## HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2012

Cllrs. Present: Cllr. Margaret Allingham, Cllr. Sheila Baynes, Cllr. Keith Day, Cllr. Val Houghton, Cllr. Jenny Hughes, Cllr. Derek Pretty (left the meeting 1958 hrs.), Cllr. Jane Welsh (Chair), Cllr. Ray Worley

Also present: Mr. Paul Snelgrove - Head Groundsman HETC

Resident - Upper St. Helens Rd.

#### **R10** Apologies: Cllr. Peter Hughes

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

### R11 Minutes & Matters Arising

### Meeting of 13th June, 2012

R95, members were able to see the finished Bridget Mary Garden & Woodland Walk Information Board prior to installation. Members were impressed with the board and agreed that further Information Boards should be created at other sites, i.e. Dowd's Farm Urban Park as part of the Green Flag application. The Chair requested that DTC record the Committee's appreciation for her work on this project.

R5, Cllr. Keith Day expressed his regret that he was unable to edit the policy due to home computer problems. He would however, ensure that the document would be available for the next meeting of the Committee in September and the clerk was instructed to raise this subject on the Agenda.

R8, picnic tables have been delivered and will be installed as soon as possible.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

#### R12 Guest: Paul Snelgrove, Head Groundsman

To discuss Programme of Works/Maintenance Schedule of HETC Open Spaces.

A draft document developed by the Head Groundsman and Town Clerk was issued to each member. It was agreed that this matter be deferred to the September Agenda, allowing sufficient time for members to digest the schedule and for the Head Groundsman to produce an Equipment Wish List. In the meantime any questions raised from the schedule should be reported to DTC so that she may liaise with the Head Groundsman and be prepared for the next meeting. The Head Groundsman was asked to highlight essential training for his staff, to which he responded:

- Staff require Towing Licences
- And if the Council wish to proceed with Burial Services providing the preparation of graves, staff will need appropriate training in this respect.

The Head Groundsman advised that the extent of maintenance and services provided by the grounds staff would improve with the benefit of more manpower, particularly with areas

# RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING OF 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2012

devolved from EBC and members agreed that this would be considered a priority.

### R13 Correspondence:

- i) David Gates re Party in the Park 2012, to inform Council that the event has failed to meet the requirements of a Temporary Event Licence. Mr. Gates thanks Council for their support and promises that this is a false start and a further application will be made at some point in the future. Noted.
- ii) Mr. N. Wise on behalf of C. Burnett & Sons requesting the use of Greta Park to present this year's Fantastic Firework Fiesta & Fun Fair on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2012, subject to the usual terms and conditions. Access will be required on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> and the amusements will depart on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>. **Resolved: To approve the application.**
- iii) Applications from Turnpike Way Pavilion clients, Mrs. Heidi Burford on behalf of Stepping Stones Pre-School and Mr. Dave Clouting on behalf of Hedge End Junior Cricket Club on the subject of storage facilities. Mr. Clouting suggests that as the Pre-School require extra storage to meet Ofsted requirements, he would be happy to leave the joint storage with HETC in the container site for their use, if he were able to install an additional container unit adjacent to the Practice Nets for the exclusive use of his club for the storage of new Sight Screens and all training equipment. He offers to rent the unit. The Town Clerk would wish to remind the Committee that such storage has not been included in this financial year's budget and that planning consent would also be required. Mrs. Burford's representation is that both Hampshire and Ofsted continually increase their expectations of the opportunities the pre-school provide for the children and they are in desperate need of increasing their outdoor play equipment but cannot fit any more into current storage facility. Cllr. Jenny Hughes expressed a prejudicial interest and withdrew from discussions. Resolved: Whilst the Committee sympathise with the predicament of both parties, a decision will be deferred until such time as the new Groundsman Store has been completed, at which time they would be looking towards a reduction in the use of containers in next year's budget and, on this basis, would refuse the application of Mr. Clouting for a further storage container to be located adjacent to the Practice Nets. However, with regard to storage for Stepping Stones Pre-school, it may be feasible for their use of the part of the pavilion currently used for Grounds equipment and this may be let to the Preschool for a small annual fee, once it has been vacated at the end of the year.
- iv) Dave Helps, Hedge End Town Football Club an application for the use of Greta Park for fixtures in the 2012/2013 Season. **Resolved: To approve the application.**
- v) Notification from the Green Flag Award Scheme Manager to inform Council that Dowd's Farm Urban Park has been judged not to meet the standard required to receive the Green Flag Award 2012/2013. Feedback report will be forwarded by the end of August, 2012. Noted.

## RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING OF 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2012

### R14 Heritage Sign

To discuss a suitable location

Members were issued with illustrations of all the main entrances to the village via, St. Johns Road, Bursledon Road, Upper Northam Drive/Comines Way and Lower Northam Road, the latter having a profusion of signage from the roundabout onwards and a large Hedge End Sign, as does the entrance from Bursledon Road, these options demonstrating areas where the road would be encompassed by the land of Hedge End on both sides of the road. However, Cllr. Pretty pointed out that North Hedge End had not been included in the examples and proposed that the Sign be located in Tollbar Way facing in-coming traffic from Fair Oak and placed opposite the entrance to Bubb Lane. Resolved: That the Heritage sign be located to mark the entrance to North Hedge End in Tollbar Way as described and the clerk is instructed to apply for planning permission and order manufacture of a further Hedge End Heritage Sign for this purpose.

R15 To discuss the suitability of The Recreation Ground as a location for a Wild Flower & Bog Garden. *Cllr. Margaret Allingham.* 

Having examined the grounds during the most inclement weather of recent weeks and in consideration of the area available, Cllr. Margaret Allingham advised that such a project was simply not feasible and members agreed to abandon plans for planting in The Recreation Ground. There followed a report upon the HETC Biodiversity Stand at this year's Carnival Day where the stand took its inaugural introduction to the public, but regrettably the severe weather kept public interest away. Nevertheless, it was a very good learning curve and one which could be very beneficial in encouraging public interest during events in the future and on this basis it may be a good plan to invest in the purchase of a dedicated Gazebo for this purpose. Members attending on the day reported upon the excellent visual impact of the stand created by Cllr. Margaret Allingham. The Chair thanked Cllrs. Margaret Allingham and Keith Day for their contribution on the day and all Councillors who offered their assistance. An alternative and potential location for a wildflower garden was discussed at Turnpike Way Pavilion.

R16 Fees Review Working Party Report of 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 - to approve the standardisation of hall fees. Resolved: To approve the recommendations of the Working Party with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2013.

### **R17** Kanes Field Horse Grazing

To discuss an application and negotiate a fee if the applicant renovates and prepares the field.

Council is in receipt of a proposal from Hollie Parnell and Kate Northey. They have met with the Head Groundsman and examined the proposed new cemetery site in Kanes Hill and have been made fully aware of the Council's intention with this area. However they are interest in the entire site for the grazing of horses. They are aware of the necessary renovations required as per the County Report and have costed the necessary works at a ball-park figure of £5,000 to include fencing, clearing brambles, new gates and field shelters. They have 3

# RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING OF 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2012

horses, two of which are "elder horses" and a foal and would wish to work on the entire 5 acres by sub-dividing to 4 paddocks, utilising the grazing land on rotation to avoid poor grazing. The fields would be maintained through the time that they have usage with the removal of ragwort and other weeds. They also intend to renovate existing buildings for shelters and storage for animal feed, hay etc. They will be at the site 2/3 times per day and all gates and surrounding areas will be secured when the site is not manned. They are keen to move in to the site straight away and commence works. **Resolved: The applicant to be** an agreement for the grazing of horses only with a termination of 1 year's notice with 3 years free rental in honour of the works undertaken, for the grazing of horses only, by agreement with 1 year's notice, and emphasise that the field cannot be sub-let.

THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST, HOWEVER, MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE CHAIR ON THE EVENING OF 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2012 FOR A TOUR OF OPEN SPACES STARTING AT TURNPIKE WAY PAVILION AT 7.00 P.M.