

**HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL – MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD 13TH MARCH 2024**

Cllrs present: Cllr Paul Carnell, Cllr Derek Pretty, Cllr Jane Welsh (Chair)

In attendance: Brett Athow – Operations Manager

R467 Apologies Cllr Margaret Allingham, Cllr Leigh Hadaway, Cllr John Jupe, Cllr Lucy Jurd

R468 Minutes and Matters arising

Meeting 14th February 2024

R461 Play area strategy - It was confirmed that no further feedback had been received to date.

R462 Stubbs Drove – Works had not been carried out as yet, due to the ground conditions, but it was hoped this would be done in the next few weeks. Minutes were signed.

R469 Correspondence

(i) For noting – Eastleigh Active Easter Programme 2024

It was reported to members the events being held over the Easter Holidays, this included Junior Gym and free swimming at Wildern Leisure Centre, along with tennis with JEM at Woodhouse Lane. Members noted.

R470 To consider an appeal from Mr Burnett (funfair) for the use of Greta Park

Mr Burnett had appealed against the decision made at the last committee meeting. He felt that the rental charge per day was higher than he would normally pay and considering there would be no carnival present this year, for the full days on site, which including non-trading days was expensive. He asked if the daily rate quoted could only be charged for the days they would be trading.

Cllr Derek Pretty felt that if more was asked for, we could lose their annual attendance which would be very disappointing.

It was also felt that as the Carnival was not being held there would not be the same numbers attending.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that the daily charge of £110.20 + VAT was charged only for the days they would be trading, along with the £1,500 bond.

R471 To give feedback on the Eastleigh Borough Council Biodiversity Strategy 2024-2034 consultation

The Operations Manager had read the consultation. Clearly a great deal of time and effort had been put in, however felt a lot of facts were missing. The maps were not particularly clear and Hedge End land had been added as an afterthought. He had put together feedback if the committee wished to provide a response.

Cllr Derek Pretty agreed not very much was in Hedge End and that there were areas that could be added.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that the committee provided feedback with the

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD 13TH MARCH 2024 – Cont'd Page 2**

following:

- **Additional opportunities across HETC/EBC land – Green corridors Moorgreen Meadow through Dowds Farm – Shamblehurst Lane – Bushy Copse – Bottom Copse.**
- **Maps were difficult to read.**
- **There were no commitments or stated actions to address the poor state of the local SSSIs.**
- **There was only one reference to volunteers in the whole document. Volunteers coordination could be the most effective way to deliver recovery work.**
- **Create a minimum of 50 hectares of new habitat and restore a minimum of 50 hectares of existing habitat in priority areas – Where/When/how?**

R472 Paddling Pool

To agree a trial period of extended opening hours

The current closure time of the pool was 5pm, however in the past this had proven a struggle for caretaker on occasions to clear the pool by this time.

Extending the closure time to 6pm would give the opportunity for after school use and early evening use in the school holidays.

All agreed that extending the closure time to 6pm would enable more use of this facility for the short season it was open.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that the paddling pool closure time be extended as a trial to 6pm

R473 To further consider the Biodiversity Strategy

The Operations Manager commented that following the last meeting an additional annex had been added for tree planting. He had also sent the report to the EBC Biodiversity officer for any comments.

Having tried to obtain quotations for a biodiversity audit none had been received to date.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that the approval for this strategy was put on hold until a response had been received from the EBC Biodiversity officer before returning to R&A for approval.

R474 To consider the Sports Strategy

Cllrs felt that there was a wide range of sports provision within Hedge End, with only a 5/10 minute walk to lots of these facilities.

Cllr Derek Pretty made suggestions on repairs that were needed to some of these facilities in particular he felt investment was needed at Norman Rodaway, it was however mentioned that this, along with other sports facility buildings would be part of the Property Strategy going to the P&R committee. The Operations Manager commented that a grant application had been

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD 13TH MARCH 2024 – Cont'd Page 3

applied for to help with the maintenance of the Rodaway pitches.

Cllr Derek Pretty commented that football was a very popular and well subscribed sport.

It was suggested that the committee waited for the return of cricket/football applications for this coming year to cage usage.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that over all sports provision was good and that before returning to R&A they wait for the return of all cricket and football applications for this coming year. All applications would be in by the end of May, therefore this was to be returned to committee at the June meeting.

R475 Operations Manager Report

The report contained the following updates:

- Albert Road Cemetery
- Allotments
- Bowling Green
- Conservation Volunteers
- Cricket
- Football
- Graffiti and Vandalism
- Local Nature Reserve
- Paddling Pool
- General updates

Cllr Derek Pretty enquired about the blockage at Dowds Farm and well as the recycling bins at Norman Rodaway.

Cllr Jane Welsh asked reference the Bowling Green lease, this was moving forward and still with the solicitors.

The Operations Manager confirmed he had met with the project lead, EBC reference the Berrywood Fields football pitches.

This report as usual would be made available on the Town Council website.

There being no further business to conduct the meeting closed at 7.55pm