

**WEST END PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21st DECEMBER 2022, AT 7.15 PM**

PRESENT: **Councillors: R MacDonald - Chair**
 A Price
 B Du-Crow
 J Haylett
 A Price
 S Turl
 T Weeks

In attendance: **Ms B Bond, Deputy Parish Clerk**
 Mr N Thorne, Deputy Head Groundsman
 Mrs S Johnson, Admin Officer

0 Members of the public

100/22/REC APOLOGIES FROM COUNCILLORS

Apologies received and accepted from Councillors Boulton and Willoughby

101/22/REC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

102/22/REC MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Recreation & Environment meeting held on Wednesday 16th November 2022 were agreed at the Full Parish Meeting on Wednesday 14th December 2022.

103/22/REC PARISH EVENTS 2022

Children's Christmas Event – Friday 16th December 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- All but 4 tickets were sold.- Crazy M was excellent with the children and will be booked again for next year.- A big thank you to all the staff helpers.
Senior Citizen's Christmas Party – Monday 19th December 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Went very well, all tickets sold out by the beginning of December.- Thanks to all staff and councillors who attended and helped.

Events for 2023

- Councillors were asked to consider the events schedule for 2023 as well as ticket costs. It was noted that the events budget has been reduced from £3,000 to £2,000 for the coming year.

Councillors agreed that the following events should take place this year, with an increase in ticket price from £3.00 to £5.00 for the Summer and Christmas Tea Dances as well as the Children's Christmas party.

- **King's Coronation Event**
- **Summer Seniors Tea Dance**
- **Remembrance Sunday**
- **Turning on the Christmas Lights**
- **Christmas Children's Party**
- **Christmas Seniors Tea Dance**
- **New Seniors Bingo Event**

Councillors also asked for a breakdown of the costs for each event to be provided for the next meeting.

- Councillors were asked for their thoughts on an event to be held in celebration of the King's Coronation.

Following consultation with staff on availability, councillors agreed to hold an event similar to the one arranged for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Monday 8th May 2023.

- Councillor MacDonald reported that he had attended an 'As One' meeting run by the King's Church. It is to encourage street associations between neighbours for them to arrange their own events such as street picnics, etc. It follows a survey in Birmingham where residents only knew 1 or 2 of their neighbours.

104/22/REC CAFÉ / PICNIC AREA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Councillors were provided with plans and quotes from two companies, VitaPlay and PlayDale Playgrounds to consider.

Overall, the VitaPlay option was preferred due to the accessibility options and the look of the equipment. However, following discussions between Councillors and the Deputy Head Groundsman, the following comments and amendments will be passed back to VitaPlay so an updated plan and quote can be put together:

- **Concern over the amount of grass in between the islands where the equipment is placed. Would prefer to see a quote with the whole floor mulched or larger islands of mulch so there are less small, grassed areas which would get muddy and be hard to maintain for the Grounds team.**
- **It was suggested that the proposed picnic area be moved along the bottom edge of the play area as its current location is very boggy.**
- **Councillors would like to know where the excess water will go and what the drainage plans are.**
- **The Grounds team have said they could remove 90% of the fencing and equipment from the area.**
- **The rope swing is not accounted for in the quote.**
- **Councillors would like a breakdown of the VAT included in the cost.**

105/22/REC BARNSLAND/ HATCH FARM/ UPMILL

Hatch Farm / Barnsland

- Works are ongoing at Barnsland but are weather dependant.
- The wording for the Interpretation board is under review. We are looking to reword this and are currently seeking advice from Richard Mould-Ryan. An update will be provided for January's meeting.

A discussion was had around the Interpretation Board that has been presented at previous meetings. Councillor Du-Crow advised that from research he has done, any 'wild' area requires professional management to be maintained and to thrive. He has sent some quotes to the Parish Clerk from companies that can assist with this. These will be brought to the meeting next month.

Councillor Turl commented that the council has always worked hard to encourage biodiversity, however the plan for Barnsland was never to have a wild area as there would be a large amount of cost involved due to the boggy terrain.

Upmill Close

- Nothing new to report.

It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda due to no updates for quite some time.

106/22/REC HATCH GRANGE / MEGAN GREEN/ QUOB GREEN/ WEST END COPSE

Hatch Grange

- Liquid Amber – The crown needs to be reduced as there is too much weight at the top. The arborist has been booked in to complete this work.
- A Resident has asked if she can place a memorial bench on Hatch Grange in memory of her parents. The Head Groundsman has provided a list of all the current benches on Hatch Grange for discussion.

Having looked at all of the benches currently on Hatch Grange, there isn't currently space for anymore to be placed, neither are there any benches that currently don't have plaques. Furthermore, councillors were made aware of the poor condition of some of the current memorial benches. Some significant work will be needed to repair these.

Councillors also asked that wording be added to the Hatch Grange Management Plan about memorial benches. This will be taken to the next Policy & Resources committee meeting for approval.

- Councillors were asked to comment on a proposed amendment to the tree policy:
 - o **Current Wording** - The planting of memorial trees is at the discretion of the Parish Council

- o **Revised Wording** – Memorial trees can only be planted for ex parish council staff or Councillors or people that have made a significant contribution to West End. The planting of memorial trees is at the discretion of the Parish Council

Councillors were happy with the revised wording and approved this being updated in the Tree Policy.

SINC Area

The Clerk has spoken to the grazier who has confirmed he will be making it a priority to get cows in next year.

Megan Green Nothing new to report.

N.I.C.E Nothing new to report.

Quob Green Nothing new to report.

West End Copse

- A review the West End Copse Management Plan has been deferred to the next meeting in January.
- Friends of West End Copse are waiting to hear back from Eastleigh Borough Council regarding their community grant submission.
- An update from the Friends of West End Copse Action Morning which was held on Saturday 26th November was read to Councillors:

It's a bit late in the year, but we finally got to Plant a tree for the Jubilee in celebration of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

In fact, we planted 28 saplings in various locations around the Copse!

Hopefully they will survive and replenish areas of the Copse that have been damaged by storms in recent years.

107/22/REC MOORGREEN RECREATION GROUND

The outside area has been retarmacked, the yellow lines have been repainted and a new handrail has been put in place.

The new handrails had to have the fittings tightened by the Ground Staff. A video of how loose they were, have been sent to Eastleigh Borough Council by the Clerk.

108/22/REC TOWNHILL FARM RECREATION AREAS

Chartwell Green Nothing new to report.

Chartwell Copse Nothing new to report.

Townhill Farm & Carpathia Play Areas Nothing new to report.

109/22/REC CUTBUSH LANE FOOTBALL FACILITY

Football has now finished for Christmas. Matches will commence again on 7th & 8th January 2023

110/22/REC QUOB LANE CEMETERY/ BURIAL GROUND

Burial Ground Nothing new to report.

Cemetery

The Grounds team will be removing a tree at the Cemetery as it is causing a trip hazard.

Garden of Reflection Nothing new to report.

111/22/REC ALLOTMENTS

The Deputy Clerk advised that she has started to offer out vacant plots again. All but 2 taps have now been shut off for the winter. The next Plot Inspections are due to take place in January.

112/22/REC GROUNDS

Minor work has been carried out at Carpathia play area. The roof has been repaired at the rear of the Main Hall in the Parish Centre which has stopped the leak. The fire doors have also had draft excluder tape added which has stopped it being so cold in the hall. A dead squirrel has been removed from the ceiling space of the Youthouse.

113/22/REC THE YOUTHOUSE

No report received this month.

114/22/REC DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 18th January 2023

EXEMPT BUSINESS: None

The meeting closed at 8.18pm