



Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION GROUNDS COMMITTEE** held at 8.20pm on 9th September 2009, in the Douglas Hicks Room, The Radlett Centre, Aldenham Avenue, Radlett.

Present: Councillors C. Wilkins (Chairman), Mrs A Baker, Mrs G. Balen, J Howley, D Lambert & Mrs E. Wackrow

Officers: P Evans (Clerk).
F Hills (Head of Grounds Maintenance)

Also present were Cllr R Worthy (ex-officio), E Sandham (HertsmereBC), Mrs A Marques (Green Heart Partnership), PC P Tuck (Herts. Police) and six parishioners.

Prior to the meeting there was a presentation from HertsmereBC with regards to the Community Shelters proposed for three sites in Hertsmere. E Sandham concentrated on the Radlett structure, which it is hoped will be situated in Phillimore Recreation Ground, Gills Hill. All of those present were able to ask questions and copies of the design were available. PC P Tuck spoke regarding the concerns on anti-social behaviour, and Mrs A Marques answered questions on the design. Cllr C Wilkins thanked them for the presentation, and then the full meeting commenced.

277. Apologies for absence – all present.

278. Declarations of Interest.

Personal – None, Prejudicial – None.

279. To adjourn the meeting for members of the public to address the Committee (in accordance with Standing Order 13.9).

Three parishioners spoke regarding the community shelter. Whilst all of them felt that the design was acceptable, there were concerns that this structure will attract anti-social behaviour. A suggestion was made that the structure be made in a way that it could be removed at night if problems did occur.

280. To decide whether to accept the design for the Community Shelter which Hertsmere Borough Council wish to place in the Phillimore Recreation Ground.

Whilst in general the Councillors accepted the design, concerns were raised regarding whether the Council had been asked for formal permission to site the shelter in Phillimore Recreation Ground. Members also felt that, although the youths had been asked for an input at the consultation day in June, there was not evidence to show that the local residents had had an opportunity to comment. Members questioned the fact that as the Council decision needed to be made on the 29th September, there was only a short period for these persons to be informed and raise any concerns they had. After further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

- a) That this committee recommends that this structure is placed at Phillimore Recreation Ground subject to further public consultation.***
- b) That HertsmereBC send a letter to all local residents to Phillimore Recreation Ground detailing the proposals, drawing their attention to where further details can be obtained and to steer them to Aldenhams Parish Council with any observations.***

281. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th July 2009.

These minutes were signed by Cllr C Wilkins as a true record of that meeting.

282. To receive and adopt the minutes of the Footpaths Walk Booklet working party meeting of 21st July & 11th August 2009.

Copies of the minutes had been previously circulated. These minutes were adopted. Cllr C Wilkins also gave a verbal report on the meeting held on the 3rd September, the minutes of which will be confirmed at the next meeting.

283. Clerk's Report.

This report had been previously circulated, and was noted. Cllr D Lambert had agreed to accept the nomination as Vice Chairman.

284. Head of Grounds Maintenance Report

Mr F Hills gave a verbal report.

Mr F Hills was asked to chase up the No Dogs signs and hitching rails for dogs, and to look at using the signs provided by HertsmereBC for information purposes.



285. To consider the latest Financial Statements and Budget Report.

The Clerk updated members with the latest figures, plus a report, which was duly noted.

286. To receive a report on the site visit to the Rose Field and to decide on any further action to be taken in this area.

This report had been previously circulated. Some points were asked for clarification before the following was

Resolved:

- a) The ground staff installs a strong fence along the lines that are obvious currently.***
- b) That the remaining area on parish council land is cleared of all debris, and either returned to the owners (if known) or disposed of.***
- c) That a regular inspection is made by the Clerk or other appointed officer to ensure that no damage or further encroachment is made in this area.***

287. To make a recommendation to HertsCC regarding the use of Section 106 monies allocated to Aldenham from the Wall Hall development.

A report on this matter had been previously circulated. After discussion it was therefore

Resolved:

- a) That the Clerk informs HertsCC (owners of the said land) of the plans for improvements at Aldenham Green.***
- b) That the Clerk requests that the section 106 monies are released from HertsmereBC to Aldenham Parish Council.***

288. To formulate a policy on filming on Parish Council land.

This item had been carried forward from the previous meeting. The Clerk had circulated a draft based upon members' comments. After further discussion it was

Resolved:

- a) That all approaches for hire of any land owned or leased by Aldenham Parish Council must be directed to the Clerk.***
- b) That all charges are based upon the appropriate rate for the industry.***
- c) All hirers must complete an application form for hire, must indemnify the Council from any public liability claim made against it due to the actions of the hirer, at the time and within three months of the hire.***



- d) That a copy of the insurance schedule is sent with the hire agreement and that public indemnity insurance must be at least £10m.**
- e) That all land will be re-instated to its former condition, or else the deposit is forfeited.**
- f) That a deposit of £500 is lodged with the council when the application for hire is made.**

289. To decide on a response to the HertsCC consultation document – 'Proposal to make changes to Public Rights of Way in Shenley, Elstree & Borehamwood.

This matter had been reviewed by Cllr D Lambert who advised that in principle the proposals were sound.

It was then

Resolved that the Clerk informs HertsCC that the Council has no objections to these proposals.

290. To receive a report regarding the possible uses for Cobden Hill and Wellhouse Dells.

The Clerk reported on a visit that he and Cllrs C Wilkins & J Howley had made to the Dells with a member of Groundworks Herts, with a view to investigating what uses these areas may have. Cllr C Wilkins added that whilst adventurous play was difficult, the advice was that it could become an ecological area for school visits etc. However, some prelim work needed to be carried out. It was therefore;

Resolved that the Clerk obtains cost of a feasibility study on a possible educational site in the Dells.

291. To set the fees for the Parish Council Allotments for 2009/10, and review the tenancy agreement.

A copy of the current tenancy agreement which included the fees had been previously circulated. As this had been scrutinized last year, it was

Resolved:

- a) The following sentence is added 'At least two thirds of the plot must be under cultivation (not grass or other ornamental use) at any one time'.***
- b) That the fees remain at £25 for a whole plot, and £15 per half plots.***
- c) That in future any free plots are let only as half plots.***



292. To receive a request to extend the football pitch at the MUGA on Phillimore Recreation Ground.

The Clerk had circulated a paper on this matter prior to the meeting. In essence the current football pitch on the MUGA is too small according to the users. In order to increase usage the Clerk had requested some quotes for extending the pitch and on placing openings/gates at the car park end which would enable users to enter from that end thus allowing the pavilion gates to be locked when the groundstaff left.

After discussion it was

Resolved:

- a) That in principle the Committee supports the extension of the football pitch at the MUGA in order to increase its usage.***
- b) That the Clerk contacts funding authorities to see if grants are available.***
- c) That the Committee add this project to its 'wish list' when it considers the 2010/11 budget proposal.***

The Chairman then moved the following resolution;

Those under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s 1(2), the press and public are excluded from the meeting whilst matters pertaining to employees of the council are discussed.

293. Staffing matters regarding pay and conditions of service.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.08pm

Chairman

Dated

Date of next meeting 11th November 2009.