

**HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD 9TH FEBRUARY, 2011**

Cllrs. Present: Cllr. Sheila Baynes, Cllr. Louise Bloom, Cllr. Jenny Hughes,
Cllr. Derek Pretty, Cllr. Jane Welsh (Chairman), Cllr. Ray Worley.

Also Present: Mr. Othen - Allotment Committee
Mr. & Mrs. Phillips - Allotment Hirers
Steve Watson & Emily Weekes on behalf of Hedge End
Youth Council.

R49 Apologies: Cllr. Keith Day, Cllr. Pearl Hicks.
With effect from the close of business hours today, all communications have been checked for the receipt of apologies.

R50 Minutes & Matters Arising
Meeting of 12th January, 2011
The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

R51 Correspondence:
i) HEWEB report re Dowd's Farm Park and Pedestrian Access
Improvements for the meeting of the Local Area Committee on Monday
28th February, 2011, including a recommendation that the Projects
Manager (Parks and Green Spaces) in consultation with HETC extends the
present key play area and £45,000 should be allocated to underwrite the
cost of this work. The original planning brief provided a smaller play
area and the purpose of this proposal is to open the current play area to a
further two pieces of equipment and a bench in response to requests from
the local community. Noted.

R52 Allotments:
Regulations re Bonfires:
DTC reported upon a recent incident of complaint, together with regulations and
advisory notes issued by other authorities. **Resolved: With effect from 1st
April, 2011 an addition to the Allotment Agreement appendix that the
lighting of bonfires is strictly prohibited at all times and that all non-
compostable waste should be removed from site and remains the
responsibility of the Hirer. The Town Council, in the interest of Waste
Management, will provide skips at both Spring Field and Kanes Field twice
per year.**

Unauthorised constructions on site: (with photographic evidence)
**Resolved: That the application of Mr. Frank Phillips to erect a fruit cage
and polycarbonate greenhouse (with no fixed base), on Allotment Plot B5,
is approved.**

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R53 Skateboard Project:

Arrangements for Street Meet and attendance.

The meeting is confirmed to take place on Saturday 26th February, 2011, 11.30 a.m., at Greta Park. Emily Weekes provided members with an up-date of her enquiries, with designs and quotations produced for the Youth Council as client thus far, and reported upon meetings with the Parishes of West End and Botley in seeking a joint initiative. The clerk is instructed to apply for the official response of each parish. Emily was thanked for the hard work, time and useful information that she has produced and afforded to this project. Designs and quotations may only be considered as initial proposals as they fall outside the required legal tender process.

The Chairman and Cllrs. Derek Pretty, Sheila Baynes, Jenny Hughes and Ray Worley confirmed their attendance at the aforementioned meeting.

R54 Sportsfields

Turnpike Way Wicket Report

Chris Westbrook has advised the grounds staff, as a result of a Soil Analysis conducted by STRI. Considering that the wicket is within public open space, the Soil Analysis was relatively good, however there is a natural layer of clay. There are only three methods to eradicate clay:

1. Completely excavate the wicket and start again.
2. Excavate a 2” depth and treat - missing a minimum of 1 season’s play.
3. Continue as per current treatment and see a steady improvement suitable to the open space and recreational environment.

Method 3 treatment has been the practice of the grounds staff during the past few years.

Resolved: All ground works to the wicket continue as per method 3, to achieve improvement and avoiding any interruption to the Cricket Season.

Rodaway Parking Permits:

Mrs. J. Hall, Acting Headteacher, Kings Copse County Primary School has terminated an agreement with Council for the facilities of car parking and returns permits for the current year and the associated invoice. Noted.

The Chairman informed members of the resignation of David Clouting as Chairman of Hedge End Junior Cricket Club. **The clerk is instructed to forward a letter of thanks to Mr. Clouting expressing Council’s appreciation of his dedication to the development and success of the Cricket Club and his valued contribution to the improvement of the grounds.**

Greta Sports Pavilion – refurbishment

Resolved: That the Clerk engage the services of a Consultant to raise a refurbishment specification in preparation for the tender process.

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R55 Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge

Members viewed an introduction to the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge, presented by HRH Prince William in his role as Patron. All committee members are in possession of an information pack, with FQAs and an example of the Deed of Dedication.

There are two options for progressing this project.

1. Fields in Trust: Charitable Deed of Dedication - this confers full charity status for the area in question, earmarked for QEII Fields. This allows the HETC mandatory tax relief and advantages of protection as Custodian Trustee. However, as the income generated from this area far exceeds the Charity Commission threshold of £5,000 per annum, HETC will legally be obliged to make a formal declaration return to the Charity Commission. It will need to declare that all income received has been reinvested for the upkeep and maintenance of the site.
2. The alternative is to enter into a Non-Charitable Deed of Dedication - which still confers protection from development and the title QEII Fields, but is not as onerous on the Town Council's future obligations. This requires no involvement of the Charity Commission and HETC would not be subject to Charity Law obligations.

Resolved: That the Town Council make application for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge – Non-Charitable Deed of Dedication for the sites of Norman Rodaway Sports Field and Turnpike Way Sports Field.

R56 Stubbs Drove Access

Feasibility of restricting vehicular access.

The Town Council's solicitor advises that assuming the land is not a public footpath and in the absence of any apparent owner the Council may wish to proceed to erect an obstacle/gate of some variety to prevent the perceived anti-social behaviour. This would be on the understanding that the owner of the land may as a result of these actions (or at any time) then declare themselves, require that the Council remove whatever construction has been erected, and make good any damage done to the land. Naturally this gives rise to unwanted wasted costs on a tight budget where wasted costs are more than ever under scrutiny! Equally, again assuming the land is not a public footpath and in the absence of an apparent owner, you may take the view that you are not comfortable trespassing on land, owner known or not, and that the potential for wasted costs is not acceptable in this economic climate. The Solicitor also wonders whether Council's public liability insurance, in the event of an accident due to your construction, would cover land which you do not actually own where you may be correctly found to be trespassing. If the Council were inclined to undertake the works, he would recommend that Council take steps to verify their understanding that the path is not a public footpath. **RESOLVED: Whilst there is an element of doubt as to**

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rights of way, the matter to be deferred and no further action taken at this point in time. The Clerk is instructed to make further enquiries with regard to the public right of way and is advised to contact Eric Reed, EBC in this connection.