

**HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

**Cllr present:** Cllr Leigh Hadaway, Cllr John Jupe, Cllr Derek Pretty, Cllr Jane Welsh (Chair)

In attendance: Brett Athow – Operations Manager

**R457 Apologies** Cllr Margaret Allingham, Cllr Paul Carnell, Cllr Lucy Jurd, Cllr Cliff Morris

**R458 Minutes and Matters arising**

Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Minutes were signed.

**R459 Correspondence**

- (i) Request from Mr Burnett for the use of Greta Park for the funfair Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June to 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024 – (open 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> July)

Cllr Derek Pretty commented that a fee on top of the usual bond paid should be charged for the use of Greta Park, as his attendance was not part of the Carnival this year. He also suggested that maybe the money received could be put into a community fund, rather than general funds.

**RESOLVED: That the daily rate charged for the Circus was charged to Mr Burnett for his 9 days on site, along with the £1,500 bond.**

- (ii) Eastleigh Active Programme 2024

Request for the use of HETC facilities for the Easter and Summer holidays

Only dates had been given for when the Easter and Summer programme would take place, in previous years they had used Woodhouse Skate Park & the basketball court at Greta Park.

It was suggested that maybe the Tennis Courts could be offered.

**RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed in principle the use of HETC facilities, but asked that information on what activities would be going where and when were given.**

**R460 To consider the Biodiversity Strategy**

The Operations Manager started by saying it was the duty of all councils to consider what they can do to enhance biodiversity and that a strategy was developed as soon as possible after the 1<sup>st</sup> January.

Cllrs felt that the document was well done and covered all the points.

There needed to be a balance between nature and recreation.

Cllr Derek Pretty commented that Greta Park was an area that could be enhanced, a place to enjoy with trees and shrubs, he also added Dowds Farm and Norman Rodaway as possible areas.

The Operations Manager commented that the second part of the strategy entailed an action plan on what HETC are doing right now and what the

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Town Councils priorities were.

He also pointed out that the Town Council would need to carry out a biodiversity audit, however this would require a third party to come in to do and was not fundable within existing budgets. He had also been in contact with EBC.

**RESOLVED; Cllrs agreed that the strategy was along the lines that the committee expected and asked that the Operations Manager developed an appendix for plants, trees, and shrubbery and that he also obtained costs for the biodiversity audit.**

**Cllrs agreed that there would be a continued commitment to planting trees. This agenda item was to be returned to the March R&A meeting for further discussion.**

**R461 Play area strategy**

Discussion to inform the development of the strategy

The chair commented that there had been a new play area put in with every new development, thus leading to there being so many and that it would be a shame if any were removed. She also suggested that the younger children were catered for as children over 12 years of age would not be wanting to use play equipment.

It was suggested that maybe a few sites at a time were discussed at R&A. Cllr Derek Pretty commented that there had not been many feedback responses received from Councillors and that it was important that all Councillors had an input.

Operations Manager pointed out the age of some of the units and that we were at the end now, where items could just be repaired.

**RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that the report was emailed by the Chair of the R&A committee to all Councillors to read again, asking them for feedback on the play areas in their wards.**

**That this was put back on the April R&A agenda for further discussion.**

**R462 Stubbs Drove**

To consider the options to restrict vehicle access

The Operations Manager put to Cllrs x3 options to incorporate the area into the open space. Option 1 bollards, option 2 soil and ditch and option 3 post and rail fencing, with the open space being grass seeded. Cllrs discussed, whichever option was installed an entrance was still to be made available to enable use of the pathway through the woodland.

**RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that option 2 (soil and ditch) was put in place and that there was an entrance made available for access to the woodland pathway.**

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**R463 To receive an update on Berrywood Fields transfer**

The Operations Manager gave the following update to councillors. It was on track for the 1<sup>st</sup> April transfer, however there would be no maintenance carried out until the end of the football season in early May. The facility housed x1 adult and x2 Junior pitches. These pitches were not in a good condition, as expected and there would be quite a lot of work to be done to bring them up to the standard again since opening 2 years ago. There had been meetings with Wildern Academy managing the facilities, reference access and use of the site and Hedge End Rangers about their non-exclusive use and that the third pitch (junior) would be made available for other users. He had arranged a meeting with Hedge End Utd, who currently used Norman Rodaway football facility. Cllrs noted.

**R464 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
- Play Areas
- Open Spaces

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

**R465 All members of the public and press are requested to leave the meeting – Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960**

**R466 Exempt Business**

- (i) Serving the Community Awards
- (ii) Cemetery

There being no further business to conduct the meeting closed at 8.35pm

