

**WEST END PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 18th JANUARY 2023, AT 7.15 PM**

Councillors Present:
R MacDonald - Chair
B Du-Crow
J Haylett
B Coles
S Turl
S Willoughby
T Weeks
C Boulton

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

0 Members of the public

115/23/REC APOLOGIES FROM COUNCILLORS

Apologies received and accepted from Councillor Price.

116/23/REC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

117/23/REC MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 21st December 2022 meeting were agreed at the Full Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 11th January 2023.

118/23/REC REVIEW OF CHARGES

A review of charges with proposed increases of 5%, 7.5% or 10% was available for councillors to review.

After discussion, Councillor Coles proposed, and Councillor Du Crow seconded that the charges be increased by 10% in line with inflation but that all figures be rounded to the nearest 50p. A copy of the updated charges can be found in Appendix A

119/23/REC PARISH EVENTS 2023

King's Coronation Event - Monday 8th May 2023 – 1.00pm – 5.00pm

The proposed event will be the same as the event held in 2022 for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Due to the reduced event budget for 2023/24, Councillors discussed where money could be saved in organising this event so as not to have an impact on further events planned for the year.

Councillor MacDonald suggested inviting a fairground company to supply and run a bouncy castle and ask for a small charge from users.

Councillor Weeks questioned if 8 portable hire toilets were required and to investigate hiring 6 or 4 to reduce the costs.

Councillor Du-Crow asked if buying a system could be investigated. Councillor MacDonald commented that this may be very expensive for 1 or 2 throughout the year. Councillor Turl explained that they are very technical to use and to service. Councillor Coles suggested this out-lay could only be considered when the budget allows.

Senior Citizens' Tea Dance - Friday 28th July 2023 – 2.00pm – 4.30pm

- It was agreed to increase the ticket cost from £3 to £5.
- 70 Ticket limit.
- Gary Matthews to be booked.

Community Games - Wednesday 16th August 2023 – 11.00am – 3.00pm

The Youth Leader has suggested holding the Community Games on Hatch Grange this year.

Councillors agreed unanimously.

Senior's Bingo Event - Wednesday 25th October 2023 – 1.00pm – 3.00pm

- Councillor Haylett recommended that the ticket price be £5 and used to purchase prizes.
- Hot drinks will be available to purchase.

Remembrance Day - Sunday 12th November 2023 - 10.30am – 11.15am

Same arrangements as last year with the service at the memorial.

Children's Christmas Event - Friday 15th December 2023 - 4.00pm – 5.30pm

- It was agreed to increase the ticket cost from £3 to £5.
- 80 Ticket limit.
- Crazy M to be booked.

Senior's Christmas Party - Monday 18th December 2023 - 1.00pm – 3.30pm

- It was agreed to increase the ticket cost from £3 to £5.
- 70 Ticket limit.
- Gary Matthews to be booked.

120/23/REC CAFÉ / PICNIC AREA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Deputy Clerk reported that the proposal from Vita Play is being updated based on Councillor feedback from the previous meeting. It is currently with their designers but has been delayed.

The representative from Playdale Playgrounds did not arrive for a scheduled meeting last week.

121/23/REC BARNSLAND/ HATCH FARM/ UPMILL

Councillor Du-Crow had previously emailed all committee members advising to put the grass cutting project on hold until the summer and to seek further advice.

Councillor MacDonald advised that in April 2020 there was mention of Barnsland becoming a wildflower area but then the wording was changed to a long grass area.

Whilst Section 106 money could be utilised at the start of the project, any ongoing costs once this has been depleted will be left to the Parish to cover and there is already a big strain on the Parish budget.

Councillor Du-Crow read to Councillors a section of his email and an extract from plantlife.org explaining that grasslands need the correct management to enable them to flourish. Cutting is vital to the management.

The Head Groundsman explained that the ground is wet so cutting is weather dependant and as long as it is no longer than 2 feet high it can be cut with their existing equipment, however they do not have any equipment to lift the cuttings.

The Deputy Clerk explained that cutting is at the Groundsmen's discretion, and they carry out weekly visits to all the Parish sites so they will be constantly monitoring the area to see if further cutting were to be needed.

Councillor MacDonald commented that it had never been the intention to not cut the grass at Barnsland. Councillor Haylett commented that what was disputed was the lifting of the clippings.

Councillor Turl explained that the Groundsmen have a schedule of works which they adhere to, weather permitting.

Councillor DuCrow commented that planned cuts should be recorded in a management plan, as this is not currently recorded anywhere.

Councillor Coles proposed and Councillor Haylett seconded that the long grass be cut at Barnsland twice a year and this be added to the management plan. Councillors agreed unanimously.

122/23/REC HATCH GRANGE / MEGAN GREEN/ QUOB GREEN/ WEST END COPSE

Hatch Grange

The arborist has been booked for 1st March to complete work on the Liquid Amber. Approximate cost £1000.

Sinc Area

Councillors approved of the suggestion to install a beehive in the area as long as a qualified beekeeper or group can maintain it.

Megan Green

The Wednesday Volunteer Group were carrying out work on the path at Megan Green on Wednesday 18th January and will be continuing this work on Wednesday 25th January.

N.I.C.E

Nothing new to report

Quob Green

Nothing new to report

West End Copse

Nothing new to report

123/23/REC MOORGREEN RECREATION GROUND

The following email has been received from a resident of Monarch Way regarding flooding on their property.

It would seem that nothing has been done since our last communication and thanks to the present weather I have video footage that shows the drains in the walkway at the end of our properties are both inadequate and poorly Constructed/maintained, as rainwater is not going into drain as it should but instead it runs over the edge and into the walkway which in turn will flood both properties.

This needs addressing by whoever is responsible.

The Youth Leader's husband has experience in drainage and having visited the site has advised the only thing the Parish can do to help mitigate the issue would be to put in a larger drainpipe. Unfortunately as the drain itself does not belong to West End Parish Council, the residents would need to speak with Hampshire Highways to see if anything further can be done.

124/23/REC TOWNHILL FARM RECREATION AREAS

Chartwell Green Nothing new to report.

Townhill Farm Play Area Nothing new to report.

Carpathia Play Areas Nothing new to report.

125/23/REC CUTBUSH LANE FOOTBALL FACILITY

No football fixtures have been able to be played in January so far due to waterlogged pitches or the ground being frozen.

126/23/REC QUOB LANE CEMETERY/ BURIAL GROUND

Burial Ground

Due to safety concerns, the pine tree next to the wall by Hilldene has been removed.

Cemetery

The Grounds Team have had to top up some of the graves at the Cemetery that have been sinking.

The cherry tree which had damaged one of the paths has been removed. The Grounds Team will now be removing the roots and repairing the path.

Garden of Reflection

Nothing new to report

127/23/REC ALLOTMENTS

The Deputy Clerk reported that there is still a large waiting list.

The next round of inspections will be carried out at end of February.

A new allotment app is being adopted which will enable the inspection information to be recorded by any of the Grounds Team.

128/23/REC GROUND

The Head Groundsman reported that the white van is going in for its MOT on 20th February. Councillor Coles suggested looking at alternatives in case the vehicle fails its MOT.

The Deputy Clerk reported that the delivery of the new van will be chased at the beginning of February, it is due to be delivered March/April.

The Deputy Head Groundsman is on a chipping course in March.

The Head Groundsman is researching battery operated tools rather than mains run equipment.

The power cable to the front of the Parish Centre from the garage for the Christmas lights needs to be renewed as the old cable is no longer working. An electrician tested the cable, and it was not giving out any power due to a fault on the cable.

A quote has been received for the Ford Ranger repairs. An Insurance Claim is being put through to cover the cost. The Deputy Clerk said the estimate for the repair is £4,500 and will be on the insurance. There is £100 excess.

A new process is now in place for checking all sites. Previously 20 sheets of A4 paper per week were printing off for the individual check sheets. Now using a notebook to record everything in one place.

129/23/REC THE YOUTH

A copy of the Youth Leader's report will be forwarded to Councillors. **A copy of the report can be found in Appendix B**

130/23/REC DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 15th February 2023

The meeting closed at 20.05.

Appendix A – Review of Charges

Review of Charges 2023/24 - Allotments, Football Cemetary

Site	Current Charge Inc VAT 2022/2023	Percentage Increase			Agreed Charge Inc VAT 2023/24
		5%	7.5%	10%	
Allotments					
Rental - Full Plot	£45.00	£47.25	£48.38	£49.50	£50.00
Rental - Half Plot	£28.00	£29.40	£30.10	£30.80	£30.00
Grazing	£62.00	£65.10	£66.65	£68.20	£68.00
Key Charge	£30.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Deposit	£50.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Football (Per Match)					
Seniors	£73.00	£76.65	£78.48	£80.30	£80.00
Youths	£36.00	£37.80	£38.70	£39.60	£40.00
Juniors	£24.00	£25.20	£25.80	£26.40	£26.00
E.F.C. Evening Training at Cutbush	£73.00	£76.65	£78.48	£80.30	£80.00
Cemetary					
Grave Space	£297.00	£311.85	£319.28	£326.70	£327.00
Larger Grave Space	£362.00	£380.10	£389.15	£398.20	£398.00
Cremation Plot	£140.00	£147.00	£150.50	£154.00	£154.00
Excess Charge (Residents Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Who Are Not Residents Of The Civil Parish)	£175.00	£183.75	£188.13	£192.50	£192.00
Scattering of Ashes	£55.00	£57.75	£59.13	£60.50	£60.00
Interment					
Under 12 Years of Age	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	No Charge
Over 12 Years of Age	£184.00	£193.20	£197.80	£202.40	£202.00
Cremation	£146.00	£153.30	£156.95	£160.60	£160.00
Memorials					
Erection of Memorial	£141.00	£148.05	£151.58	£155.10	£155.00
Additional Inscription/ Deed Transfer	£36.00	£37.80	£38.70	£39.60	£40.00
Non Residents Excess Charge for Exisitng Plot Holders	ALL FEES TREBLED				

Appendix B – Youth Leader Report

Report: January 2023

We are now back from our Christmas break. We are still very busy on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings; Thursdays are more chilled with the older young people. We are also very busy at Townhill community centre running the two parent and toddler groups, which are very well attended, and parents are very grateful that this service is available.

This month we have 2 new youth workers starting at the YoutHouse, which will make it easier for us to focus on reaching more young people on the waiting list and we will be able to do more detached work in the area.

We have asked the young people for trip and activity ideas for the year ahead, so hopefully we will be able to do many trips and events.

We have decided to purchase t shirts and jackets for all the youth worker. I have also just ordered a new noticeboard for the youth club to replace the one that was damaged. The cost was £163.09, fingers crossed this one will not get vandalised.

DRAFT