information.

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD 8TH NOVEMBER 2023 - Cont'd Page 3

Cllr Lucy Jurd asked if a survey could be carried out to capture usage data, the Operations Manager suggested this could be done during weekdays, the busiest times being between 14.30 and 16.00 and that staff time could be allocated to help provide a snapshot of each site.

Cllrs then asked that all R&A Cllrs provide feedback between now and the 1<sup>ST</sup> January 2024 on all 11 Play Areas, listing the order of priority and the reasoning why. It was pointed out that this was an opportunity to support the sites that they felt should be the council's highest priority. The Operations Manager offered to email all Cllrs with a form to provide this feedback.

Cllrs discussed at length any Play Areas they felt could be removed, concluding that whilst they do not wish to see any removed, Drummond appeared to encourage ASB, it served the smallest catchment and was close to both Locke Road and Beattie Rise so it would be their first choice at this time.

It was discussed that complete replacement of all Play Areas was not the only solution, last winter's refurbishment of Rodaway Play Area was given as an example where some of the older play items that were still in good working order were retained, this had now proved to be a fresh, interesting and popular Play Area.

Cllrs asked if any of the Play Areas required complete removal and replacement at this time. The Operations Manager suggested that Locke Road was ready for replacement and that Nelsons Gardens was at the end of its life.

All agreed that the strategy should not just be focused on wholesale replacement on each site, but that other approaches should be explored.

Cllr Derek Pretty felt that Nelsons Gardens, though it was within distance of Dowds Farm was the only play area that served those living north of Maunsell Way, with no major road to cross.

Cllr Derek Pretty recommended that an assessment was done each year on items for condition and serviceability, all felt that items were only replaced when needed for damage/safety reasons. However, it was important to identify any play areas that needed a complete upgrade.

**RESOLVED: That a form was circulated to all R&A Cllrs for comment and initial prioritisation of the play areas and that a survey was completed on the usage of all the play areas. All this information was to be made ready for the January R&A meeting.**

### **R442 To discuss budget considerations for 2024/25**

A list of items for consideration had been given to councillors. They were asked to run through the list and prioritise. Adding to or amending the recommendations as they wished.

All the budget considerations remained as per the officer recommendations, except for the following:

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE  
HELD 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 - Cont'd Page 4**

- Albert Road Cemetery- New pedestrian mower was now a high priority.
- Norman Rodaway fencing – Security was a constant issue and needed attention, however the priority was still medium.  
Norman Rodaway changing room refurbishment – It was asked that costs were obtained. This would be on the sports strategy.
- Paddling Pool replacement of wooden fencing – This was now taken out, as fencing could be used from the Dowds Farm play area realignment.
- Play areas gates – On Play Strategy.
- Turnpike wet pour – On Play Strategy.
- Increase staffing by an additional day (increased areas taken from EBC) – Possible Berryfield funding.
- Quadraplay (all in one aeration/raker/roller/spiker) football/cricket – Possible Berryfield funding, also FA match funding available.
- Replacement flail mower – was now a Medium priority.

**RESOLVED: All Cllrs agreed the above budget considerations**

**R443 Christmas Lights Working Party minutes**

12<sup>TH</sup> September 2023 – For noting  
The minutes were noted.

**R444 Operations Manager Report**

The report contained the following updates:

- Albert Road Cemetery
- Allotments
- Bowling Green
- Conservation Volunteers
- Cricket
- Football
- Graffiti and Vandalism
- Local Nature Reserve
- Paddling Pool
- Play Areas
- Open Spaces

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

There being no further business to conduct the meeting closed at 8.45pm