

WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL

THE MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT SPARROWS GREEN PAVILION ON THURSDAY 27TH JANUARY 2022 AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Crawford (Chair), Cllr Griffin, Cllr Morris & Cllr Anderson (Cllr Tincombe from 1957 hours)

Also in attendance: Claudine Feltham, Clerk/RFO. There were no members of the public present.

1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Maggs and Cllr Niell.
2. To receive declarations of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.
Cllr Tincombe declared a personal interest in respect of agenda items 7.8. and 7.11.
3. Public Forum – time limit 15 minutes.
No members of public present.
4. To consider, and approve if appropriate, which agenda items are sufficiently confidential as to warrant exclusion of members of the press and public under the provisions of the Public Bodies (admissions to meetings) Act 1960.
None.
5. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 2021
The minutes of 16th September 2021 were approved, this was proposed by Cllr Anderson, seconded by Cllr Morris and reached unanimous approval.
6. To determine matters arising from the previous minutes for updating and noting.
The Chair noted that both the weather vane and clock had been installed at the Pavilion.
7. Items for decision and allocation of resources, if necessary.
 - 7.1 Noticeboards – Cllr Gadd
*Cllr Gadd explained her idea for three posts with rails that could be used to hold posters for community events. This would need to be agreed by ESFR who own the land, and also to check that this would not require planning permission. **Action:** Clerk to make enquiries.*
 - 7.2 To approve for the (Jane Larcombe) memorial tree to be planted at Jardin d'Aubers in the location where a tree had to be removed in Autumn 2021 – Clerk/Cllr Griffin.
*Update: as considered with David Mashedder, Freddie Burcombe and Cllr Griffin the proposed tree is a [Midland Hawthorn \(Crataegus laevigata\)](#) - [Woodland Trust](#). **Action:** Clerk to re contact ESFR to confirm they approve this, then order the tree and arrange planting.*
 - 7.3 Update on the application to Wealden District Council (WDC) to remove trees diseased trees from within a conservation area – Cllr Griffin
*Cllr Griffin gave an overview of the progress undertaken so far. Broad Oak Tree Consultants had carried out a tree survey at Jardin d'Aubers and identified a number of trees that required felling or crowning. An application for tree works had been completed by the Clerk and submitted to WDC. ESFR had also been consulted and they advised that they wished for their own survey to be carried out. Cllr Griffin commented that within the lease between ESFR and WPC it stated that if trees were dying or dangerous then works could be carried out. It is hoped that a site meeting with ESFR will be arranged.
The Clerk has contacted 5 companies to quote for the works.

*Tree works are also required at Sparrows Green recreation ground.**

- 7.4 To approve from the (Sonia Chantler) memorial bench to be installed at Sparrows Green Recreation Ground – Clerk/Cllr Griffin.
Resolved: members were advised on the progress so far, and how Bob Penny had kindly offered to assist with the installation. Cllr Griffin proposed for the bench to be installed by the pagoda at Sparrows Green, this was seconded by Cllr Anderson and reached unanimous approval.
Action: Clerk to contact Sonia Chantler daughter to advise and ask her to order the bench.
- 7.5 Washwell Lane: to consider the three quotes obtained for the supply and installation of play equipment, and approve which supplier shall be awarded the contract.
Cllr Griffin felt that the Creative Play Jubilee package was for older children, and so not suitable as the aim was to provide a play area for young children. The Playdale equipment specified exactly what was required by WIHF with the exception of a bow top fence being added to the quote.
*Discussions ensued about the three options, and it was narrowed down to Creative Play and Playdale. Members of the Amenities committee agreed to give this further consideration and recommend one supplier to full council. **Action:** to be included on the agenda for full council for decision.*
- 7.6 To note the approval of the WDC lawful development application for the play area at Washwell Lane – Clerk/Cllr Griffin
Noted
- 7.7 To note the response from ESCC Archeological team, as suggested by WDC for the play area at Washwell Lane – Clerk/Cllr Griffin
Noted
- 7.8 Improvements required at the WIHF toilets – Cllr Griffin
(Cllr Tincombe had declared an interest in this item and did not partake in the discussion)
*Cllr Griffin advised that the Caretaker of the toilets had supplied a list of works required. The lease details that the parish council are responsible for the maintenance as well as the cleaning. It was therefore considered whether quotes for a refurbishment could be considered. **Action:** Cllr Griffin to contact companies to get quotes for refurbishment for consideration by the parish council.*
- 7.9 Mobile catering facility for Wadhurst Junior Football Club (to provide hot food and drinks in addition to the current tuck shop).
Update: no longer happening as provider has pulled out.
- 7.10 Sparrows Green recreation ground; to consider the three quotes obtained for the replacement basketball/sports wall equipment, re surfacing of the area basketball/sports wall area and replacement of the zip wire and decide upon a contractor.
*Quotes had been obtained from Playdale, Wickstead and Creative Play and the specifications and costs had been distributed to members prior to the meeting. **Resolved:** Cllr Morris proposed for the supplier to be Creative Play and to be funded from S106 Waters Reach, Cllr Anderson seconded this and it reached a unanimous approval.*

