# WEST END PARISH COUNCIL NOTES OF THE RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024, AT 7.15 PM

Councillors Present: C Boulton (Chair)

D Berry J Haylett

R Prince-Wright

S Turl

In Attendance: B Bond, Deputy Parish Clerk

S Adams, Head Groundsman S Johnson, Admin Officer

0 member of the public

As Councillor MacDonald was unable to attend the meeting, Councillor Boulton, as Vice Chair, was due to chair the meeting. However, as Councillor Boulton was late in arriving, Councillor Turl opened the meeting and acted as chair until she arrived.

### 148/24/REC PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No questions raised as no members of the public were present.

## 149/24/REC <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>

No new declarations were made.

## 150/24/REC APOLOGIES FROM COUNCILLORS

Apologies received and accepted from Councillor MacDonald.

#### 151/24/REC MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 meeting were agreed at the Full Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

#### 152/24/REC EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2024-2034

The Strategy sets out Eastleigh Borough Council's approach for the protection, maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity and the natural environment in the Borough. A consultation on this strategy is currently open for residents to provide feedback on. The closing date is Friday 29th March 2024.

Councillors agreed to look into this and provide any feedback to the Deputy Clerk before the closing date so a Council response can be submitted.

Councillor Boulton arrived at 7.21pm

#### 153/24/REC PARISH EVENTS

D-Day 80th Anniversary - Thursday 6th June 2024

10<sup>th</sup> Itchen North Scouts will be helping us to light the beacon. A meeting is being arranged with the Scout group leader to discuss this in further detail.

## Summer Fete – Saturday 8th June 2024

- Requests are currently being received from local charities and businesses to have a stall at the summer fete. A final list will be determined later this month. The deputy Clerk reported that there has been a lot of interest.
- St Johns Ambulance are being asked to provide first aid support at the event due to the numbers of people expected to attend.
- A risk assessment is currently being composed by the Deputy Clerk for the event.

#### 154/24/REC GROUNDS TEAM REPORT

- The Head Groundsman reported that he has reviewed all of the teams Risk Assessments.
- The football pitches have been very waterlogged over the past few months with cancellation of play or reduced usage; therefore the season may be extended.
- The first of this year's inspections of the allotments will be carried out in April.
- A piece of land just outside of Townhill Farm Community Centre had been damaged by reversing trucks. This has now been repaired by the Grounds Team and new bushes planted.
- A fence panel on the Ullswater Avenue side of West End Copse needed fixing. This work has now been completed by the Grounds Team.
- The fleet's motor insurance has been renewed. The cost of the cover for the coming year is £3088.33.
- Quob Green has been damaged by workmen driving over it. Eastleigh Borough Council's enforcements team are aware and will ensure the land is repaired when the work has been completed.
- The damaged railings at the Old Fire Station have been repaired and the outside of the building is scheduled to be painted in April, weather dependant.
- The water fountain outside the YoutHouse had been damaged but has now been repaired by the Grounds Team.

#### 155/24/REC YOUTH TEAM REPORT

We are heading up to Easter and the lighter evenings are coming. We are still as busy as ever and now have 8 young people on the waiting list. We are planning our easter holiday programme with 2 trips as well as running evening sessions. We are planning to take 16 young people to an easter panto in Portsmouth as well as a trip bowling whilst still opening the youth club on Tuesday and Wednesday evening.

We are also still planning the community games and have been successful in obtaining a grants from the HEWEB (Hedge End, West End & Botley) Local Area Committee. This means we have managed to keep the whole event as a free day for all.

We also now have a recycling bin at youth club, so we will be encouraging our young people to recycle more.

#### 156/24/REC OPEN SPACES / RECREATION AREAS

- The Open Spaces Risk Assessment has been reviewed and was all agreed to be relevant.
- A verbal update was provided by Councillor Prince-Wright on the work being done by the Eastleigh Borough Conservation Alliance at Telegraph Woods.
- There is a leak under the oak tree outside the Parish Centre which has been reported to Hampshire County Council and is being dealt with by Southern Water.
- Councillor Tennent was contacted by a resident that had a visit from a tree surgeon who informed him work was needed on an overhanging tree in his garden which backs onto Megan Green, as per Council instruction. No such instruction was given, and we informed the resident that should the Council ever need to conduct any tree work, the resident would always be notified in advance.

### 157/24/REC PLAY AREAS

- The bench in the Hatch Grange Play Area needs replacing as the wooden slats are rotten. This will be at a cost of £650.00 + VAT. The Head Groundsman reported that this is the last of the concrete-ended style benches in the Parish and will be replaced by the composite / recycled plastic style.
- The rope swing has had to be removed again at Townhill Farm play area due to damage by a dog. The Deputy Clerk reported that CCTV options are being investigated.

## 158/24/REC QUOB LANE CEMETERY/ BURIAL GROUND

There has been a lot of sinkage of the full burial graves at Quob Lane Cemetery due to the weather. The Grounds team have been topping these areas up as and when they occur. It was confirmed that the memorials are stable or staked and a stability test will be carried out in May.

#### 159/24/REC <u>ALLOTMENTS</u>

- **RESOLVED:** West End Garden and Allotment Association (WEGAA) have asked the Parish if we are able to provide the prizes for their Best Kept Allotment awards again as we have done in previous years. The Councillors unanimously agreed to provide this once again.
- The SSEN generator has now been removed from the allotment site.
- The current waiting list stands at 30 (10 Parishioners, 20 non-Parishioners) and the current number of vacant plots is 13.

#### 160/24/REC DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 17th April 2024.

The meeting closed at 7.46pm.