



West Grinstead Parish Council

OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING

Partridge Green Village Hall

Wednesday 10th August 2011

at 7.30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: - Councillors: Mr. R. Hill (new Chairman), Mrs. C. Watts (new Vice-Chairman), Mr. D. Green, , Mr. N. Berry, Mrs H. Bullingham, Mrs O. Izzard, Mr D. Pearless, Mr J. De Little, Mrs G. Nash and Mr. A. Russ.

One member of the public.

Clerk: Mrs. H. Dayneswood.

General Items

OS_062/11 Apologies: Cllr: Mr. G. Taylor.

OS_063/11 Election of Chairman of Open Spaces Committee

Following the resignation of Cllr Childs from the Parish Council, it was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Green, seconded Cllr. Bullingham) that Cllr Hill be appointed Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee for the rest of 2011/2012.

OS_064/11 Election of Vice Chairman of Open Spaces Committee

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Green, seconded Cllr. Hill) that Cllr Watts be appointed Vice Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee for the rest of 2011/2012.

OS_065/11 Chairman's Announcements: none

OS_066/11 Minutes:

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Kanabus, seconded Cllr. Watts) that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2011 be approved as a true record.

Meeting Of King George V Playing Field Trustees

OS_067/11 Declarations of Interest- KGV Business

Cllrs Hill and Russ each declared a personal interest in relation to membership of the Sports & Social Club.

OS_068/11 New Equipment for the KGV Playground

One of the parents involved in the recent fete attended the meeting to discuss how money raised by the fete could be put towards new equipment and/or surfacing in the playground. She presented her ideas and research so far. She explained that it would be easier to get funding if the whole playground was renewed. She was working on getting three quotes. Initial discussions with playground companies had revealed that the whole playground could be replaced for about £30,000 to £40,000. Some companies provided a service whereby for an up-front fee of £100 they would help source the funding.

Other points discussed included:

- a) Could keep the current adventure trail pieces and located elsewhere in the park.
- b) Could sell off some of the old equipment.
- c) Choose metal and plastic equipment rather than wood for lower maintenance costs.
- d) Consider using chippings rather than safety surface for lower maintenance costs. If it was decided to have a large area of safety surface, local residents would need re-assurance that it would not worsen flooding problems in the area.
- e) The 'Friends of KGV' group to link up with the Fete Committee to progress the planning of the playground.
- f) Any turf that needs to be removed could be taken up the Allotments site.
- g) Where possible if the Parish Council applied for funding, then VAT can be reclaimed.
- h) Talk to funding sources such as Viridor, Biffa, Awards for All and Villages SOS.
- i) Seek funding advice from Mr Howard Collins at HDC.

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Green, seconded Cllr. Nash) that the Open Spaces Committee were happy for the research on replacing the KGV playground to be continued.

OS_069/11 Fishing in the KGV Pond

A local resident had been due to attend the meeting to put forwards some ideas but was not able to come on the night.

OS_070/11 Matters Arising: none

OS_071/11 Correspondence: none

OS_072/11 Rules & Regulations for Playing Fields

In response to recent golf-playing in KGV, consider adopting the recommended rules and regulations suggested by Fields in Trust. It was decided not to take any action.

OS_073/11 Progressing the 'Friends of KGV' Group

Cllr. Izzard reported that this was progressing well and several people were getting involved (representing a good cross-section of the community). Many ideas were being generated, including:

- a) Do a leaflet drop about the KGV playing fields.
- b) Clear the perimeter of the field of overgrown vegetation (since the meeting, this has already been done).
- c) Send a questionnaire to parishioners.
- d) Set up a 'Friends of KGV' web site.
- e) Fund-raising activities, e.g., car boot sale.
- f) Other events, e.g., a mini Olympics.
- g) Asking Brinsbury College whether they would like to get involved with landscaping.

