HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD 13TH NOVEMBER 2024

Cllrs present: Cllr Paul Carnell, Cllr Leigh Hadaway, Cllr John Jupe (Chair), Cllr Lucy Jurd, Cllr Dave Kinloch, Cllr Derek Pretty

In attendance: Brett Athow – Operations Manager

There being no Chair or Vice Chair present, Cllr John Jupe was elected to chair the meeting.

R519 Apologies Cllr Margaret Allingham, Cllr Jane Welsh

R520 Minutes and Matters Arising

To agree the minutes of the meeting of the 9th October 2024

R512 – It was confirmed that a letter had been sent to Mr Burnett.

R516 – The Operations Manager confirmed that only one of the recycling bins had been taken away, leaving only the Salvation Army bin to be removed.

The minutes were signed by the chair as an accurate record.

R521 Correspondence

(i) Eastleigh Active 2024 report

To consider the previously circulated feedback report from EBC.

RESOLVED: Cllrs expressed disappointment over the limited number of activities held in Hedge End.

R522 Allotments

(i) To provide a steer on the installation of new greenhouses at the allotments.

The Operations Manager reported that previous Greenhouse applications had been inconsistently reviewed and therefore Cllrs were being asked to provide a steer to establish some principles/wording to enable an update to the current allotment T&C's.

Cllrs felt that approval of such applications should be assessed at officer level and do not require committee approval. Cllrs put forward the following suggestions:

Applications must still be submitted for all greenhouse installations, but these should be assessed at officer level, not by Cllrs.

- The maximum size for ANY greenhouse should be no bigger than 8' x 6'. Applications will NOT be considered for greenhouses over this size.
- A deposit of £100 should be paid for greenhouse installations. The deposit would be returned at the end of tenure subject to either the greenhouse being completely removed, or if it is left in good enough condition that it can be used by the next tenant.

The discussion also included sheds and polytunnels. Cllr Derek Pretty suggested increasing the current shed size allowance from 6' x 4' per plot to a maximum of 8' x 6'. This adjustment would provide tenants with a space that could be used not only for storage but also as a place to sit and relax.
Cllrs have suggested that the dimensions of polytunnels should be proportionate to the size of each plot. They recommended amending the T&C's to stipulate that polytunnels may occupy no more than 25% of the total plot area. Furthermore, applications requesting polytunnel sizes exceeding this 25% threshold would not be considered for approval.
Cllr Lucy Jurd proposed that each plot should be limited to a maximum of two structures, one of which must be a shed, with no allowance for structures exceeding the specified size limits. **RESOLVED: The Operations Manager to review and consider the revisions to the allotment T&C's.**

(ii) Request for the installation of 10ft x 14ft greenhouse – Brown 3.
RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that the size of the greenhouse was very large, and if approved could set a precedence for other plots. However, Cllrs decided that a smaller installation of no more than 8' x 6' would be allowed, subject to design and location approval by officers.

R523 Nelsons Gardens Play Area

Consultation feedback and tender scope
Cllrs reviewed the previously circulated consultation document noting that there had been 71 responses. The consultation summarised that there was still a need for a play area at Nelsons Gardens and that Climbing Frame, Slide and Swings were the most desired equipment. The majority of users also wanted the play area moved to another location.
Cllrs acknowledged that several negative comments were received, however, in this instance felt that this was significantly outweighed by the overwhelming positive comments and feedback.
Location 'C' was the most requested location, however Cllrs felt that the location could fall somewhere between 'C' and 'B' to help alleviate some of the concerns raised. **RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that the play area was moved to an area between areas 'B' & 'C'. The age range was for 5-12 year olds, and that the following equipment should be prioritised as part of the overall design: climbing frame, slide and 2/3 swings.**

R524 Operations Manager Report

The report contained the following updates:

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

Following the vandalism at Turnpike the water will now be turned off to the tearoom whilst not in use.

Cllr Lucy Jurd suggested that cameras could be put up, these however would have to be put up very high to stop them being removed and they were only as good as being able to identify the person concerned.

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

There being no further business to conduct the meeting closed at 7.45pm