

Hacombe-with-Combe Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Hearn Field Committee held on 24 April 2024

Present: Cllr R Hussey (Chairman), Cllr Gill Humble (ex officio), Cllr Julia Evans, Charlotte Bouchard, Elizabeth Deane, Annie Drew, Simon Guppy & Mike Melville-Shreeve

Members of the public: 8

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

HF240424.01

APOLOGIES

- Cllr M Wakefield

HF240424.02

OPEN FORUM

Members of Combe Tuggers addressed the Committee about their event at Hearn Field on 28 September. They informed members that the 'Battle of the Villages' event will start at around 12.30pm. It will be a free community event centred around a tug-of-war match (between Combeinteignhead and Stokeinteignhead) to raise money for Combeinteignhead Village Hall's roof. They will need car parking and are proposing a BBQ, bar and band (and will therefore apply for a TENS licence) along with a number of family games and stalls for all to enjoy including a tombola, can shy, splat the rat, heads and tails, pull the panda, fastest yard of water, welly-wanging, face painting, bouncy castle and ice creams. The event will end at around 4pm. Tacit agreement of the plans was sought from members together with a request for help and advice that the Committee is able to provide and confirmation whether or not there will be charge for hire of the facility given that it is free community event with all proceeds going towards the village hall roof. The Chair advised that the Committee will discuss this later in the meeting.

A resident asked whether the Hearn Field Committee will apply again for a premises licence. The Chair advised that, at this stage, an official written response from TDC setting out the reasons why the Premises Licence application was refused has not been received and therefore it is too soon to discuss it. For this summer, the Committee will be operating using TENS licences and for this evening, the Committee will be focusing on the organisation of this year's busy programme of events.

A resident asked whether, if the Premises Licence is essentially for the Village Show, there is a better way to proceed rather than applying for a Licence which covers every day of the year. She reiterated that the application itself and the lack of communication and engagement has upset a lot of people in the village.

The Chair advised that a line has now been drawn under this application by the process that has been followed and its subsequent refusal. Residents asked about future engagement and requested that the Parish Council/Hearn Field Committee engages properly with residents if there are plans going forward to appeal/reapply. The Chair assured residents that the Committee is taking what they say very seriously and will bear in mind everything that has been said going forward. He also reiterated that this is not a commercial organisation and the main purpose in everything the Committee does is to cover the cost of running the facility. Members of the Parish Council and Hearn Field Committee represent the community and they would be failing in their duty if they fail to hear its voice. Residents are always welcome at meetings and agendas and meeting are always published.

A resident highlighted that this process has demonstrated that there is a lot of interest from residents about what happens at Hearn Field. Residents are keen to engage in the whole concept of a premises licence including the reasons for why a licence is thought to be required. An understanding of the purpose and raison d'être of Hearn Field was also necessary.

The Chair emphasised that the Committee has heard what has been said; it is not comfortable to know that immediate neighbours of Hearn Field are unhappy and the Parish Council/Hearn Field Committee will engage with residents on this matter. A resident suggested that there is a public meeting to discuss this in more depth; they were assured that this will be considered going forward.

HF240424.03

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.

HF240424.04

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Members approved and signed the minutes of the Hearn Field Committee Meeting held on 17 January 2024.

HF240424.05

COVID RECOVERY FUNDS

The following updates were given:

- