

WEST END PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, WEDNESDAY 19TH APRIL 2017 AT THE PARISH CENTRE, CHAPEL ROAD, WEST END COMMENCING AT 7.15 PM

PRESENT: Councillors: R Davis (Chairman)
R MacDonald
S Turl
C Boulton

In attendance: Mrs L Cooke Parish Clerk
Mr S Mockford Deputy Clerk
Mr S Adams Head Groundsman

Members of the Public: Mr & Mrs Clay
Friends of West End Copse (FoWEC) representatives – Mr
T. Buck & Mr P. Drew

001/17/REC **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Asman & Clarke. Councillor Bates was absent from the meeting.

002/17/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.

003/17/REC **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15TH MARCH 2017**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th March were accepted as a true record and signed by The Chairman.

004/17/REC **MATTERS ARISING**

West End Copse Management Plan – The draft management plan has been previously circulated to all councillors along with comments from Steve Adams, the Head Groundsman and Terry Buck, Chairman of Friends of West End Copse (FoWEC).

A discussion was held around the comments from Mr. Adams and FoWEC. It was agreed to remove comments regarding fencing of the badger setts – so as not to highlight their location. Mr. Drew commented that a local resident had approached him and said 'how wonderful' West End Copse is.

Mr. Adams also commented to maintain natural dams within the copse area.

The Clerk advised that once the management plan is adopted, an article will be included in the upcoming Newsletter to make residents aware.

Councillor Turl proposed and Councillor MacDonald seconded that it be resolved to accept the management plan with the agreed changes. The Committee agreed unanimously.

Mr. T. Buck & Mr. P. Drew left the meeting.

Email received from Paul Airey Planning Associates Ltd – regarding Dumbleton Copse, Kanes Hill: A discussion was held regarding Paul Airey and Mrs King's presentation during April's Full Parish Council meeting, Councillor Boulton commented that taking over the management of the copse would put a strain on resources and due to the location, would severely impact the daily tasks of an already stretched Groundstaff team.

Councillor Turl proposed and Councillor Boulton seconded that it be resolved to decline the offer to take over the long term management of Dumbleton Copse. The Committee agreed unanimously.

Resident of Western Road – As previously discussed – still waiting to hear back from E.B.C. regarding dog fouling signs. Deputy Clerk has sent a follow up email. The Clerk has advised the pathway is a Hampshire County Council right of way.

All other Matters Arising will be dealt under agenda headings.

005/17/REC

CORRESPONDENCE

Email received from resident of Monnow Gardens: Regarding an Oak tree blocking light into their garden. Head Groundsman advised that the last tree survey was completed 3 years ago and is due to be completed again; date to be confirmed. However, only work that is deemed necessary will be done. A meeting with Tree Surgeon to be arranged for advice and comments to be ready for next months meeting.

Email received from Natalie Hands – Countryside Access Ranger for HCC; regarding the Small Grants Scheme. It has been previously agreed to wait until the completed West End Copse Management Plan before deciding on the project and amount to apply for. The Management Plan has now been agreed and will be able to support the application and as previously discussed the project will be to improve pathways within the copse.

Email received from RoSPA – Play area inspections will be taking place in May.

006/17/REC

EVENTS FOR 2017/18

As previously discussed, it was agreed during this month's A.G.M. to appoint a subcommittee to specifically discuss events planned for the year. The Clerk suggested to meet up every other month or quarterly prior to the Recreation & Environment meetings. The Chairman suggested at the next Full Parish committee meeting to invite Councillors onto the subcommittee.

It was agreed for the first meeting to be held at 6.15pm prior to May's Recreation & Environment meeting and will be held every other month.

Flying the Flag for Commonwealth – Next year's date TBC.

Carnival – Saturday 17th June 2017 – Theme 'Children's books' Event Plan and road closure application has been sent to E.B.C. for approval.

Senior Citizens Afternoon Tea Party – Friday 28th July, 2017.

Human Juke Box - confirmed booking.

Sequence dancing group have confirmed attendance for the event.

YouthHouse Community Games – Wednesday 16th August, 2017. Activities TBC.

Remembrance Service – Sunday 12th November, 2017

The Clerk has spoken with local Scouts about stewarding for this year's event.

Turning on the Lights – Friday 24th November, 2017.

'Ukebox Glory' confirmed booking. They have requested a charitable donation.

Senior Citizens Christmas Party – Monday 18th December, 2017

Human Juke Box – confirmed booking

Children's Pantomime – Hurricane Promotions Ltd confirmed booking for Friday 22nd December. Performance at 10am - Aladdin.

WW1 A Nations Tribute – Beacon Lighting Ceremony 11th November 2018 @ 7pm - As previously agreed WEPC will be participating in Lighting of the Beacon. Suggestions for appropriate celebrations will be discussed during next month's 'events' meeting.

007/17/REC

BARNSLAND

Bins in general need replacing. Referred to L.A.C. to seek funding.

Email received from resident regarding 'motorised buggy' on the playing field. Deputy Clerk has advised resident to call 101 if there are any further incidents.

008/17/REC

HATCH GRANGE / MEGAN GREEN/QUOB GREEN/WEST END COPSE

Hatch Grange

The Clerk to look at budget for car parking at the rear of the workshop. To be discussed at the next Parish Centre working party for funding options.

As previously discussed - resident along the High Street has put up hedging around the rear of his property – possibly encroaching onto West End Parish land. The Clerk has emailed resident to arrange a meeting – date TBC.

Head Groundsman is concerned with the number of holes being dug by dogs. Groundstaff have recently used 8 wheel barrows full of mud to fill up the holes and has suggested to leaflet cars in the parish car park making dog owners aware of the problem and encourage dog owners to fill in the holes. Committee are happy for this to be done.

Tree surgeon has completed significant tree work in Hatch Grange. Ongoing.

Tree Officer at E.B.C. has telephoned the office regarding a complaint from a local resident of felled Pine tree in Hatch Grange. Deputy Clerk has emailed E.B.C. comments from tree survey regarding this particular tree.

SJSA Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday 2nd April – 10am – 1pm
Very successful event.

Groundstaff & Hatch Café organised a Parish Easter Egg hunt in Hatch Grange from Monday 10th April – Thursday 13th April. Very successful; over 100 children taking part.

Tree Surgeon have completed tree work behind properties in Hatch Mead – reduced the Ash tree by approx. 15 feet; removed the 3 trees by the entrance to Hatch Grange and worked on the willow tree.

FOHG - Successful work morning on Saturday 8th April – Pathway between Megan Green and Hatch Grange. Path upgraded with 8 tonnes of scalping's.

SINC Area: The Grazier who has previously brought cattle to the SINC area for many years now – who also acts as WEPC's Agent for the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme that the Council has with Natural England; has email the Clerk, due to his current situation is unable to provide cattle this year, but has suggested that the Council purchase the cattle, which he will look after at no additional cost, e.g. vets bill, inoculations etc. , and once in a position to do

so, will buy these back from the Council. If agreed by the committee a formal agreement will be put in place.

A discussion was held and Councillor MacDonald commented that there would need to be clear signage for users of Hatch Grange, that there will be young cattle in the area and for all dogs to be on leads.

Councillor Boulton proposed and Councillor MacDonald seconded that it be resolved to purchase three cattle for the SINC area. The committee agreed unanimously.

Groundstaff to clear out the Parrots Feather – date TBC.

Natural England Stewardship Scheme – Nothing new to report.

Email received from Katy Roberts regarding the Pond Project; as previously discussed by the committee. A discussion was held regarding and Councillor Boulton suggested to erect a notice board by the pond; providing information on the range of wildlife and species present in the pond would be useful. The Clerk commented that the Groundstaff will be clearing the Parrots Feather shortly and will look into having an interpretation sign by the pond, using the £500 budget previously agreed.

Megan Green – Groundstaff continuing to install Chippings along footpath thinning out / coppicing and ongoing. Finished cutting the trees until the winter.

Wednesday Volunteer Group – Date TBA.

Quob Green – Nothing new to report.

West End Copse – Nothing new to report.

FoWEC – next action day Action Day Saturday 11th March, 2017.

Resident has reported Japanese Knottweed in Ullswater Avenue – Groundstaff have treated and will monitor.

009/17/REC

MOORGREEN RECREATION GROUND

Following complaint from resident - footpath adjacent to tennis court issue with flooding and drainage, trying to establish responsibility – ongoing.

Email received from local resident regarding incidents of broken glass in the car park and in the recreation ground. Deputy Clerk has reported to 101 – local PCSO's are now aware and will increase patrols in the area.

Tennis Court Refurbishment – As previously discussed, the committee have agreed to upgrade the tennis court facility. The Clerk advised the funding from developers contributions from The Moorgreen Hospital development, would not be received until the end of summer and suggested to fund the refurbishment from reserves and recommended to take to the Policy & Resource committee meeting on Wednesday 26th April.

Councillor MacDonald proposed and Councillor Boulton seconded that it be resolved to recommend funding the tennis court refurbishments from reserves and to refer to Policy & Resource committee for consideration. The committee agreed unanimously.

010/17/REC

TOWNHILL FARM RECREATION AREAS

Chartwell Green – Street Scene have advised existing benches currently installed are no longer available to order.

Councillor Boulton proposed and Councillor Davis seconded that it be resolved for the Head Groundsman to order a suitable memorial bench. The committee agreed unanimously.

Email received from local resident regarding no longer allowing dogs in this area – Deputy Clerk has replied to resident.

Telephone call received from a local resident complaining dog users are still using the area & how is the Parish Council going to monitor/enforce the ban on dogs in this area. A discussion was held and the committee agreed to encourage residents to report incidents of dogs in this area to 101 as anti-social behaviour. This will ensure local PCSO's are aware of the problem and will increase patrols in the area.

Chartwell Copse – Nothing new to report.

Upmill Play Area – Nothing new to report.

011/17/REC

WEST END FOOTBALL FACILITY

- Reseeding of pitches w/c 24th April
- 2 separate incidents of fly tipping reported along Cutbush Lane.
- Youth Leader reported family having a bbq on the football pitches.
- As previously discussed; Ash tree split in two (6 feet up) and is leaning towards Gregg School. Initially discussed during January's meeting. The Clerk is still trying to establish who is responsible for the work and strip of land. This has been referred to S.C.C. legal team. S.C.C. have quoted £1,200 to fix. Tree surgeon has quoted £600.00 +VAT. The Clerk has sent a follow up email to chase for response.

012/17/REC

WEST END CEMETERY/BURIAL GROUND

Burial Ground

Strimming and clearing site – ongoing

As previously discussed: Telephone call from local resident; ongoing issues with lime tree encroaching into their back garden. Head Groundsman and Tree Surgeon have visited the site. No major work required, however there is some dead wood to be removed.

Cemetery

Groundstaff will be moving water pipe to map new area for plots.

Letter received from resident of Lime gardens – regarding an oak tree bordering their property. Issues with squirrels getting into loft space through over hanging branches – the Council have previously carried out work on the tree – ongoing issue. Head Groundsman and Tree Surgeon have visited the site and agree work needs to be done. Date TBC.

- Groundstaff will be moving water pipe to map new area for plots.
- Community Payback painting the fence.

013/17/REC

ALLOTMENTS

- To date – no vacant allotments
- Plot inspections to be carried out at the end of the month
- Email received from WEGAA regarding emergencies services being called to the site. Thankfully the allotment holder is OK, however there were concerns regarding the condition of the main track. Groundstaff have made good the track.
- WEGAA reported leaking tap – this has been repaired
- Theft reported from plot 17A – blue plastic water pipes and bag of compost taken from the back of shed. Plot holder to report to 101.
- Emailed received requesting to use the unused plots for children participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Mr Adams advised these plots are unsuitable due to drainage issues. The request was declined and will be added to the waiting list.
- Email request from plot holder requesting to keep chickens. Mr Adams advised livestock are not allowed to be kept on the site. The request was declined.
- As previously discussed, the Deputy Clerk obtained a quote for a ferreter to help eradicate rabbits from the allotment site – this was priced at £350 a day. A discussion was held and Councillor Boulton advised this should be booked as soon as possible.

A vote was then taken; Councillor Boulton proposed and Councillor Davis seconded that it be resolved to book a ferreter for the allotment site. 1 Councillor agreed and 1 Councillor was undecided.

After further discussion Councillor Turl suggested to ask WEGAA if there was a need for a ferreter on the site and if so, this cost should be passed onto all plot holders. In future, if there are any further complaints of rabbits on the site, the preferred method for controlling them will be the use of a ferreter.

014/17/REC

GROUNDS EQUIPMENT

- One of the Groundstaff is attending a chainsaw training course. Completed 1 day of a 3 day course. Will be certified in cross cutting and chainsaw maintenance.
- Equipment replaced during the last financial year:
 - Winch for Cushman
 - New scaffold tower
 - Hedge trimmer
 - Brush cutter
 - Push mower
 - Total cost £2,800

015/17/REC

YOUTH CLUB

Update a next meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 17th May 2017