



West Grinstead Parish Council

OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING

Partridge Green Village Hall

Wednesday 12th May 2010

at 7.30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: - Councillors: Mr. A. Childs (Chairman), Mr. R. Hill (Vice Chairman), Mr. M. Sheath, Mrs. C. Watts, Mrs H. Bullingham, Mr. N. Berry, Mrs. G. Nash and Mr. A. Russ.
Clerk: Mrs. H. Dayneswood.

OS_001/10 **Apologies:** Cllrs: Mr. D. Green, Mr. G. Taylor, Mr. C. Neal and Mr P. Kanabus.

OS_002/10 **Declarations of Interest:** none

OS_003/10 **Chairman's Announcements:** none

OS_004/10 **Minutes:**

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Russ, seconded Cllr. Hill) that the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2010 be approved as a true record.

OS_005/10 **Matters Arising:**

- a) It was noted that Washington PC had recently managed to get WSCC to clear a ditch and charge the landowner responsible.
- b) A resident in West Grinstead hamlet had been in contact with HDC about litter clearing in the WG area. HDC had undertaken some clearing in the area.

OS_006/10 **Correspondence:**

- a) Written Report from recent 'Hidden Britain' meeting. Cllr Berry had attended the meeting and gave a summary of the scheme. An organisation run by the English Tourist Board has been given £25,000 to spend on projects to promote tourism in areas not currently on the tourist map. The Downs Link has been identified as one possible project – the aim being to draw more tourists and shoppers into the area. It was agreed that it would be good for WGPC to be involved in this project and Cllr Berry was happy to be the representative. ***The Clerk to advise the Hidden Britain group.***
- b) Cllr David Holmes: Improving the safety of cycling and cycling facilities across the District. If anyone has any suggestions for improvements on this theme please contact either Cllr Holmes or the Clerk.
- c) Reply from local resident re: hedge cutting in Church Lane. The resident was making efforts to prune back the encroaching hedge. Re-assess the situation in the autumn.

OS_007/10 **Transport to Hospitals Scheme**

Cowfold Parish Council runs a scheme whereby patients using the Cowfold practice of the Cowfold Medical Group can request lifts to hospital. However, as they only have one volunteer driver, she cannot also cope with requests from patients using the Oakleigh practice. The Cowfold Clerk suggested that WGPC might like to setup a scheme to cover Partridge Green patients. Members were concerned about insurance aspects of setting up a scheme – ***the Clerk to ask the Cowfold Clerk how they organise the scheme in Cowfold. The Clerk also to ask the Cowfold Medical Group to amend the item on their web site to make the coverage clearer.***

OS_008/10 **Risk Assessment for Trees**

Mr Will Jones (Arboricultural Officer at HDC) had suggested that parish councils might like to adopt a 'traffic light' scheme for surveying trees under their care. Trees in highest risk areas to be surveyed every year (red), trees in medium risk areas to be surveyed every three years (amber) and trees in the lowest risk areas to be surveyed every five years (green). WGPC is responsible for trees in KGV, Jolesfield Common and the parish graveyard next to St. Michael's church. As some trees overlooking the allotments area will need to be surveyed shortly by a tree consultant, it would make sense to link the two activities together. ***The Clerk to liaise with Cllr Russ about this.***

OS_009/10 Parish Plan Actions

A recycling bin for clothes and shoes had recently been introduced to the Partridge Green Village Hall car park. This was already just about full. *The Clerk to arrange for it to be emptied.*

OS_010/10 Dial Post Issues: none

The outdoor theatre group “The Rude Mechanicals” is returning to Dial Post green on Thursday 8th July 2010. Tickets are available from Mrs Pauline Saunders on 01403 710908.

OS_011/10 Allotments Update

Cllr Russ updated members on the progress of preparation of the allotments. HDC Development South Committee will decide on the 20 to 35 plot upgrade application on 18th May. General advice re: tree safety in the allotments area had been received and further advice on specific trees will be required from a registered tree consultant. The water supply and the lease for the land are being progressed. *The Clerk/Cllr Russ to update Mr David Marshall (land agent for the landowners) on the current state of play.*

**MEETING OF KING GEORGE V
PLAYING FIELD TRUSTEES**

OS_012/10 Declarations of Interest:

Cllrs Russ, Hill and Sheath all expressed an interest, due to their membership of the Sports & Social Club.

OS_013/10 Matters Arising:

The revised date suggested to the Scouts Group to hold their AGM in the playing fields is Sunday 5th September 2010. Cllr Russ currently waiting for Mr Carey to report back on the suitability of that date.

OS_014/10 Correspondence:

- a) Information only: Request from HDC for direction on whether the existing Scout Hut application should be withdrawn or be referred back to HDC Development South Planning Committee. Information requested by 25th May 2010. (To be decided at the May full Parish Council meeting.)
- b) Wicksteed: reply to report of accident on the Storm Multiplay Cyclone System in the PG KGV playground. Wicksteed maintained that it was designed for age 6 upwards and children of age 4 should not be able to climb onto the piece of equipment without assistance. However, members were not satisfied with the reply. There was debate about whether it would be a good idea to erect a minimum age sign for the piece of equipment. *The Clerk to seek advice from SALC.*

OS_015/10 KGV Maintenance:

- a) The Clerk reported that the slide was getting quite old and the wooden parts of the structure were rotting quite significantly. The Clerk to research the cost of replacing the slide.
- b) Advice from Mr Graham Ebelewicz (Street Sports Development Officer at HDC) about the current safety status of the skateramp was that it was “a tricky one to call”. BMX bikers should have no problem with a surface that had become somewhat more worn/pitted. If skateboarders don’t like the surface, they would just stop using it anyway. Members agreed there seemed to be no immediate safety issue but the situation should continue to be monitored via the weekly visual inspections. *The Clerk to obtain another quote for re-plying* to compare with the existing quote from 3BRamps.
- c) The drainage issues connected with the pond had become quite complex and a number of parties were now involved. It was agreed that a meeting should be set up to discuss the issues. Invitees: Mr K. Price, Mr R. Van der Werff, Mr Kemply, Mr T. Boxall (WSCC), representative from the WSCC Property Dept, Mr M. Brightwell (HDC Land Drainage Authority), representative from the Environment Agency, Cllr Alan Childs and the Clerk. *The Clerk to arrange the meeting* and ask people to bring any maps/plans they possess of the KGV pond area.

OS_016/10 Partridge Green Fete 2010:

Cllr Bullingham reported that plans were all progressing very well for the fete.

The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

Next Open Spaces meeting: **Wed 9th** June 2010, 7.30 p.m., Partridge Green Village Hall.

Signed as a true copy.....Date.....