The Clerk mentioned that it may take some weeks for WDC to prepare the Indemnity Agreement, members approved for the order to be placed with Creative Play as soon as possible.
- 7.11 To approve the tender document for the cleaning contract for the toilets at Wadhurst Institute Hall & Field (starting 1.4.22) – Cllr Griffin
(Cllr Tincombe did not take part in this discussion).
*The contract between WIHF and WPC expires in November 2022. **Resolved:** Members considered whether to have the cleaning contract for 1 year, or until November 2022. Cllr Griffin proposed that the contract runs from 1st April 2022 to November 2022, this was seconded by Cllr Morris and reach unanimous approval. **Action:** Clerk to update the document and add it to the website and send to interested parties.*

7.12 To approve the tender document for the maintenance contract at Jardin d'Aubers (starting 1.4.22) – Cllr Griffin.
*Cllr Griffin explained that the document had been circulated after the Clerk had made some suggestions for amendments. Cllr Morris advised that he had not seen the document. Cllr Anderson suggested that the frequency of grass cutting should be included. **Action;** Cllr Griffin to send to Cllr Morris. **Resolved:** members agreed to submit any additional comments by email and for Cllr Griffin to submit this to full council (3.2.22) for approval. **Action:** Clerk to add to full council agenda.*

7.13 Jardin d'Aubers; The way ahead in keeping with the Nolan Principles – Cllr Morris
*A lengthy discussion took place. Cllr Griffin commented that he felt we were already abiding by the NOLAN principles, that we were liaising closely with the Tree Officer at Wealden District Council and our contact at East Sussex Fire & Rescue (who lease the Jardin d'Aubers land to the parish council). The Clerk was actively seeking an ecologist to carry out a survey of the ponds at Jardin d'Aubers, and we had received some good suggestions from a local environmentalist – which would be considered in conjunction with WDC.
Cllr Griffin also explained his idea for having a decked walkway around the pond area so that it could be accessed by pushchairs or wheelchair users – which would have to have very careful planning for Health & Safety aspects. Area 6 was previously very overgrown and had intentions to plant shrubs with berries, to encourage nesting birds, as well as different varieties of trees, considering colour, structure and food for wildlife.
A dam may need to be included within the right-hand pond to assist with the creation of seasonal area that dries out, to encourage diverse wildlife.*

Cllr Morris advised that hedgehogs were almost non-existent in Wadhurst now, and any planting needed to be completed via a formal plan, agreed by all amenities and that seasonal ponds are a relatively rare habitat.

Cllr Anderson added that it would be useful to have a flow chart/plan to cover all eventualities. Cllr Griffin explained he would also be creating a paper to send to Sussex Lund fund who may be able to provide help and support. The lease with ESFR also needs to be renewed. Cllr Anderson thanked Cllr Griffin for all of his time, efforts and hard work with the Jardin, especially considering some of the negative comments received previously.

8. Items for discussion
None

9. Items for noting only
9.1 Update on painting of the bollards at Jardin d'Aubers – Cllr Gadd
Clerk advised that full council had previously agreed a contractor and the budget, however, that contractor could no longer carry out the work. Another contractor had been located and would be awarded the contract if agreed by full council 3.2.22.

9.2 To note Amenity Committee, spend to date against budget
Noted

10. Any new amenities issues
None

11. Urgent issues at the discretion of the Chair for noting or inclusion on future agenda
None

Meeting closed at 2103 hours.