

**HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION & AMENITIES
COMMITTEE HELD 9TH DECEMBER, 2015**

Cllrs. Present: Cllr. Paul Carnell, Cllr. Stephen Carr, Cllr. Val Houghton, Cllr. Georgina Jenks, Cllr. John Jupe, Cllr. Derek Pretty, Cllr. Shankerlal Sthankiya, Cllr. Jane Welsh (Chair)

The Chair was deeply saddened to announce that Cllr. Tony Noyce, former Mayor of Eastleigh, had passed away following a short illness and asked for a minute's silence.

R31 Apologies: Cllr. Stephanie Arnold

With effect from the close of business hours today, all communications have been checked for the receipt of apologies.

**R32 Minutes & Matters Arising
Meeting of 11th November, 2015**

R30, there has been no further communication from Jackie James, Calming Influences. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

R33 Correspondence:

i) The Green Flag Award Team - the 20th anniversary Green Flag Awards are now open and it is hoped that the Council will be making an application and help the team to celebrate 20 years of raising the standard. This year Albert Road Cemetery & War Memorial Garden will be Mystery Shopped and this will take place at any time throughout the award year July 16 – June 17. Noted.

ii) CPRE publications: Countryside Voice, Winter 2015 and Field Work Winter 2015.

iii) ICCM publication, The Journal, Winter 2015.

R34 To consider Budget requirements 2016/2017

Greta Park Play Area Refurbishment.

Last completed in 2005, Greta Park would be the next play area to be updated in the rolling programme of play area improvements. **The clerk is instructed to submit the Committee's recommendation that a budget of £75,000 is reserved in the 2016 budget for this project with a view to replacing play equipment and perhaps extending this very popular play area.**

NPTC Safe Use of Plant Machinery Courses

This course would be required for four members of staff if the Council were to improve Burial Services in providing the preparation of earthen graves. A course was quoted at £2,850 in February this year, therefore, allowing for an increase in fees and the hire of a minimum of three excavators on site to successfully complete the course, an estimated budget of £3,500 would be required. **The clerk is instructed to submit the Committee's recommendation that a budget of £3,500 is reserved for this necessary training.**

Table Tennis Tables, The Recreation Ground.

The budget for the provision of Table Tennis Tables this year has been deferred and will need to be used for the necessary foundation. Therefore, the provision of tables needs to be accounted in the 2016/2017 budget. **The clerk is instructed to submit the Committee's recommendation that a budget of £5,000 is reserved for this purpose.**

The clerk is instructed to ensure that the current year's budget of £10,000 for the purposes of a future application for Green Flag at Dowd's Farm Park is ring-fenced and provision of an additional £6,000 is recommended within the 2016/17 Budget.

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R35 To report requirements and estimates for the installation of a foundation to support Table Tennis at The Recreation Ground.

The Head Groundsman has reassessed Option 1 of his recommendations in view of the Committee's instruction to cost the works required. He examined a section of the area in order to estimate materials/cost and discovered that beneath the clay balls, an undulating tarmac surface. He has, therefore, reassessed the situation and now recommends that the clay balls are removed and a thin layer of tarmacadam is laid to level the surface. This assessment was not given in time for a quotation to be arranged. However, in the meantime, an enquiry has been made with Development Control Services to ensure that this is permitted development and is acceptable as a non porous surface. **Resolved: That the current year's budget for the provision of table tennis tables is utilised to prepare an appropriate foundation and the clerk is instructed to obtain quotations for a tarmacadam surface layer, subject to confirmation of permitted development.**

R36 To consider the implementation of a Cemetery Map to indicate recommended Commemorative Bench locations for future applications.

The Head Groundsman submits a plan providing his recommendations for future commemorative bench locations. The plan has been developed in view of the increasing demand for commemoration and in consideration of the value of the amenity to visitors and to the landscape, to eliminate the difficulty of finding a location close to the commemorated grave in view of the increasing limited space available. **Resolved: The Committee fully endorse the proposed recommendations and that future applications are only directed to the locations available.**

R37 To consider the Annual Increase in Fees w.e.f. 1st April, 2016 with the Town Clerk's recommendation of 3%.

Cemetery, Allotments, Hall Hire, Annual Rentals, Sports. **Resolved: That all fees are increased by a minimum of 3% and where necessary rounded to the nearest 50 pence or £1.00, with effect from 1st April, 2016.**

R38 To consider applications:

Smiles Nursery: Due to the high demand from Ofsted and Hampshire Education for taking two year old children, an outside playing is a very important factor in children's development. Currently an area of space adjoining the Rodaway Pavilion is cordoned with plastic netting and has proved not to be an entirely safe method of safety for two year olds as they have not developed an awareness to rules/boundaries. With just one gust of wind netting is unstable. Therefore, the nursery wish to apply to the Council to work with them in the provision of an appropriate boundary fence and provide a map of their requirements. **Resolved: That the Council support this application with the proviso that the materials consist of green metal, bow top fencing and that proposals are resubmitted for approval with appropriate plans, for further consideration. However, the applicant to be reminded that the Council cannot provide funding for such an installation and that exclusivity of use cannot be guaranteed upon public open space.**

David Westrope, Hon Secretary, Old Netley & Highfield CC provides a revised application in order to confirm and elect a resident team for Turnpike Way fixtures in the 2016 season. The team will be the Club's Hampshire League adult 3rd team and fixtures will be arranged on alternate weeks to that of Peartree CC. Mr. Westrope has been reminded that this

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arrangement will only apply to the nominated team, especially as there are up to 5 adult and 4 Colts teams within the club, none of which will be permitted to play at Turnpike Way. Noted.

Julie Payne: Application to erect an Allotment Greenhouse Plot Pink 2, Spring Field.

Resolved: Approval of this application.

R39 To report upon the latest developments to engage the services of EBC to conduct a Tree Survey.

Following discussions with the Town Clerk, the Borough Tree Officers, EBC, have elected to pilot the first Tree Survey Report to take place at Albert Road Cemetery so that their recommendations can be recorded in the Green Flag Management plan in preparation for the 2016 application. Further surveys will take place at sites in priority order with a piecemeal approach to developing into an annual contract. It is estimated that this could take between 6 and 12 months to complete. **The Committee require a better understanding of the terms of this agreement and the Clerk is instructed to request a written proposal and firm cost implication.**

R40 Green Flag Applications:

Albert Road Cemetery & War Memorial Garden 2016. **Resolved: To approve a 2016 application.**

To develop the feasibility of a future application for Dowd's Farm Park. **The Committee formulated a Working Party to assist with the application. Cllrs. Derek Pretty, Stephen Carr, John Jupe and the Chair volunteered their services. Perhaps an article in the Gazette could encourage public participation?**