

WEST END PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, WEDNESDAY 21ST MARCH 2018 AT THE PARISH CENTRE, CHAPEL ROAD, WEST END COMMENCING AT 7.15 PM

PRESENT: **Councillors: R Davis**
 J Asman
 D Clarke
 R MacDonald
 S Turl

In attendance: **Mrs L Cooke** **Parish Clerk**
 Mr S Mockford **Deputy Clerk**
 Mr S Adams **Head Groundsman**
 Two members of the Public

163/18/REC APOLOGIES

Apologies received and accepted from Councillor Boulton.

164/18/REC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare interests in relation to items of business on the agenda.

Councillor Turl is the Chair of Moorgreen Road Residents Association.
Councillor Asman's husband is an allotment holder.

165/18/REC MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21ST FEBRUARY 2018

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st February were accepted as a true record and signed by The Chairman, subject to the following amendment :

Appendix 1, page 10 – PCSO Coppin to be replaced with Miss Coppin.

166/18/REC MATTERS ARISING

EBC Public Art – West End Heritage Trail

A further meeting of the Steering Group was held on 7th March when the forthcoming public consultation was discussed. However, since the meeting EBC has decided no public consultation will be held until after the Borough Elections in May. It was noted that the next meeting of the Steering Group is Wednesday 11th April at 5.30 p.m., prior to full Council meeting.

All other matters arising will be dealt with under agenda headings.

167/18/REC CORRESPONDENCE

1. E-mail received from St. James' Church regarding this year's Christmas Tree Festival to be held between Friday 7th and Sunday 9th December. The cost to enter is £20 which includes the lights and PAT testing. This year's theme is 'Through the Ages'. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would participate in this. Councillor Turl suggested that the theme should be 'West End Parish Council through the Ages'.
2. E-mail received from ROSPA advising that the annual play area inspections will be carried out in May 2018.
3. E-mail received from Natural England regarding completion of the Environmental Stewardship Claim Form. As in previous years, Mark Black has agreed to complete this on behalf of the Parish Council.
4. E-mail received from Julia Birt, EBC Local Area Manager, advising that HEWEB have agreed to fund a Royal British Legion Silent Soldier Silhouette for each Parish. At the last meeting, WEPC agreed to purchase one Silhouette for the Parish Centre. After discussion it was unanimously agreed that the second Silhouette would be displayed by the War Memorial.

168/18/REC EVENTS FOR 2017/18

The Deputy Clerk reported on the success 'Raising of the Commonwealth Flag' event on Monday 12th March attended by 22 pupils, 5 teachers from St. James' School and Councillors Turl, Asman and MacDonald. A vote of thanks was recorded to Steve Adams who had compiled the quiz for this event.

An update on all events will be given at the next meeting of the Events Sub-Committee on Wednesday 18th April 2018 at 6.15 p.m. All Councillors are invited to attend.

169/18/REC BARNSLAND/HATCH FARM

Nothing new to report.

170/18/REC HATCH GRANGE / MEGAN GREEN/QUOB GREEN/WEST END COPSE

HATCH GRANGE

Staff car park to the rear of workshop.

The Deputy Clerk reported that he has contacted a local architect to help with the planning application.

Car Park flooding

Awaiting notification of date for the new improved soakaway to be fitted.

Play Area : entrance fence to play area replaced by Grounds team.

SINC Area: Nothing new to report.

Community Payback Team: Work day cancelled this month due to adverse weather.

Friends of Hatch Grange

The next work day is scheduled for Saturday 21st April

Oak Tree on Hatch Grange

Date for the Tree Sculpture artist to visit has not yet been arranged.

Natural England Stewardship Scheme – this year's claim form received – as noted under Correspondence.

Blue Cross Dog Show

The Blue Cross have asked to use Hatch Grange again for their Annual Dog Show on Saturday 8th September. The Committee agreed unanimously to this request.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Committee noted that the Groundstaff have prepared an Easter Bunny trail around Hatch Grange with a form to fill in. Once completed the form is returned to the Hatch Café, who will give participants an Easter cookie. The Committee thanked the Groundstaff for organising this again.

MEGAN GREEN

Grounds team have replaced fencing at the entrance to Megan Green from Quob Lane.

QUOB GREEN

Tree work to be carried out week commencing 19th March as identified in the recent Tree Survey.

WEST END COPSE

It was noted that the Grounds team have replaced part of the boardwalk which was rotten. Tree work to be carried out week commencing 19th March.

Small Grants Scheme – As previously discussed - application to be submitted to improve the pathways.

