

**HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD 10TH NOVEMBER, 2010**

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

**Also present: Mr. N. Dewey - Allotment Committee
Steve Watson - Detached Youth Worker with
representatives of the Youth Town
Council.**

R28 Apologies: Cllr. Jenny Hughes, Cllr. Pearl Hicks
With effect from the close of business hours today, all communications have been checked for the receipt of apologies.

**R29 Minutes & Matters Arising
Meeting of 13th October, 2010**

R15, hard spiked plastic coating has been installed at a cost of £329.00.

R24i), a copy of Public Liability Insurance Certificate has been submitted.

R25, The container would not require a planning application providing it does not exceed 4 metres in height or 200 cubic metres in capacity.

R26, Mr. Dewey insisted that, in his opinion, the Town Council did not have the right to rename the fields and explained his reasoning. The Chairman responded that the Town Council's resolution would stand.

R27, Steve Watson and colleagues were invited to up-date the Committee on their proposals for Skateboard improvements as a project for 2011/2012. The Chairman expressed her interest for the 2011/2012 Budget and asked YTC to progress their enquiries to include further designs and report at the next meeting.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

R30 Correspondence:

- i) Hampshire Playing Fields Association - Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for year ended 31st March, 2010. Noted.
- ii) Green Flag Award Newsletter - announcement that online application portal for 2011 is open w.e.f. 1st November, 2011. Noted.
- iii) Peartree Cricket Club - application for the use of Turnpike Way Sportsfield for the 2011 Season. **Resolved: To accept this application with the proviso that the Committee would wish to remind Peartree Cricket Club that unless the Council receive payment of accounts within 30 days, it will reserve the right to cancel all fixtures and withdraw approval.**

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- iv) Pestkill re Allotment Site. Mr. Dewey requested that pest control stations be placed within the site as rats are seen to shelter beneath sheds. **The Clerk is instructed to make enquiries with the contractor.**
- v) Cllr. Sheila Baynes reports on behalf of Heather Martin, Albert Road, who welcomes the proposed new Cemetery Archway and appreciates all the effort that has gone into making the Cemetery such a beautiful and peaceful place. Noted.
- vi) Gillian Gamblin extends her compliments for the work at the Cemetery. Noted.
- vii) Hedge End Rangers 1st Team v Eastleigh Reserves, at Norman Rodaway Sports Field 20th November. This game takes Rangers into the last 16 and if they succeed through the next two rounds, they will play at St. Mary's Stadium. Noted with congratulations!
- viii) Mr. A. S. Edgcombe of Abingdon compliments the Town Council website, the Gazette, Cemetery Locator link and Green Flag Award. Noted.
- ix) An application to erect a memorial from Thomas Cakebread of Banbury **Resolved: Approval in consideration of BRAMM membership.**
- x) Jim Mitchell on behalf of Wildern Opportunity Group, seeks the Council's approval of the installation of an 8ft. storage container to be housed within the 2000 Centre play area. **Defer for further information with regard to dimensions, location and the feasibility of incorporating a seat.**
- xi) Jon Riddell, HEWEB, re transfer of portable Teen Shelters to HETC Asset Register. **Resolved: That the Town Council accept said transfer.** HETC is invited to submit ideas and comments with regard to the Local Youth Plan for 2011 – 2013. **Resolved: That the Town Council make specific request for the provision of Skateboard facilities.**

R31 Allotments:

The waiting list for the hire of an allotment has been fully accommodated and there are now 8 spare available and as a result of the recent Cultivation Report there have been 4 terminations and 4 hirers wishing to retain their plots and cultivate. The bridge between Kanes and Spring Field has been reported as slippery and this has been rectified. The installation of new palisade fencing is expected towards the end of this month.

R32 Street Trading - Norman Rodaway Car Park - *To consider an application for a mobile Burger Van on Sundays during football season and resolve an appropriate ground rent?*

Kathy Baker, Environmental Health, EBC confirms that Mr. Collins has been advised that he needs to apply to the Town Council with details of vending and trading hours etc. There are no objections from Peter Baldry, Highways, HEWEB, or the Police, so as far as Environmental Health is concerned consent can be granted once it is confirmed by HETC.

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Mr. Collins application is for the trading hours of Sundays from 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. during the football season. He will be serving hot and cold drinks, some hot food and provides a menu with prices. The vehicle is 10ft. x 6ft. and will only accommodate one car parking space, it is also self-sufficient. He had a Basic Level One Health & Hygiene Standard Paper and provides his Public Liability Policy Number.

Resolved: That the application be accepted with a Ground Rent of £100 per calendar month regardless of attendance or weather during the Football Season only, to be invoiced on a monthly basis.

R33 Land reserved for proposed new Cemetery - *To discuss the feasibility of letting land for small-holding or grazing purposes until the development of the proposed Cemetery.*

The Clerk is instructed to make enquiries with a Land Agent to ascertain potential commercial value for the letting of land for small-holding/grazing fields and defer to the next Agenda.

