

## WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT SPARROWS GREEN PAVILION ON THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Crawford (Chair), Cllr Griffin, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Gadd and Cllr Maggs

Also in attendance: Claudine Feltham, Clerk/RFO and Liz Dalrymple-White (Deputy Clerk).  
There were no members of the public present.

#### MINUTES

1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.  
*None received.*
2. To receive declarations of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.  
*Cllr Gadd declared an interest in respect of all items relating to Wadhurst Institute Hall and Field (WIHF) CIO as she is a Trustee.  
Cllr Anderson declared an interest in respect of agenda item 7.6 and would not take part in this item.*
3. Public Forum – time limit 15 minutes.  
*No members of the 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 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022.  
**Resolved:** *as proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded by Gadd and reach unanimous approval, the minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 were approved as a true record and signed.*
6. To determine matters arising from the previous minutes for updating and noting.
7. Items for decision and allocation of resources, if necessary.
  - 7.1 Tree works at Sparrows Green: to note the nesting bird survey and assessment report and consider the recommendations from Co-Ecology Ltd.  
*Members considered the recommendations of rom Co-Ecology Ltd and agreed with the purchase of bird and bat boxes.  
**Resolved:** as proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded by Cllr Gadd a budget of £250 budget was agreed with unanimous approval.  
**Action:** Cllr Griffin to contact Nicholas Craig who made the planters for the High Street to see if he would like to produce them.*
  - 7.2 Request to plant an oak tree (or alternative species) by Karen Butter in memorial of her brother Stephen Russell, either at Sparrows Green Recreation Ground or Jardin d'Aubers  
*Members considered the request. At present we have the issue that we do not have a current lease on the Jardin so we cannot plant anything here.*

*Members suggested the area at the rear of the recreation ground near the border, or in the vicinity of the sports wall, to help hide the view of the new houses. **Resolved/action:** as proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded by Cllr Gadd and reached unanimous approval, the Clerk will contact Mrs Butter to suggest these sites as options.*

7.3 Improvements required to the area around the new sports-wall grounds and access area behind this; for members to agree an appropriate method of works (the budget has already been agreed at full council 13.10.22) – Cllr Griffin/  
*Members noted that a budget of £3,000 was approved at 13.10.22 full council. Following discussion, it was decided that for the area of one yard around the sports wall surface, the area should be dug, road stone installed and compacted down, followed by grass matting to allow grass to grow through. There would also be the need for a 9-inch retaining sleeper where the land was higher.*

*The pathway through to adjoining field show also have roadstone installed as this was very messy. **Resolved:** Members agreed for the Clerk to obtain quotes from landscapers and to circulate them for approval of a contractor (by email) as the budget had already been approved. This was proposed by Cllr Gadd, seconded by Cllr Griffin and reached unanimous approval.*

7.4 Sussex Clubs for Young People – The Purple Bus – Clerk

*Following on from the recent incidents at Sparrows Green the Clerk looked into possible opportunities that the parish council could arrange for local children. This is just a suggestion: Sussex Club for young people – the purple bus. It is a modified welfare vehicle which can double as a minibus for up to 8 people. In the mid-section there is a table with seating for four, microwave, sink and hot water. In the rear section storage for gazebo, sports and craft equipment, tables and chairs. This can in effect be used a small mobile office, drop in space, pop up youth club and more. The services' detached workers can visit any location with or without the Purple Bus to engage with young people, provide positive activities, or just meet with them in their space to consult their views but also to help link them to services in their area. Normally over a period of 12 weeks our staff can target hot spots in a community where young people hang out, build relationships, challenge anti-social behaviour and provide information to support decision making and community safety partnerships. Positive activities can cover everything from art, craft, music, sports. 'The key is to make sure young people inform the choice of activity – if they tell us they like skateboarding then skateboarding it is. There is a lot more we can do but hopefully that is a starting point'. The cost would be approximately be £3500 for 12 weeks.*

*Members commented that in a previous Wealden document it was recognised that Wadhurst lacked green spaces and amenities for youths.*

*Cllr Gadd added if there was a skate park at Sparrows Green then it would have to be enclosed so that it could be locked at certain times.*

*Cllr Crawford mentioned that at Cousley Wood Cricket Club there were two large green spaces that maybe of use for a skate park.*

*The Clerk added that if these areas were close to any listed buildings, then she didn't think the parish council would be able to gain planning permission for a skate park in such locations.*

**Resolved/action:** *as proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded by Cllr Gadd and reached unanimous approval, the Clerk will look into the Purple Bus scheme in more detail and bring back to full council.*

#### 7.5 Automated gates at Sparrows Green – Cllr Gadd

*Cllr Gadd gave an overview of the idea of automated gates. Whilst this could be an expensive project it would mean we were not reliant on a Caretaker having to open and close every single morning and evening, it would also provide better security. Cllr Gadd has received two quotes, one at approximately £18,00 and another for significantly more.*

*Members approved that this was definitely worth looking into. **Resolved:** as proposed by Cllr Gadd, seconded by Cllr Crawford and reached unanimous approval, a budget of up to £24,999 was approved for this project. **Action:** Cllr Gadd to make further enquiries and obtain additional quotes.*

*Cllr Anderson and Cllr Gadd did not take part in the next item.*

#### 7.6 To consider the quotes for the grass cutting/maintenance of Jubilee playground and area underneath the Beacon at Washwell Lane (grass to be mown, rather than strimmed, and with all cuttings removed, fortnightly, between March and end of October.

