

Hacombe-with-Combe Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Hearn Field Committee held on 20 September 2023

Present: Cllr R Hussey (Chairman), Cllr M Wakefield, Charlotte Bouchard, Liz Deane, Annie Drew, Simon Guppy & Mike Melville-Shreeve

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

HF200923.01

APOLOGIES

- Cllr Humble
- Cllr Evans

Members noted that Tim Boarer has resigned from the Hearn Field Committee.

Liz Deane read the following statement:

Tim Boarer has recently decided to step back from his involvement with the Hearn Field as a committee member. He will be greatly missed.

He has served on the committee for many years, latterly also as chair of the Parish Council .

His contribution to the smooth running and development of Field has been exceptional. His expertise, experience, calm common sense and practical skills have been invaluable. We mention only a few here. As a committee, we have always relied on Tim to come to our rescue for fallen down trees, blocked drains, faulty taps , broken gates and a host of other challenges that would otherwise have been costly to deal with. He shied away from praise and gratitude but has been an example of volunteering at its best.

He was instrumental in the purchase of the mower and provided its ongoing service and repair. It has now paid for itself many times over (with the help of our resident mower driver!)

His was the huge responsibility for the safe handling of the fireworks for our annual bonfire celebrations... he also managed teams of volunteers in the building of some spectacular but carefully managed bonfires .

When the council received very costly quotes to repair the Sea Wall he formed a team of volunteers and provided his own equipment and took on annual checks and repairs where required.

It was his vision that led to the development of the wonderful and greatly admired Woodshed/bar and he gave much of his own time and skill in bringing it to completion. It is an example of 'repurposing' at its creative best. We are very grateful for these and many contributions to our community facility and hope that we can continue to call on him from time to time!

HF200923.02

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of their responsibility to continually update their Notice of Registerable Interests and to declare any disclosable interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they have in any items to be considered at this meeting.

There were no declarations of interest.

HF200923.03

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Members approved and signed the minutes of the Hearn Field Committee Meeting held on 27 June 2023.

HF200923.04

COVID RECOVERY FUNDS

Members considered some initial draft proposals for how Covid recovery funds might benefit (attached).

It was agreed that further research and community engagement was required to help prioritise ideas.

In the meantime, it was agreed that the outside toilet needs more urgent maintenance.

The clerk reminded members that the Council had already included £2000 for general repairs and maintenance in this years' budget. Similarly, a sum of £3000 was already included in the budget for repairs/replacement of the double doors.

It was agreed to consolidate ideas over the next two weeks with a view to putting out some of those ideas to the community for feedback.

HF200923.05

WOODSHED COFFEE BAR

Cllr Wakefield reported that there was nothing further to add to the report to the Parish Council. The road closure this week has been impacting trade.

HF200923.06

THEATRE

Charlotte reported visits to other theatre groups have been made over the summer; provisional dates have been penciled in but nothing is committed. There is a good mix of genres to suit all audiences and it is hoped to have four or five events between June and September. Contracts will not need to be signed until January.

HF200923.07

EVENTS

7.1 Bonfire Night Event

This will be held on Sunday 5th November.

The fireworks have been ordered. 460 tickets will be sold + 40 volunteers. Liz will apply for the TENS licence. There will be a 50p increase on tickets: £6.50 adults and £3.50 for children. Doors will open at 5.30pm, bonfire will be lit at 6.30pm and fireworks will be lit at 7pm.

Team leads and volunteers need to be organised for the event and to clean up after the event. There will be an event planning meeting at the end of the month. Cllr Hussey to arrange a date.

7.2 Village Show

An initial application for a premises licence has been completed specifying times that the licence would apply. There then followed a general discussion about the benefits and pitfalls of having a premises licence compared with individual TENS licences. It was noted that the TENS licence limits numbers attending an event to 500. The question to be asked is: Is the scale of what is currently being done in-tune with the size of the community? At this stage, there are no particular concerns that attendance of the main events exceed 500. However, the Village Show may grow next year and it was more difficult to manage numbers for that event. It was agreed that thought should be given to the mechanisms for measuring how many people attend the Village Show. After discussion, it was agreed to do some more work with a view to proceeding with an application. A meeting will be arranged to firm up the application before submitting it. Advice also to be sought from the Village Hall which already has a Premises Licence.