**R34 Review Terms & Conditions of Hall Hire
*Re the use of Bouncy Castles***

A report as aide-memoire is appended.

The Clerk is instructed to defer this matter to the next Agenda and draft a proposal of terms and conditions for the use of Bouncy Castles within the Town Council properties to include the following in addition to guidelines provided by Zurich Insurance:

- Written evidence of a current Public Liability Insurance Policy with a limit of indemnity of at least £5million, from the Operator
- Supervision provided by the Operator only
- Size compatible to the Hall hired.
- Age Groups and a limit of 10 years of age.
- Inflatable to be safely anchored with weights

REPORT: Aide-memoire to R34 Recreation & Amenities Committee Meeting of 10th November, 2010 - Review Terms & Conditions of Hall Hire - *Re the use of Bouncy Castles.*

A report upon the safety of Bouncy Castles in Council Halls from Chris Keen of Rascals Castles, informed members of accreditations, standards, electrical safety, HSE Guidelines etc. and concludes that, “ *it is very unusual for a local authority to apply a blanket ban on inflatables these days due to the legal requirements that hirers must adhere, obviously as with any industry there may be a few that do not follow these but would hope that by insisting users of their premises ensure that the hirers have current safety certificates for both the inflatable and electrical equipment being used along with adequate liability cover any risk is minimised.*”

It is also noted that on the Rascals Castles website hirers are advised “Before booking a hall please ensure they allow the use of Inflatable Bouncy Castles to be used there!”

Zurich Insurance – Bouncy Castle Guidelines:

Ensure that the Hire Company:

1. Fully complies with the “The Safe Operation of Inflatable Bouncing Devices” (this important guide deals with all aspects of safety) issued by the Inflatable Play Inspection Schemes.
2. Employs suitably experienced and trained adult personnel where the Company are responsible for setting up, operation and supervision of the bouncy castle.
3. Provides written evidence of a current Public Liability Insurance Policy with a Limit of Indemnity of at least £1M. This insurance is to cover the liability of the Hire Company. It is unlikely to extend to cover the hirer of the equipment.

However, if the abovementioned does not apply, i.e. if the Town Council were to hire or the hirer of its premises, in addition to items 1 and 3 above, ensure that you are provided with written instructions about the safe setting up, operation and supervision of the equipment and that the name and address of the manufacturer or supplier is clearly marked upon it.

Guidance - the following is not a comprehensive guide - you should refer to the information available at <http://www.pipa.org.uk/playSafe.html>

1. Children should not be allowed to use the bouncy castle if there is a high wind or in wet weather (inflatables can flip over and slippery surfaces may cause injury).
2. The castle must be adequately secured to the ground and situated away from possible hazards.
3. Soft matting covering hard surfaces must be placed adjacent to the front or open sides. Do not allow users to obstruct the entrance or exit. Do not allow anyone to play on the step or front apron of a bouncy castle.

4. There should be responsible adult supervision paying close attention to the children at play at all times during its use.
5. The number of children using the bouncy castle must be limited to the number recommended in the Hire Company's safety instructions. There must be no overcrowding.
6. A rota system for different age or size groups should be operated together with the observance of any age limit of users (it is suggested that children over 10 years of age should not use the equipment). All children must be made to remove footwear, hard or sharp objects such as jewellery, buckles, pens and other similar pocket contents. Eating or performing acrobatics must not be allowed.

Worthing Borough Council: Although popular, inflatable units, including bouncy castles, can be extremely dangerous if operated incorrectly. All inflatable units must be operated in accordance with the Health & Safety Executive Guidance Note PM76 "Safe Operation of Passenger Carrying Amusement Devices - Inflatable Bouncing Devices" (ISBN 0 11 885604 9 – available from HSE Books)

West End Parish Council currently has a 'no bouncy castle' policy within the Council's buildings.

An article by Personal Injury Team refers to the decided case of Samuel Harris v Timothy Perry (1) Catherine Perry (2) David Harris (3) [2008] EWCH 990 (QB) in which the claimant case was based on the fact that the defendant owed a duty of care to the claimant and this duty of care had been breached. Compensation is expected to be around £1 million, paid for by Mr. and Mrs. Perry's home insurers in respect of an accident incurred during the outdoor hire of a Bouncy Castle.

Norris & Fisher Insurance Brokers: provided you meet insurers requirements – and at not cost. You must ensure that the bouncy castle is supervised at all times and that different age groups are not mixed. The three age groups are as follows: 2-5, 6-12 and over 12.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/tragedy-on-a-bouncy-castle-the-day-a-party-became-a-nightmare-14823408.html>

Returning to the Town Council's Policy – who would check the accredited organization qualification? In some instances Bouncy Castles are considered under the same umbrella as fairground rides, for the purposes of licensing. And who take the responsibility of insuring that children are within the appropriate age group and that when using the equipment they do not take food, drink, toys, glasses and shoes on the equipment.