Friends of West End Copse – Successful and productive work morning held on 17th March improving the pathway alongside of the stream from Ivy Lane to the boardwalk.

171/18/REC MOORGREEN RECREATION GROUND

Footpath adjacent to tennis court – As reported to the last meeting, a contractor has recently edged the paths on this footpath from Moorgreen Road to the tennis court. The Groundstaff had established that it was EBC and that they have now painted this pathway to highlight that it is not part of the car park.

Tennis Court: The Deputy Clerk has not yet received a response to his e-mail to Jem Tennis to ask for details of their proposed summer programme.

172/18/REC TOWNHILL FARM RECREATION AREAS

Townhill Play Area

The Head Groundsman reported that they had to remove a metal seat from the Townhill play area as the bottom of this had rusted out and was dangerous. It would not be economical to replace. The Committee agreed unanimously that this should be replaced with a seat made from recycled material.

Chartwell Green

Play equipment consultation – it was noted that the Deputy Clerk will apply to the National Lottery ‘Awards for All’ scheme for funding.

Chartwell Copse – Tree work to be carried out week commencing 19th March. A resident had recently complained that squirrels were accessing his loft space from a tree overhanging his boundary from Chartwell Copse. Work will be carried out on this tree.

Upmill Play Area – Deputy Clerk to obtain further quotes to replace the equipment.

173/18/REC WEST END FOOTBALL FACILITY

Deputy Clerk has not yet been able to arrange a meeting with the manager of Eastleigh Football Clubs youth women’s team to discuss their use of Cutbush next season.

Further to the discussion at the last meeting regarding the request from a resident that disabled access is made available to the Cutbush facility to allow a motorised scooter onto the site. The Deputy Clerk and Head Groundsman reported that they had investigated whether access could be made available for wheelchair users by installing a DDA compliant kissing gate. Unfortunately, this would also be used by motorcyclists which would damage the pitch. This was discussed at length by the Committee and it was agreed that Cutbush Lane is maintained as a sports facility and the gates kept locked to safeguard this facility. Councillor Asman was concerned that the football fields are not safe for wheelchair users. Whilst appreciating that this resident wants to access open space, it was noted there are other areas of open space in the vicinity.

It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk will advise the resident that the Council cannot provide accessible access when the facility is not in use.

The pitches are still playable despite the recent bad weather, with many other local facilities being waterlogged.

A resident present at the meeting raised a concern regarding the recent hedge trimming that has been carried out by Eastleigh Borough Council adjacent to Cutbush Lane. They left a terrible mess and also removed a healthy Ash tree. They had contacted EBC and received a response from Direct Services, who defended their work team. However, the resident was not happy with this response.

174/18/REC WEST END CEMETERY/BURIAL GROUND

Burial Ground - Strimming and clearing site – ongoing.

The Groundstaff have recently carried out topple testing and had to lay down four crosses and one memorial stone. The Burial Ground Officer at St. James' Church has been informed.

Cemetery

Further to the discussion at the last meeting regarding the complaint received last year that a reserved plot was too small, the Clerk reported that the bereaved relative is still unhappy with the situation and has asked to be fully reimbursed for the cost of the burial. The Clerk detailed the costs involved. There followed a lengthy discussion during which Councillors expressed concern that the Council had already spent £480 re-siting the headstone. It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk seeks legal advice before any further discussion on this matter.

Following the review of the Cemetery Guidelines, the Head Groundsman has reported that several wooden temporary crosses have remained on plots which is contrary to the Guidelines. Generally crosses mark a grave until a headstone is erected. A letter has been sent to the Deed holders requesting that these are removed.

175/18/REC ALLOTMENTS

The Committee noted the following:

- 1 available full plot
- Currently 2 people on the waiting list; would like specific plots.
- Next inspection 18th April
- WEGAA reported that the toilet pipes and allotment tap had recently burst. These have been repaired by the Grounds Team.

This prompted a discussion on the costs of the Allotment site and it was agreed that cost of water and other bills over a year be reported to the next meeting.

176/18/REC YOUTH CLUB

The Youth Leader had prepared a Report for the HEWEB Youth Partnership AGM. This is attached as Appendix to these minutes.

177/18/REC GROUNDS EQUIPMENT

The Deputy Clerk reported that a loan vehicle from HTM will be delivered on 3rd April as the Isuzu has been sold. The two ride on mowers have recently been serviced and the Chipper is currently being repaired.

David Fricker has recently attended a 'Safe Operation of Ride on and Pedestrian Mower Course' and George Hallett is attending the re-scheduled hedge cutter course on 29th March.

178/18/REC DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 18th April 2018

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

