

**HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION & AMENITIES
COMMITTEE HELD 10TH JANUARY, 2018**

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

Also Present: Heather Jones - Representing Allotment Hirers
Terry Crowe - Friends of Wildern Nature Park

Prior to formal business commencing, the Chair invited Terry Crowe to speak on behalf of George Baker and their joint proposal to offer their voluntary services to develop a Management Plan to achieve Local Nature Reserve status for Wildern Meadow.

Mr. Crowe, in representing the proposals, assured members that there would be no financial impact upon the Town Council, as perhaps was interpreted. He and George Baker are volunteers in the Town Council Conservation Group and have formed their own "Friends of Wildern Nature Park". They both have an extensive amateur interest in Wildlife and Conservation. He spoke passionately of their wish to undertake a Management Plan to make application for a Local Nature Reserve status. He believed that this would include engagement with local schools and the community, together with fund raising from local businesses. He referred to the Borough Biodiversity Plan in which Wildern Meadow is identified. It is definitely rich in Wildlife and includes rare species - "*there is lots of life in this area*" - and would like to see more being done to protect the meadow. They hoped that the Town Council would support this initiative with a view to moving forward in line with the Biodiversity Plan.

The Chair explained that this subject was raised this evening in Correspondence, as it had been debated and a decision made by the Council in September 2017 and as such should not be revisited for six months. However, in view of this additional information, members agreed in principle and encouraged the process to commence in developing a draft Management Plan to be prepared by Messrs. Crowe and Baker in time for the April meeting, at which time the Town Council will have appointed an Operations Manager, who will, no doubt, be committed and involved in such a project.

R43 Apologies: Cllr. Shankerlal Sthankiya, Cllr. Derek Pretty, Cllr. Stephanie Arnold
With effect from the close of business hours today, all communications have been checked for the receipt of apologies.

**R44 Minutes & Matters Arising
Meeting of 8th November, 2017**
The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

R45 Correspondence:

- i) Wicksteed Times 2018 - celebrating the centenary year of Wicksteed Playgrounds. **Noted.**
- ii) Winter issue: The Journal, ICCM Publication. **Noted.**
- iii) CPRE publication, Countryside Voice Winter 2017. **Noted.**
- iv) Mrs. Wendy Bruty, re Wildern Meadow and proposals to install benches/picnic tables. Expressing her concern that such an installation will only encourage antisocial behaviour from groups of youths late in the evening, which has been previously experienced. These groups left a considerable amount of litter and caused damage. "*The last thing the Nature Park and local residents need is late night groups gathering by the pond causing damage and*

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*leaving rubbish everywhere.” All other improvements would be welcomed. **The clerk is instructed to respond and assure Mrs. Bruty that there are no current plans to place benches or picnic tables at this location. The main focus will be on conservation.***

v) Mr. George Baker revises his proposals to make application for the Wildern Meadow to be upgraded to Local Nature Reserve status in line with the established procedure outlined by Natural England, to which the Town Council responded in September, 2017 with the decision to defer application for 4 – 5 years as it would be a costly project and needed to be approached and considered correctly and that it was not a priority. A copy of the revised proposals has been issued to each member ahead of this meeting.

In addition the Town Clerk would wish to advise that, the Town Council is in receipt of a Rural Grant where Wildern Meadow, in part, is under License to a Grazier for a number of Dexter cattle to graze from April to September and, as such, the Grazier has secured the enclosure at his expense. Furthermore, a budget has been set in 2018/2019, for the improvement and management of Coltsfoot Balancing Pond. **The clerk is instructed to defer this matter to the April Agenda.**

R46 Teen Shelter

To consider quotations for an installation at Turnpike Way Sportsfield.

An aide memoir has been distributed to each member in advance of this meeting.

Caloo Ltd.: Hangout Youth Shelter, single concrete pad under Youth Shelter, delivery and product installation **£8,500.**

Sutcliffe Play: Half Pod Shelter with concrete base, delivery and installation **£7630.92.**

Wicksteed Playgrounds: Single tower with steel floor, installation and carriage **£6954.15.**

David Ogilvie Engineering Ltd.: A special offer price on Carlton Shelter with ¾ panels, delivery to site with Hiab and offloaded into position **£6007.** However, it should be noted

That installation is not included in this quotation and the Town Council would have to employ a local contractor to install.

Resolved: To accept the quotation of Caloo Ltd. at £8,500.00 to be installed in Turnpike Way Sports Field and located as per the marker below:



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Furthermore, the clerk is instructed to arrange for an additional Bicycle Rack and Litter Bin to be placed with the Teen Shelter.

R47 Green Flag Albert Road Cemetery & War Memorial Garden

To approve a Cemetery Information Brochure

Resolved: To approve publication of the Cemetery Information Brochure with immediate effect. The clerk is instructed to ensure that the availability of the brochure is a feature caption in future copies of the Gazette and on the Town Council Website. A single reference copy should be available at the Library.

The Chair and members agreed that the Deputy Town Clerk is thanked for the editing of the Brochure and Alison Bowen complimented and thanked for the very fine photography and professional publication of the draft copy.

To approve 2018/2019 Green Flag Application

Resolved: To approve this application.

R48 To consider applications:

Annual renewal for the use of Turnpike Way Cricket Ground for the 2018 Season from Hedge End Junior Cricket Club, Old Netley & Highfield CC and Totton Eling CC.

Resolved: To approve applications for the 2018 Cricket Season.

R49 To discuss proposals for recreational facilities at Dowd's Farm Park

Correspondence of Mr. John Johnston.

Mr. Johnston's assessment of the current facilities:

- A general criticism that facilities are provided for infants and not older
- No football pitches, basketball court etc.
- Wildflower meadows could be put to better use, such as open space for rounders, cricket, picnics, football kick-about.
- In it's current state the meadow and long grass has become an area for dog fouling and as a consequence makes removal impossible.
- A general litter problem and lack of Dog Bins
- Why can't it be turned into a recreational field?

The clerk is instructed to respond raising the following points:

- Dowd's Farm Park was designed to be an open space and Parkland for families to enjoy
- There are considerations and covenants that need to be observed to an archaeological site within the grounds.
- Overhead power lines would restrict some sports due to the raised level of the site and there are alternative sites within Hedge End where Football, Cricket, Tennis and Bowls can be enjoyed.
- There are proposals, at some point in the future, for the development of Hampshire County Council land to Sports facilities within North Hedge End.
- The Town Council intend to improve teen facilities at Dowd's Farm Park in future budgets.

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- **The cutting of the Wildflower Meadow will be stepped up in the schedule of works**
- **Litter Bins are on site, and a full-time litter operative is employed by the Council. There is also a mixed service level on site and the provision of Dog Bins is the remit of the Borough Council. This will be monitored.**

At the end of the meeting, the Chair allowed the Deputy Town Clerk to voice her comments regarding an observation relating to the Village Green on the morning of Christmas Eve, when she was staggered to see members of the Hedge End Horticultural Society, donned with tinsel and pitch forks, reinstating a trench that had been created as a result of Southern Electric works on the Village Green. On behalf of her colleagues, Heather Jones explained that they were encouraged by the purchase of 1,000 spring bulbs for just £11.00 and they were eager to get them planted. She said that it was a different and enjoyable way for them to spend Christmas Eve. **The clerk is instructed to ensure that a letter of appreciation is forwarded to the Horticultural Society for their sterling work on Christmas Eve, which is extremely public spirited and in the interest of the entire community.**