

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD 2 JULY 2019

Councillors Present: Cllr Ian Corben, Cllr Jim Mitchell, Cllr Derek Pretty (Chairman), Cllr Jane Welsh, Cllr Geoff Westgarth

In attendance: George Baker – WLNR, Eddie Poore – Hedge End Bowling Club

P883 Apologies: Cllr Maggie Allingham, Cllr Keith House, Cllr Cliff Morris

P884 To consider the Minutes of the meeting held 18 June 2019

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2019 be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

P885 Correspondence

Request from the Berry Theatre for support to their Hedge End Residents day with £2,000 from the budget allocation. **RESOLVED: That this is definitely supported with the £2,000 requested.**

Cllr Westgarth enquired as to how this would be advertised for the adults.

P886 Unauthorised Encampments

Cllr Pretty introduced the report that was previously circulated outlining the key issues in relation to the recent encampments and the costs incurred as a result of this.

Whilst there are a number of options for each of the sites, these would need to be met from the existing budgets as there is no budget set aside for these works.

George Baker outlined that he has been working with the residents and have compiled their own lessons learnt:

- Preventative Barriers must be substantial
- The Police are not proactive in managing situations
- The Unauthorised encampment use the legal position to gain access during bank holiday weekends, what can be done about this
- The encampments make no regard for the environment

Cllr Pretty asked for councillors to consider the prioritisation of sites with his preference for Greta Park and Drummond Community Centre whilst noting that we are not trying to make Hedge End look unsightly and like a fortress.

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Cllr Corben was disappointed that we were having to spend money on preventative measures, however, recognises that the situation necessitates doing so. He outlined that Councils are always going to be criticised for not doing enough and preventative measures were taken the last time this occurred which were still not sufficient with the encampment digging out the barriers. Cllr Corben would like to ensure that the document is reviewed periodically to ensure that all sites are kept up to standard.

Cllr Welsh spoke about the issues associated with the recent encampment and even though preventative measures were in place they still managed to gain access. The police were in attendance quite a lot of the time and were providing reassurance to the public.

Cllr Corben noted that on passing Greta Park last night the gate was left open and this leaves the site vulnerable to another encampment. Cllr Corben asked if the Town Council staff could be on hand to ensure that the site is secure. The fair is expected to leave on Tuesday. **RESOLVED: The Town Clerk to request staff presence on site for Tuesday whilst the fair leaves.**

Cllr Pretty outlined that the Fair are responsible for site security whilst they are there and have paid a bond to this effect.

2000 Centre is unlikely to be high risk being so close to the Police Station.

Allotments are managed reasonably well by the allotment holders and the gates are always closed on entry and exit

Beattie Rise has some open space on the Beattie Rise end which would benefit from a drop post on the pathway. **RESOLVED: Town Clerk to explore this option with Hampshire County Council.**

Dowd's Farm is less secure as it is knee high post and rail on County Land. Given that this is less high risk and the current measures are on county council owned land any new preventative measures would need to be inside this line which could alter the aesthetics of the park.

Drummond – this item is also referred to in the later papers on parking enforcement as there is a preference from the clerk to install an overhead barrier. Cllr Corben would like to make sure that the padlocks are sufficient to deter people. **RESOLVED: Install a combined low high barrier.**

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Councillors discussed the options for Greta Park including how the posts were removed. The committee felt that the boulders and planting would be the most sympathetic visually with the most impact. Councillors discussed the measures on Sowden Close and if this was appropriate agreeing that the current Manchester bollard was. **RESOLVED: That boulders and planting are installed to the side of the existing gate. The posts are to be left in place.**

HEYCA is unlikely to experience an unauthorised encampment being so close to the police station.

Norman Rodaway already has a combined high low barrier which should be sufficient.

St Johns Recreation – considered low risk as is close to the police station.

Turnpike – already has a combined high low barrier which should be sufficient

Woodhouse Lane – already has a combined high low barrier which the padlock needs reviewing.

