

**HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION & AMENITIES
COMMITTEE HELD 12TH APRIL, 2017**

Cllrs. Present: Cllr. Paul Carnell, Cllr. John Jupe, Cllr. Cliff Morris, Cllr. Derek Pretty, Cllr. Shankerlal Sthankiya, Cllr. Jane Welsh (Chair)

Also present: Heather Jones - Allotment Hirer
George Baker - Conservation Volunteer

R59 Apologies: Cllr. Stephanie Arnold, Cllr. Margaret Allingham
With effect from the close of business hours today, all communications have been checked for the receipt of apologies.

**R60 Minutes & Matters Arising
Meeting of 8th March, 2017**

R57, works to the Paddling Pool, to rectify pumps and features, will commence 18th April and completion is expected in time for the opening in May. **Noted.**

R58, Suzy Smith will be hiring Norman Rodaway Pavilion with effect from 6th May. **Noted.**
The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

R61 Correspondence:

- i) David Heffer on behalf of 31st Itchen North Sea Scout Group with regard to extension to the groups use of Norman Rodaway Pavilion and grounds, in light of a significant increase in the groups' size since its formation in 1975. He provides an history from the development of the pavilion in 1990 to the present day, together with details of a request for further storage, outside enclosed and secure area for the drying of equipment, access to WC facilities and a long-term project to convert their section of the building to a meeting room with WC facilities. A copy is provided for each member. **The clerk is instructed to defer this matter to the next Agenda.**
- ii) N. Wise, Chairman, Hedge End Carnival Committee, with requirements for this year's Carnival to use Greta Park from Sunday June 25th to Tuesday July 11th and the car park on Saturday July 1st. Any assistance that HETC grounds staff are able to offer would be very much appreciated. **The clerk is instructed to approve the dates provided.**
- iii) N. Wise, on behalf of C. Burnett & Sons request permission to use Greta Park to present The Fantastic Firework Fiesta & Fun Fair on Saturday November 11th, 2017. Access required on Thursday 9th November and the amusements will depart on Sunday 12th. **The clerk is instructed to approve the dates provided.**
- iv) Chetana Greenwood, Allotment Z6 makes retrospective request for permission to place a 6' x 3' polytunnel on her plot, Z6. **The clerk is instructed to approve.**
Ms. Greenwood would also wish to make the Council aware that there are regular dog owners, walking within the grounds of the Allotments, allowing their dogs to foul the grassed footpaths. And referring to the new terms and conditions she would comment that wild flowers are part of British Eco system and are intrinsic to the survival of our declining bee population. The office has advised that small contained areas would most likely be acceptable, providing they do not interfere with neighbouring cultivation. **Noted.**
Finally, she would like to make the Council aware that she shares the work on both her and her mother's plot (Yellow 1A). **Noted.**
- v) Colin Millar, Allotment Plot E2, requesting approval to erect a standard size

**RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF 12TH APRIL, 2017**

greenhouse to be erected on a timber base. The plot is laid out into 8 bays for planting and the greenhouse taking up about 2/3 of one bay. **The clerk is instructed to approve this application.**

- vi) Steve Green, Club Chairman, on behalf of Hedge End United FC, established in 2016 and due to demand have recently set up an Academy for younger children. Due to demand, the club would like to set up more teams in the future but are restricted to the limited space they currently have available. The facility at Woodhouse Lane would be ideal to be used to train their current under 9's on a Saturday morning. They will continue to train during the week at Kings Copse Primary School, as will the Academy players. **The clerk is instructed to arrange a trial period for this purpose for one year commencing May, 2017 to take place on Saturday mornings only. This will be re-evaluated in May 2018. The trial period will be free of charge, and therefore will not incur any exclusive grounds maintenance. The Club must be instructed that the grounds are not to be marked, and there will be no formal games or pitches created. No semi-permanent goal posts, but portable fold-away goals only, which must be taken off-site between training sessions. A copy of the Club's public liability insurance certificate will be required for Council Records.**
- vii) CPRE publications: Hampshire Views Spring/Summer 2017 and Countryside Voice Spring 2017. **Noted.**

R62 Allotments:

Renewals, Vacant Plots, Waiting List

Renewals have been issued and 22 plots have been vacated, of these, five plots in Kanes Field have been hired, and a further six plots are ready for letting. Eleven plots in Spring Field will be prepared in due course. The waiting list has been reduced to 2 applications. A further skip has been ordered on site for the removal of plastic, rubber, non-compostable and hazardous waste from the available plots in Spring Field. An order for a further stock of landscape cover has been placed. Skips for the allotment hirers to dispose of non-compostable waste from their plots, has been booked for one of the forthcoming Bank Holidays, but will not be publicised due to the risk of fly-tipping.

