

**HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A STRATEGY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 26 MAY 2020**

Cllrs. Present: Cllr Sheila Baynes, Cllr Ian Corben, Cllr Tonia Craig, Cllr Cynthia Garton, Cllr Keith House, Cllr Patricia Jenkins, Cllr Lucy Jurd, Cllr Dave Kinloch, Cllr Cliff Morris, Cllr Ron Nichols, Cllr Derek Pretty, Cllr Ben Thomas, Cllr Jane Welsh

S19 Apologies

Cllr Margaret Allingham, Cllr George Brown, Cllr Paul Carnell, Cllr Helen Corben

S20 Chairs Introduction to the Committee

Cllr House outlined the purpose of the meeting to look at the recent unauthorised encampment and the recovery phase of hall hire. Cllr Pretty had also requested to talk about environmental measures.

S21 Unauthorised Encampment

The Town Clerk gave a brief overview of what had occurred and how the situation had been further complicated by Covid-19.

Councillors asked about gate closures and discussed potential options for earlier closures since the halls are not in use. The Town Clerk confirmed that gates are closed at 9pm and re-opened at 7.30am. The gates had all been locked during the day prior to the encampment gaining access to St Johns Rec. Cllr Welsh noted that Drummond was open and asked that we can close the gates as the nursery leave

Cllr Pretty felt confident that the Drummond was secure, the concern is more for Dowds farm, the only prevention onto site is the knee rail.

Cllr Baynes asked where the nearest legitimate site is. Cllr House outlined the position that at the last South Hampshire assessment a transit site was not required locally.

Cllr Corben note that its important to have site the sites locked and unlocked each day.

Cllr Morris noted it would be quicker to do things through the court if the land is registered.

Cllr Kinloch asked about how many have single padlock mechanism.

Cllr Corben asked about where they would have gone if they hadn't got into St Johns would they have gone to Dowds Farm.

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Cllr Pretty had noted that we could have it on the next P&R as we need to look at this sooner. Councillors agreed this was the best option. **RESOLVED: The Town Clerk to add to the P&R agenda.**

Sarah outlined the potential opportunity for St Johns Rec and moving the gates with access from the 2000 Centre.

Cllr House is going to ask the borough to plot where the incursions are and on what dates.

Cllr Garton asked about the large area at the top of Barnfield way at the top of Heath House lane and the potential for an encampment in that area.

Cllr Morris referred back to a previous discussion with the police and the importance of getting the vehicle registration numbers which would help with future incursions as the court order can be requested for a longer period.

Cllr Baynes talked about the potential for a ditch to be created to deter people.

S22 Recovery from lockdown

At the full council meeting it was agreed that Cllr Pretty and Cllr Welsh would meet with Sarah to look at the options around hall hire. Council need to ensure that the risk assessments have been undertaken by hirers. We may need to consider if nurseries are using the halls they may need to clean some of their own spaces. **RESOLVED: The Town Clerk to set up a meeting.**

Cllr Morris requested that we include a waiver for hirers to sign that they cannot make a claim against us. **RESOLVED: The Town Clerk noted that it would need to be on their risk assessment and also a line on the bottom of the terms and conditions.**

Cllr Kinloch said we need to make it clear about the maximum number of people in our halls.

Cllr Garton asked about public toilets and if we have put some notices about where people should be queuing and people walking by and if there was enough room. Councillors discussed potential risks and cited East Devon who are cleaning 3 times a day. Hamble was also noted as somewhere as having their toilets open. **RESOLVED: The Town Clerk to contact Paul Naylor to ascertain what their cleaning schedule is for the public toilets.**

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A couple of councillors suggested the squeeze handles that give out gel.

S23 Environmental Strategy

Cllr Pretty asked for an indication on how far the council should be progressing this agenda as there will be cost implications.

Cllr Thomas asked if Hedge End knew what its carbon footprint is. Cllr House advised that we could ask Jason Light at EBC. **RESOLVED: The Town Clerk to contact Jason Light.**

Cllr Jurd asked about the numbers of HETC vehicles. The Town Clerk explained the number of vehicles is 7, however there are several other items such as mowers, excavator etc that may not be potentially available in green versions.

Cllr Thomas asked about the HETC aspiration in this area and perhaps more work could be done to look at the carbon footprint and potential measures to reduce this year on year.

RESOLVED: A paper to come back to P&R as soon as possible.

S24 Woodhouse Lane Development

Cllr Garton raised the potential additional costs as there is another play area to devolve to Hedge End and the potential to devolve the sports field. The council should be looking at the requirements and considering the staffing need.

Cllr Welsh asked about the general staffing situation and if we have enough people to manage during the day.

S25 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that there should strategy meeting scheduled in a few months.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.00pm.