Councillors had a discussion about registering the town council owned land. It was proposed that Greta Park was the first on the list to be registered. **RESOLVED: The Town Clerk provides the committee a list of the unregistered land so the committee are able to prioritise. The Town Clerk to get an exact figure for Greta Park. The committee were minded to explore local solicitors costs.**

A copy of the report to be appended to the minutes.

P887 Parking Enforcement

Cllr Pretty introduced the previously circulated report and looked at the parking issues at each of the sites. Councillors discussed the paper and the options available. The sites being considered with the most complaints are HEYCA, Woodhouse Lane and possibly 2000 Centre.

Cllr Corben felt that the ANPR was the most cost-effective solution although we would need to ensure that people were made aware that a new scheme was going to be installed so there weren't caught out.

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The Town Clerk outlined how the system works in that the camera was installed by the company and signage put in place in advance and then all cars are leafleted leading up to the cameras being turned on.

Eddie Poore from Hedge End Bowling Club spoke about concerns that a time limit on the parking would place limitations on the club for match days that can last all day. Cllr Pretty outlined that this could be overcome by having a Monday to Friday criteria meaning that match days at the weekend would be accessible for longer. **RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk explores this with the companies as this obviously affects the potential revenue generation if the cameras are turned off for extended periods.**

Eddie Poore asked that if this is not taken forward then could the Town Council consider re-instating the signage that used to be at Woodhouse Lane.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk seeks the necessary competitive quotes for September committee.

P888 Gazette Advertising

Hannah introduced the previously circulated report. Cllr Pretty asked that a quarter page horizontal was included in the offer. Councillors agreed to remove the half page option. **RESOLVED: To remove the half page option and include a quarter page horizontal option.**

There was a general consensus that the rates are too low. Councillors discussed if there should be differing rates for Local and National Businesses. The suggestion was to increase each of the local business rates by 50%. **RESOLVED: To amend the Local Rates to £50 and £100. It was agreed that National Business would remain as proposed with preferential on Local companies.**

Councillors discussed the option for purchasing for multiple editions of the gazette. There was a proposal to limit to 2 insertions during a year. **RESOLVED: That this was limited to 2 insertions per year.**

Councillors agreed that there shouldn't be more than one of any type of advert at one time i.e. not having two adverts for the same type of provision. **RESOLVED: That this was included in the media pack.**

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P889 Matters for Resolution

- a) HEYCA Refurbishment – Cllr Pretty spoke about the work that had already taken place to complete essential remedial works. The proposal is to seek a Public Works Loan for £45k over 5 years and go with the preferred supplier.

Cllr Welsh disagreed with the proposals to spend more money on the building and potential increases in hire charges which would price them out of being able to hire.

Cllr Corben felt that the building was tired and in need of renovation. Councillors discussed the situation with the current hires and if the Town Council are losing hirers as a result of the condition. The Town Clerk outlined that no new hires are being accepted as the building is not fit for purpose.

Councillors expressed a preference for a preferred supplier. **RESOLVED: References and quality assurance for the preferred supplier to be taken up.**

Councillors discussed the options for a loan and the advantages/disadvantages of the length of term. Cllr Pretty proposed a five-year term. **RESOLVED: The Town Clerk to progress an application for a 5-year term for £45k.**

- b) HEYCA Kitchen Requirements – HEWEB have proposed £20k for the refurbishment of the kitchen to enable them to run Health & Well-being Café.

Councillors discussed the benefits of having a stainless-steel kitchen as opposed to a normal fitted kitchen. This was considered the most suitable option. Councillors were happy with the electric oven option. **RESOLVED: Quotes are sought from three companies.**

Councillors agreed that the name of HEYCA is changed to The Old School House. **RESOLVED: all references to be changed to The Old School House.**

- c) Hampshire County Council Budget Consultation

Councillors discussed the HCC Budget Consultation paper and proposed the responses in the attached consultation response document. **RESOLVED: The Town Clerk to submit the responses.**

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 21:15 hours.