

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

**Cllrs. Present:** Cllr. Val Houghton, Cllr. Peter Hughes, Cllr. Jenny Hughes, Cllr. Jane Welsh (Chair), Cllr. Ray Worley.

**Also present:** Mr. A. Duell and colleagues of the Horticultural Club  
Mr. Ray Turner, Eastleigh News

**R50 Apologies:** Cllr. Sheila Baynes, Cllr. Derek Pretty, Cllr. Keith Day, Cllr. Margaret Allingham.

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

**R51 Minutes & Matters Arising  
Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2012**

R29, Murray Butcher, on behalf of Brethren Christian Fellowship, requests confirmation of whether the Council will accept one of the bench styles that were originally offered or would Council require a particular bench? If the latter he would require details and costs so that he could approve the funding. **Members agreed upon the approval of a Millennium Metal bench.**

R44, re allotments, a member of the Horticultural Club reported that Rat Bait is obviously very effective, however, dead rats are appearing within the plots in increasing numbers.

**The grounds staff will be asked to examine and remove any further evidence of dead rats.**

R47, two further companies have been approached to submit estimates in the New Year and the Clerk is instructed to ensure that it is on the next Agenda.

R48, progress in removing the brickwork from the flower bed in the centre of the village has been halted due to the presence of a large cast iron manhole cover, protecting a large pipe that currently lies level to the planting surface. If the brickwork was removed it would leave the manhole standing 3 – 4' proud of the ground surface. The Head Groundsman would suggest that this is a very important service, i.e. perhaps foul drainage access, due to its size and the design of the flower bed to protect it and until such time as this is investigated the brickwork should remain in situ. **The clerk is instructed to investigate whether it would be feasible to level the manhole and in the meantime arrange a site meeting for Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00 p.m. with the Head Groundsman.** The Chair invited the Horticultural Club members to represent their proposals. The Club would wish to offer their voluntary services in participation and supply of plants and shrubs, to tend all three flower beds in the centre of the village. They would wish to tidy, plant and make the village green a pretty feature to be admired and remembered. The Chair thanks the Club for their support and community spirited voluntary services and suggested that they return to the first meeting in the New Year with a plan of their proposals, at which time Council may be more aware of progress with regard to the Manhole. The Chair also suggested that the Horticultural Club's services should be recognised with a suitable notice to be placed within the planting.

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R49, following a very successful planting event, which was completed in the space of just one hour, a Thank You card was forwarded to each participant, including a photograph taken on the day.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

**R52 Correspondence:**

- 1) SJ Academy of Dance, have been using the Drummond Centre for the past 20 yrs. During this time they have installed ballet bars along two walls to enable students to follow the RAD Syllabus in classical ballet. As the school develops and pupils becoming older students, there is a need to install a further top bar, approximately 3 inches from existing. The Academy is prepared to arrange to have this done with the authorisation of Council. **Resolved: Members agreed approval.**
  
- 2) Allotment hirer John Blake (Plot E1 aka Monkeyworld) with a suggestion that plot holders should take care of their own rubbish to the recycling centre and the money for skips saved to put towards taking a layer of mud off the roadways and a layer of scalplings or hardcore being laid. He adds that over a period of 5 years the Council could save £1500. **The clerk is instructed to respond with the Committee's appreciation and consideration of Mr. Blake's proposal, however, following discussion involving hirers and the history of the site, have decided to retain the skip service. Skips are always delivered and withdrawn without notice and at some speed to avoid indiscriminate fly-tipping. The clerk usually arranges for a notice to be placed on site, delivery and collection to a maximum of four days usually covering a Bank Holiday. Obviously, notification to each hirer would be very costly. There is a demand for the skip service, particularly from those that may be too elderly or infirm to transport debris, or do not have the transportation. Also it is important to retain as much of the land for horticultural purposes and we should not encourage roadways or vehicular use where a vehicle can not only potentially damage the land, but a health and safety risk to the public. The Committee also consider that there is sufficient hard standing for the parking of vehicles, which it would wish to maintain.**

**R53 To consider the purchase of a GreenMech Arborist 150 26hp Chipper**  
*(as per R30, T. H. White Ltd. £10,776).*

**Resolved: To accept the quotation of T. H. White Ltd. and order an essential piece of equipment for Grounds Team to maintain a high standard of works.**

**R54 Green Lane**

This matter was reported to members of the Bursledon Parish Council's R & A Committee and the following is an extract from the recorded minutes:

***Letter and photos had been received from Hedge End Town Council with regard to fly-tipping on FP503 Green Lane, Bursledon. Members agreed for Groundstaff to check area weekly and report any problems to the office so the office can advise the Manor Farm***

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***Rangers. Action - Assistant Clerk to advise Hedge End Town Council.***

We are informed that the Groundsman attends each meeting and therefore is aware that these checks are required to be done and we are assured that this would be implemented week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> November.

Karima Englefield, Heritage & Country Parks Trainee, Manor Farm Country Park also confirms that fly-tipping in Green Lane was removed on 29<sup>th</sup> October and suggested that she and Dave Paterson will be discussing concerns and how they may help to prevent this as an on-going matter.

**R55 Nelsons Gardens Play Area**

**To consider Tenders**

HAGS SMP provides the following options:

Option 1: Removal of existing surfacing and edging, extend existing baseworks to accommodate new springer, supply and lay new wetpour in depths to suit each piece of equipment and lay new edgings. **£22,749.97**

Option 2: Extend existing baseworks to accommodate new springer, supply and lay wetpour skim (20mm thickness) over existing surface with new pcc edging where required. **£19,273.97**

Option 3: Extend existing baseworks to accommodate new springer, supply and lay Eco surface in green to cover the existing surface. **£21,003.47.**

Playdale Playgrounds **£19,334.76**

Safe & Sound Playgrounds **£27,900.00**

**Resolved: To accept Option 1 of the HAGS SMP tender at £22,749.97.**

**R56 Hogsty Copse**

*To discuss the condition of the pond and boundary as reported by Cllr. Keith Day*

Two main concerns:

1. The state of the pond. When EBC was responsible, they periodically cleared the pond to stop it getting overgrown and clogged up. Cllr. Day believes this has not been done since HETC took over and there is hardly any clear water in the pond now. Over the years it has supported frogs and newts as well as dragon and damsel flies. It would be a shame to lose that habitat due to neglect. Could HETC take advice either from EBC or HCC or from the Hampshire Wildlife Trust to make sure we are managing the pond in the best interests of biodiversity?
2. The boundary hedge adjacent to the gate into the copse from Turnpike Way. It was damaged in the summer when motorcyclists got in and did some circuits around the beech clearing. The holly in the hedge has not regenerated naturally and so there is still an open invitation for the same sort of misuse in the future. The damage to the copse floor itself caused by the motorcycles has almost disappeared. With rain, leaf

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fall etc. the ruts are hardly visible now, but there remains a gap in the boundary which could let motorcyclists in again. Could we address that urgently please?  
There is also some fly-tipping near the pond. It looks like somebody threw a bag of rubbish over the fence from the furniture warehouse. It's on the bank of the stream just before you get to the pond.

**The clerk is instructed to ensure that the Head Groundsman and his team action necessary works.**

**R57 Budget 2012/2013**

Following the considerations of the Finance & Administration Committee and the constraints of stringent cost efficiency savings, the R & A Budget will have only two headings :

Playarea / Maintenance Capital Reserve - £30,000

Property / Maintenance Capital Reserve - £25,000