HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL – MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD 8TH MAY 2024

Cllr present: Cllr Margaret Allingham, Cllr Paul Carnell, Cllr Leigh Hadaway, Cllr Jane Welsh (Chair)

R485 Apologies Cllr John Jupe, Cllr Lucy Jurd, Cllr Cliff Morris

R486 Minutes and Matters arising

Meeting 10th April 2024
Minutes were signed.

R487 Correspondence

None received.

R488 To consider the Football Foundation Grant application

The Operations Manager confirmed that in July 2023 an assessment was completed on pitches 1 to 3 at the Norman Rodaway Sportsfield by the Hampshire FA, grading them as 'basic the report included recommendations to bring the standard of the pitches up to 'good'.
The Football Foundation offered grants for Grass Roots football (Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund) to help improve the quality of grass pitches.
This grant would be paid over 6 years, with no requirement to match fund in the first 2 years.
To obtain the funding HETC would need to partner with a local club, signing a joint 10-year Service Level Agreement, however the SLA would not commit to a single club having use, but suggested that the club was given priority to ensure accountability for the funding being spent on the grounds in accordance with the conditions for funding, also demonstrating that the Council were working in partnership with a club, confirming grass roots football on site. He confirmed that discussions had taken place with Hedge End Utd, who were very keen to work with the Council and partner the project.
There would need to be a commitment by HETC to match fund to cover costs from year 3 to 6. The match funding requirement would be £14,932 and could be met from the operational budgets moved to earmarked reserves annually from 2024-2030, this would be circa £2,500.
Cllrs felt that this was a good opportunity to improve the pitches.
RESOLVED: Cllrs all agreed

1. **The grant application for Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund**
2. **To partner with Hedge End Utd and support the Football Foundation grant application.**
3. **The move of operational budgets to ear marked reserves annually at £2,500 from 2024 to 2030.**

R489 To consider Dowds Farm play area surfacing

Dowds Farm Play Area had been installed in 2 stages, first stage in 2010 and second in 2018. In both areas grass and rubber matting had been used as the safety surface under the equipment, this had been a cheap solution, providing

reasonable cushioning for a low-level fall. In 2018 an accident occurred having fallen from the Monkey Bars.
In 2022 the soil and rubber matting around the Multi-Play unit in particular the monkey bars and other pieces of equipment were replaced by the council, however the most recent ROSPA inspection of the Play Area highlighted that the impact area was now heavily worn.
Three safety surface contractors had been contacted for advice and pricing. All had come back with essentially the same product, rubber mulch made from shredded recycled tyres. This product had been used to surface the recently refurbished Rodaway Play Area and had so far proved resilient.
The cheapest overall price was £6,347 from a contractor who had worked successfully with the Council on other projects in the past, including last year's wet pour resurfacing at the paddling pool.
The existing play area budget of £10,500 did not stretch to resurfacing large areas such as this, as it was also required to maintain the 11 play areas, MUGA's and skateparks, along with the cost of the annual ROSPA inspection. It was suggested that the required amount could be funded from the £15,000 allocated to the capital play area budget.
Cllrs considered in length, they agreed that as we were now aware to this ,we had a duty of care and it needed to be done. P&R has awarded this extra money to be used.
RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to the installation of new safety surfacing around the Multi-Play unit at Dowds Farm Play Area, with the funding for the surfacing coming from the £15,000 capital Play Area budget.

R490 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
- Play Areas

The Operations Manager confirmed that the Multi-play unit at Nelsons Gardens Play area had been closely monitored as part of the weekly inspection due to its deterioration, repair options had been investigated, however due to the age of the item it is not economically viable to replace the worn parts and there were no plans for a direct replacement pending the

Play Area Strategy, thus it was now considered unsafe and would be removed during May.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.29pm