Heather Jones was able to confirm that the system of allotment preparation and the revised terms and conditions have gone a long way to improving the site and is sending out a message that HETC is caring for this amenity. **The clerk is instructed to thank the grounds team for this improvement.**

The Committee were informed that the remains of Communal Compost Heaps in Kanes and Spring Fields will be graded out, however, the Chair pointed out that there is a third large heap of compost within Kanes Field that must be removed.

R63 Turnpike Way Play Area

To discuss replacement within 2017/2018 Budget

To discuss a relocation of the play area for improved surface drainage.

The clerk is instructed to defer this matter to the next Agenda and in the meantime obtain a quotation for effective drainage to the current site.

RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF 12TH APRIL, 2017

R64 Wildern Nature Reserve - Balancing Pond

To discuss the pond's ecology and the best way that this is achieved through appropriate management techniques, conservation works and dredging.

The Town Council is responsible for the maintenance of a Balancing Pond that was created 26 years ago. The grounds team has not been trained in pond maintenance, but have, over recent months, engaged in Conservation work with volunteers. The pond has become silted and very shallow and there is no fresh water inlet to prevent it from becoming stagnant, which is not helped by the extent of weed and natural leaf fall that finds its way into the pond bed. There has been evidence of fish dying on the banks of the pond and now there is a foul stench, which is believed to be Hydrosulphate, emitted as a result of the pond bed being disturbed during clearance of weed and overgrowth. Any measure taken by the Council staff and Conservation Volunteers is likely to be a short term solution and professional advice is being arranged for advice to prepare budget for appropriate works, such as dredging, and to plan a rolling programme to other water sites that will require maintenance in the future.

George Baker was able to provide a report of works carried out to the pond, thus far and the improvement that is now evident. Unfortunately, the pond had an infestation of weed growth called Parrot's Feather, an invasive aquatic plant. The stench appears to have subsided. **The clerk is instructed to defer this matter to the next Agenda, when it is hoped that an informative report may be available.**

R65 Commemorative Seats, Park Benches & Litter Bins

Albert Road Cemetery

A commemorative bench donated by grant of Mr. K. House was installed on 10th April. A further commemorative bench donated by grant of Mr. L. Dowding has been ordered.

Table Tennis Area and Westward Road Play Area

The Head Groundsman has been asked when installation will take place and he has programmed works for week commencing 24th April.

The Chair complemented the style and design of a large litter bin, which has been installed within Bridget Mary Gardens woodland walk, as it is very much in keeping. She would recommend that this type of bin is purchased for future woodland sites.

R66 Tree Survey

Completion of Tree Survey Report.

Further sites have been surveyed: Dowd's Farm Park, Norman Rodaway Sports Field, Greta Park, Aspen Close Play Area, Westward Road Play Area and the Kanes Field Allotment Site. There are some areas of risk that will need to be addressed, in particular a species of Red Oak, located at the entrance to Greta Park in Upper Northam Road. The Survey Report outlines the significant presence on the local street scene, because of its size and form it could be said that it is a landmark for the local community. The report describes extensive decay from three fungal fruiting bodies, lack of bark growth and a rib of reactive growth which is present from ground level to the main union. This is indicative of the tree responding to a possible structural weakness within the stem. The survey of the tree also has evidence indicating that a cavity or area of tissues with little or no structural integrity. There is one stem that has died and has been cut back and this may be linked to the rib and cavity previously mentioned.

**RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF 12TH APRIL, 2017**

In conclusion, the most likely outcome for this tree if action is not taken further is catastrophic root or stem failure and given the tree's location in a high target area and the evidence that the tree may be structurally compromised the Borough Tree Officer has provided options, i) reduce the canopy by up to 3m, ii) investigate the decay further and, iii) fell and replace. In its current state the evidence would appear to indicate a limited future. Even if the tree is retained it is likely to need a lot of work to enable this and even then this may not be a long term solution due to the significance of the decay fungi and the characteristic of the wood. A suitable large tree should be replanted to replace it. This will lessen the visual impact of the tree loss and if done considerately may gain public support. If significant works are carried out on this tree, it is suggested that the public are well informed at every stage of the process.

This tree is a TPO, and as such will require Planning Permission, however, works will have the support of the Borough Tree Officer.

The Head Groundsman will examine the report for further maintenance requirement on all sites.

The clerk is instructed to obtain quotations for each option recommended by the Borough Tree Officer and defer this matter to the next Agenda.