HF200923.08

OTHER BOOKINGS & ACTIVITIES

A contract has been drawn up for the use of the field by Kingskerswell Colts Football Club. It was recommended that the Parish Council adopts the contract. It was noted that this will be for an initial period of one year to see how things go.

HF200923.09

OPERATIONS

The Committee briefly discussed the cancellation policy. It was agreed that currently no change was necessary.

HF200923.10

PAVILION AND OUTBUILDINGS

Martin has obtained a quote for required works following the electrical testing. After discussion, it was agreed that, on this occasion, the work should proceed without seeking further quotations at a cost of £610 + VAT. The same company will then be able to issue a Certificate confirming that the Pavilion is compliant with the regulations.

A new cleaner is required. A suitable parishioner will be approached about this role.

It was noted that Annie and Charlotte have tidied the shed and Simon has sorted out the combination locks on the other sheds.

- HF200923.11

GROUND, GARDEN AND CAR PARK

It was noted that the hedge will need to be cut. Cllr Hussey offered to contact Jonathan Hutchings about this.

Simon advised that he has approached Devon Machinery for a quote to service the mower. They can do this for £190 + VAT. It was agreed to allow a cap of £500 for additional repairs, if required.
- HF200923.12

MEMBERS' ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OR GENERAL DISCUSSION, FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS AND/OR ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION

None
- HF200923.13

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held Wednesday 17 January 2024 at 7.30pm in Hearn Field Pavilion.

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Chairman

COVID RECOVERY FUND framework for discussion of priorities

HwC Parish Council has received funds to replace income lost to the Hearn Field business during Covid lockdowns. Decisions now need to be made about how best to use these funds in the Community's interest. This document is designed as a framework for considering priorities in the repair, maintenance and improvement of the Hearn Field and Pavilion facilities. Furthermore, it recognises the opportunity to "step back" and envision how new facilities may be developed to benefit community life and activities.

Pavilion repairs and maintenance

- *New double doors (decision already made)*
 - *Replace lino and make good water damage in the outside toilet*
 - *Are there any other repairs and maintenance currently needed?*
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Pavilion improvement and development

Improve security and safety, *eg*:

- *Security cameras and upgraded locks*
- *Defibrillator*
- *Other?*

Increase useable dry space, *eg*:

- *Fit weather curtains in the covered area, consider upgrading lighting*
- *Other?*

Improve access to toilet and showers and free up space in the lobby for other uses:

- *Create outside access doors to toilet and showers*
- *Other?*

Make the Pavilion internal space more interesting/useful, *eg*:

- *HF timeline (photos of HF activities eg the Show)*
- *Other?*

Could the Pavilion be used for other community purposes? Can we identify and engage parts of the community not currently using it?

Field repairs and maintenance

Damage to the field surface in from of the Pavilion and tractor shed:

- *Consider turf surface solutions, drainage?*

Improve security of HF boundary, *eg*:

- *Fill gaps in hedge along Coombe Cellars Lane. Consider laying hedge.*

Are there any other repairs and maintenance needed?

Field development

New outdoors events and activities on the field and rivers edge

Pétanque pitch, junior goal(s), concrete table tennis tables, outdoor chess set, tennis court, firepit, etc

Increase biodiversity and human interest

- *Community orchard of local apple varieties with wildflowers*

What other developments (events and activities) might increase community use?

Events and activities support

Equipment

- *Sacks, quoits, egg and spoon, rounders posts and bats, canoes etc*
- *Sound system and PA*
- *Marquees, gazebos for entrance, gates and/or stalls*

Is more storage space needed?

Other solutions eg a clad container, Mouse proof storage, shelving

Would anything other provisions support community events and activities?

Other uses for Covid funds in the community

VH roof fund contribution