*Members considered the quotes and commented on what a great job Reuben Anderson had recently carried out at the Jubilee play area.*

**Resolved:** *After deliberation it was decided to award the regular work to Ewen Cameron at a cost of £55 per time. Worked to be carried out on a fortnightly basis between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023. This was proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded by Cllr Crawford and reached unanimous approval.*

**Comment:** *if additional works are required then Reuben Anderson can be considered.*

#### 7.7 Jardin d'Aubers

##### 7.7.1 Jardin d'Aubers Management Plan – as requested by East Sussex Highways in order for them to consider installing oil filters in the drains.

**Action:** *After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Griffin and the Clerk would create a document, using the original report by Cllr Griffin, the report by Kent Bottony and the Tree inspection report.*

##### 7.7.2 Japanese knotweed around the ponds – Cllr Griffin

*Cllr Griffin provided members with an update on this situation. **Resolved:** as proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded by Cllr Crawford and reached unanimous approval, the Clerk would contact the contractor used as Buxted and ask for an independent inspection and report. **Action:** Clerk. **Comment:** Cllr Griffin offered to meet contractor on site.*

7.7.3. To accept the conditions from the Forestry Commission for tree works required at Jardin d'Aubers

The Clerk advised that the revised conditions from the Forestry Commission were as follows:  
*Condition A: Restock on felled area.*

*The following conditions apply to the licenced felling in 2.*

*1. Before 30th June Two full growing seasons following cutting the land on which the felling took place must be:*

*a. prepared for planting*

*b. Planted with 60% oak (robur/petraea) 20% mixed broadleaves ground to achieve 2-5 new trees for each mature tree felled.*

*2. For a period of 10 years from the planting:*

*a. The plants must be protected against damage and be adequately weeded.*

*b. Any failure or losses should be replaced as necessary to provide a stocking of 2-5 new trees for each mature tree felled.*

*c. Any replanting must be maintained in accordance with the rules and practice of good forestry.*

*Cllr Griffin expressed that this was different to the last email received from the Forestry Commission.*

**Resolved;** Members agreed for the Clerk to write to the Forestry Commission to explain we did not accept these conditions. **Action:** Clerk and Cllr Griffin to liaise.

*Cllr Gadd did not take part in the next two agenda items.*

7.8-To approve for RoSPA Play Safety Ltd to carry out the annual inspections of the new Jubilee play area (due summer 2023)

**Resolved:** as proposed by Cllr Anderson, seconded by Griffin and reach unanimous approval, RoSPA to be instructed to do the annual inspections of Washwell Lane play area (Jubilee playground).

7.9-Request for matting to be installed under the grass between the path and the Jubilee play area and in front of the bench/es by the play area – Cllr Crawford/Cllr Griffin

**Resolved/action:** as proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded by Anderson and reached unanimous approval, the Clerk will obtain quotes from a contractor for the installation of grass matting.

7.10 Request for lockable display board within WIHF toilets – Cllr Crawford/Cllr Griffin

**Deferred:** Cllr Griffin explained that there is potential for a refurbishment of the toilets, and as such the display board should be deferred for the time being.

7.11 Request for an interpretation board at the Commemoration Hall, as requested by John Mitchell - Cllr Crawford/Cllr Griffin

**Deferred:** Members considered this request. There is a board which is currently being used by the Neighbourhood Plan, and this will become available in the future, and could be a good use as an interpretation board.

7.12 Request for Cllrs to recommend any local builders, who can be contacted by the Clerk, to ask to quote for future toilets refurbishment at the Commemoration Hall (*may be part of a tender process dependent upon value*).

*Cllr Griffin advised that the previous quotes were very high and considered whether the components should be broken down. Action: Members approved for Cllr Griffin to meet with Cllr Anderson to consider the requirements. Action: Clerk to advertise on the website for local contractors to quote for the works. Action: Clerk: to send the PQQ to Cllr Gadd.*

7.13 Review of fees and charges for use of Pavilion – Clerk

**Resolved:** As proposed by Cllr Anderson, seconded by Cllr Gadd and reached unanimous approval, members considered the current fees and charges and decided for no changes at this time, although to bear in mind fuel charges when next reviewing.

8. Items for discussion

8.1 Process for connecting to mains sewer – Clerk

*The Clerk gave an overview of the processes and approximated costs relating to connecting to the mains sewers.*

**Action:** Clerk to meet with Coppards on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022. **Action:** Clerk to continue other enquiries and get quotes from Moody Sewage for replacement pumps.

**Action:** Clerk to provide further update to full council on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

9. Items for noting only

9.1 Carpets at the Pavilion – have been professionally cleaned

*Noted*

9.2 To note Amenity Committee, spend to date against budget

*Noted*

9.3 To note that Bob Penny has carried out works required from the RoSPA inspection, and further works are due to be carried out by Playdale Ltd

*Noted*

10. Any new amenities issues

*None*

11. Urgent issues at the discretion of the Chair for noting or inclusion on future agenda.

**Resolved:** as proposed by Cllr Crawford, seconded by Cllr Griffin and reached unanimous approval, the lease for the public toilet provision at the Commemoration Hall should be for 6 years and 5 months as previously agreed, and not 7 years (which all members agreed that this was simply an error at the full council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022). This means the new lease will finish in line with the financial year.

**Meeting closed at 2126 hours**