OS_074/11 KGV Maintenance

- a) KGV playground. As the plan now was to renew the playground, it was decided to only undertake necessary short-term maintenance. ***The Clerk to liaise with Cllr Watts re: replacing the worn junior swing seat and the rusted cradle swing seat.***
- b) Still awaiting written report from Mr T. Boxall (WSCC Highways) on drainage in area of the KGV pond. It was suggested that Hazel Bedford be contacted to check if there are any old maps that could shed light on the issue. ***Cllr Hill offered to action this.***
- c) Repair of the joint in the middle of the outlet pipe in the KGV pond. A fix has been made by a local resident and seems to be sufficient.
- d) Ongoing item. ***Cllrs Bullingham, Watts and Izzard to speak with some of the skateramp users*** to see if they would be interested in working with the recommended graffiti artist Mr Duncan Weston to develop more tasteful graffiti on the skateramp.

OS_075/11 Update on KGV User Groups, Leases etc.

Cllr Russ gave an update on the recent meeting between the KGV user groups and the Parish Council. Various issues were discussed. There was general agreement that it would be good to keep talking and try to work together more. This could result in savings for the Sports and Social Club (SSC) and small savings for the Parish Council. Grass cutting was one activity that could be organised more cost effectively. ***Cllr Russ offered to investigate the cost of buying a machine suitable for cutting the grass in KGV.***

Although the current lease between the SSC had expired, it was agreed that the Clerk should invoice the SSC the same amount at previously for the half-year pavilion rent payment.

OS_076/11 Other KGV Business: A reminder that if anyone sees the KGV main gates left unlocked when there is no organised activity taking place, to get in touch with the Parish Council a.s.a.p.

Parish Council Business

OS_077/11 Declarations of Interest – WGPC Business : none

OS_078/11 Matters Arising:

- a) The Clerk updated members on the new arrangement for the storage of full green sacks used by Village Tidier, while awaiting collection by HDC.
- b) The Clerk updated members on the proposal to move the millennium sign and dog bin on the green at the junction of Mill Lane and Littleworth Lane plus the installation of a curved bench around the sign.
- c) There was discussion about whether the Downs Link route could be joined up in Partridge Green, possible adding a cycle path and extra signs. ***It was agreed that the Open Spaces Committee should meet at 7pm on site, on the***

night of the next Open Spaces Committee (14th Sep) to check what would possible. Meet at the junction of Star Road and Bines Road.

OS_079/11 Correspondence: deferred to next meeting.

OS_080/11 Partridge Green Youth Club

Cllrs Green and Hill plus the Clerk had recently met with the WSCC “Youth Worker in Charge” (Carla Irving) to discuss the details of running the PG Youth Club from September 2011 onwards.

The draft contract between WSCC and the Parish Council had not been customised adequately by WSCC and was at variance with some of the agreements made to date. *Cllr Green and the Clerk to edit the contract and return it to WSCC.*

To handle the payment of invoices to WSCC for the youth worker plus the handling of petty cash and float needed by the Youth Club, it was agreed the Parish Council should set up a separate bank account for the PG Youth Club and that the current members of the Finance Committee should be the signatories.

It was agreed that a once per term meeting of a few councillors, a few parents and the youth worker would be helpful for the smooth running of the club.

OS_081/11 New Parking Area at Oakwood Green

Members discussed the proposal from the Transport Working Group and the sample quotation of costs. The quote for the main parking area was £21,020. It was suggested that the cost could be substantially reduced if grasscrete rather than tarmac was used. However, Cllr Berry was not sure WSCC would accept the use of grasscrete in that location.

Cllr Berry to check on that issue at the next “Traffic in Rural Villages” meeting.

OS_082/11 Dial Post Issues: none

OS_083/11 Christmas Lights 2012

The new oak tree lights for PG High Street that were previously approved are in fact not suitable for external use. New quotation being sought from another supplier (Saimol).

OS_084/11 Jolesfield Common

A meeting is due to take place on 22nd August to attempt to resolve the problem of flooding over the road next to the pond in Jolesfield.

OS_085/11 Other Items to Report (information only)

Cllr Watts reported that there will soon be a salt bin at the end of Finches Close. When it has been installed, the *Clerk to ask WSCC to fill it.*

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Next Open Spaces meeting: **Wed 14th September** 2011, 7.30 p.m., Partridge Green Village Hall.

Signed as a true record.....Date.....