

WEST END PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, WEDNESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2018 AT THE PARISH CENTRE, CHAPEL ROAD, WEST END COMMENCING AT 7.15 PM

PRESENT: **Councillors: C Boulton Chairman**
 J Asman
 S Turl
 J Goguel

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

070/18/REC APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor MacDonald.

071/18/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.

072/18/REC MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18TH JULY 2018

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th July were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

073/18/REC MATTERS ARISING

Chartwell Green

The proposal made at the last meeting regarding the removal of some of the fencing at Chartwell Green and to withdraw the ban on dogs was ratified by full Council on 12th September. The Groundstaff have now removed the gate and two panels of fencing either side. Residents have expressed their surprise with this decision as they feel that their request to split the field was not considered by the Council. 12 members of the public had attended the meeting to question this and in their opinion the area is now unsafe for children as they can run out onto the footpath.

The Chairman stated that the Council had spent a lot of time debating this and had resolved that fencing should be removed so it is not an enclosed area to be

used as a dog training/exercise field which prevents it being accessible to all residents.

One resident questioned why this cannot be a dog training area. Councillor Asman commented that the Council do not have a statutory duty to provide this.

There followed a lengthy and confrontational debate with residents questioning the Council about health & safety of users now that it is not an enclosed area; long term plans for the area – will it be sold for development?; anti-social behaviour; will the Council re-consider this decision; why not let the area be used by dogs off lead?; the children use the gate as a goal post – can this be reinstated?

Councillor Turl stated that the long term plan is to install play equipment but this is subject to funding. The play area will be fenced in. The Council has had a very difficult decision to make. The Council have no plans to sell the land for development.

The Chairman stated that the Council are not responsible for the safety and well-being of children and dogs – this is the responsibility of parents and dog owners. The Council do not want loose dogs in an enclosed area.

The Clerk stated that the decision was ratified by full Council and cannot be re-visited for six months.

The Chairman concluded that the debate was going round in circles. She thanked the residents for attending and giving their views and agreed to look at the feasibility of replacing the gate as had been requested.

Rat infestation – Rights of Way Footpath 505 between Hilldene Way and Beacon Road

Councillor Asman had received a response from EBC that the rat problem is within the water course and Southern Water have been asked to investigate. Councillor Davis has requested that signs be put along the footpath stating that this is not the responsibility of WEPC. However, the Committee did not think this would be a good idea as it would set a precedent as residents may expect signage on all footpaths.

EBC Public Art – West End Heritage Trail

Councillor Turl gave a verbal update on the Public Art Steering Group meeting which met prior to this meeting to short list the artists who had expressed interest in the project. The applications were high quality with a wide and differing interpretation of the brief. Five artists were short listed who will now be asked to develop their response to the brief in sketch form for presentation to the Steering Group within two weeks.

Cricket World Cup 2019

The Clerk has not received notification of any follow up meeting.

074/18/REC CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email received from EBC regarding tree overhanging onto shared drive in Upmill Close – Groundstaff have removed branches
2. Email received from resident of High Street regarding overhanging trees from Parish land into back garden. Steve has met with resident and agreed work that will be carried out in October.
3. Notification received that a tree in Ullswater Avenue had fallen blocking the footpath. Groundstaff had dealt with this.

075/18/REC EVENTS FOR 2018

West End Carnival – Saturday 16th June, 2018

The Chairman reported that the Carnival Awards evening was well attended and next year's theme was announced – Childrens' Television Characters. Date for 2017 Carnival is Saturday 15th June. Deputy Clerk to apply for road closure.

Senior Citizens Tea Dance – Friday 27th July, 2018. Another successful event.

YouthHouse Community Games – Wednesday 15th August, 2018 – well attended.

Remembrance Day – Sunday 11th November, 2018. All in hand for the morning service which will be led by Rev. Linda Galvin. Hamble Valley Brass Band have been booked to play by the War Memorial for a donation of £100. The Deputy Clerk has submitted the Event Plan and Road Closure request to Eastleigh Borough Council. Letter has gone out to local groups asking if they require a wreath and also if they can supply stewards.

With reference to the twelve names of the fallen in World War 1 which are missing from the memorial stone, the Committee agreed at the last meeting that it would be too expensive to install an additional memorial stone and to engrave the names. The Stone Mason has suggested an additional stone but sandblasting the names instead of engraving. The additional stone would cost a maximum of £1000 and the sandblasting is £1.80 per letter, total would be 167 x £1.80 = £300.60.

Councillor Goguel proposed and Councillor Asman seconded that a stone be purchased for the twelve missing names of the fallen which will be sandblasted onto the stone. The Committee agreed unanimously.

Councillor Turl referred to the Silent Soldier silhouettes and asked that these be moved for Remembrance Day to more prominent positions. After discussion, it was agreed to re-locate these at either end of West End from Monday 5th November.

WW1 A Nations Tribute – Beacon Lighting Ceremony 11th November 2018 at 7pm - WEPC will be participating by Lighting of the Beacon.

All as previously discussed and agreed to start advertising the tickets as soon possible. The costs involved were discussed and the Chairman asked if there was any external funding available. The Deputy Clerk agreed to investigate this.

Turning on the Lights – Friday 30th November, 2018.

The Singing Jukebox has been booked. The Mayor will be attending.

The Deputy Clerk referred to the decision not to have a large Christmas Tree on the corner of the High Street this year and asked if the budget for this could be used for additional lighting for the trees in the Parish Centre Car Park. The Committee agreed unanimously.

Children's Panto – Friday 14th December 5pm – 7pm

Sleeping Beauty. Nothing new to report.

Senior Citizens Christmas Party - Monday 17th December, 2018

The Mayor has been invited – no response received to date. It was noted that the Singing Jukebox is booked for the afternoon but Councillors wondered if the Youth Club or St. James. School Choir may be able to attend. The Deputy to make enquiries.

076/18/REC BARNSLAND/HATCH FARM

EBC have installed a new litter/dog bin at Barnsland and removed the existing litter which WEPC will re-install at another location.

The Community Payback Team have spent a day clearing the ditch this month.

No further information to date ref. Hatch Farm Working Party.

077/18/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 the local architect is still working on the plans

Replacement Play area equipment

This is now on order – a 'Flymobile' at a cost of £3213.25 plus VAT. 6-8 week delivery period.

SINC Area Signage

Further to previous discussions the Deputy Clerk tabled details of two alternative quotes for the signage to advise if the cattle are on site:

- 3 no. A3 size signs on 2 metre long posts with fixing rails and clips at £157 +VAT each. Groundstaff to install.
- Cllr MacDonald quote obtained for six 3mm A4 plastic signs for total cost of £150 +VAT. Plus cost of purchasing wooden posts. Groundstaff to install.

The Head Groundsman stated that only 2 signs would necessary as the third exit from the SINC area can be padlocked, as it was this year. After discussion, it was agreed to purchase two metal A3 size signs at a cost of £157 each as these would be more durable.

It was noted that the cattle have now been removed from the SINC area until next Spring.

An e-mail was received from a local resident requesting that the Council consider the installation of temporary fencing when the cattle are present to avoid dogs from inadvertently accessing the field. They would ask for donations and volunteers to help with the installation. After discussion, it was agreed that this would not be practical and that dog owners should keep their dogs on a lead if they cannot be controlled.

Tree issues

e-mail received from Borough Councillor Gomer regarding a dangerous tree in Chapel Close. Treemenders will be on site to deal with this on 27th September.

Oak Tree on Hatch Grange

Carving is now complete and there have been many positive comments received. Thanks recorded to Friends of Hatch Grange for funding this project.

West End Copse

As reported to Full Council, the Chairman of FoWEC, has announced he is planning to step down as Chairman due to health issues and hoping to recruit a Vice Chairman. The next FoWEC Action morning is scheduled for Saturday 6th October – meeting at the Ullswater Avenue entrance to carry out path clearing, cutting back foliage and litter picking.

QUOB GREEN

The Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Head Groundsman had met with the Environment Agency to discuss how best to clear the culvert. Advice received is to routinely remove the small section of gravel which builds up directly downstream of the culvert. It is not recommended to clear the entire channel to match the culvert invert as this would have a negative impact on the conditional of the watercourse. A copy of this advice has been forwarded to Hampshire Highways.

078/18/REC MOORGREEN RECREATION GROUND

Tennis Court

The Deputy Clerk has attended the LTA's Safeguarding and Protection Workshop to enable the tennis court to be LTA registered. Councillor Turl thanked the Deputy Clerk for agreeing to become the Welfare Officer.

Councillor Macdonald asked that the Committee discuss when regular hirers of the Youth Club should have free use of the tennis facility. There followed a discussion and it was noted that the users in question are a Charity and would not necessarily have the funds to rent the facility. It was also noted that they would not use the facility if there were any bookings. It was therefore unanimously agreed not to charge the regular hirers for use of the tennis facility.

079/18/REC TOWNHILL FARM RECREATION AREAS

Chartwell Green

Discussed under Matters Arising

Chartwell Copse/Upmill

Nothing new to report.

Townhill Play Area

The Groundstaff have now repaired and replaced the broken 'chicken spring' play equipment. The damage had been due to misuse, so the manufacturer would have charged for this work. However, this does not affect the warranty. The manufacturers will be inspecting this when next in the area.

080/18/REC WEST END FOOTBALL FACILITY

Further to previous discussions regarding request for disabled access onto the playing fields, the most suitable location has been identified as the existing wooden access gate.

The Committee had previously agreed in principle to the installation of the gate. However, the Clerk reported that there is no money available in this year's budget but provision will be made in next year's budget as a special project.

The Deputy Clerk will update the resident who requested this.

Outstanding Account

There is an outstanding payment from a football team who have now folded. This was previously discussed and agreed that the debt could be made in instalments. However, no payment has been received and it was agreed to recover this sum through the Small Claims court.

081/18/REC WEST END CEMETERY/BURIAL GROUND

Burial Ground - Strimming and clearing site – ongoing. Complaint received regarding the state of the wild flower section from member of the public whose family members are buried at the Old Burial Ground. The Clerk commented that the Groundstaff were following the agreed management plan in the Living Churchyard Initiative.

Cemetery

Community Payback Team have started painting the fences along Cemetery Drive.

Request from West End Resident requesting to purchase an ashes plot for parents

The Deputy Clerk reported on a request by a resident to inter her father's ashes in Quob Lane cemetery.

Councillor Goguel proposed and Councillor MacDonald seconded that it be resolved not to allow the purchase of a cremation plot for a non-resident as this will set a precedent. The Committee agreed unanimously.

Previous request agreed during May 2018 meeting

The Committee had agreed for a non-resident to purchase an ashes plot. However, a further request has now been received for a discount on fees and it was noted that the Committee had previously agreed to a discount. In order to be consistent, it was agreed to offer discount for the purchase of the grave space but not for the headstone.

There followed a discussion on the number of special requests being received for concessions at the Cemetery and it was agreed to review the rules and guidelines at the next meeting. This will also include decisions regarding the new ashes area.

Scattering of Ashes Area

The Head Groundsman reported that a new memorial bench has been installed and work on pathway has started. The cost of scalping's for the path will be £562, plus the necessary tree work and purchasing new trees and shrubs.

Councillor Asman asked when the area may be ready for scattering of ashes. The Head Groundsman hope work will be completed before the end of the year.

082/18/REC ALLOTMENTS

The Committee noted the following:

- Allotment vacancies to be advertised on Facebook. Currently 4 x half plots and 5 full plots available.
- Email received from WEGAA – Best kept allotment winners will be announced during the WEGAA Harvest Supper. Prizes as follows:

1st prize £30; 2nd prize £20; 3rd prize £10. Donated by the Parish.
Winners of the Gerald Morgan Trophy and Diversity Cup will also be announced. Councillors Asman and MacDonald will be attending the WEGAA Harvest Supper

- Allotment inspection October half term week.
- Application for permit to work on the highways has been submitted to HCC which will allow Groundstaff to clear ditch along Moorgreen Road during October half term week.
- Invoices and amended Tenancy agreements circulated. Payment due by 1st October.

083/18/REC YOUTH CLUB

The Youth Leader presented the following report.

We are now into our autumn term. We have enjoyed a busy summer holidays, 2 drop ins per week along with 1 trip per week and the Community Games which was attended by 300+ people.

We also managed to raise £2239.00 from car parking for the cricket.

We have now started our autumn programme which consists of Jewish New Year cooking; Kindness stones, Pizza maker, FIFA 19 tournament, making dream catchers and Halloween art and crafts.

Our numbers are still high with about 20 young people attending every session at the Youthouse and 10 to 15 young people attending Chartwell Youth Centre.

084/18/REC GROUNDS EQUIPMENT

Requirements for next financial year will be reported at next meeting.

085/18/REC DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 24th October 2018

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.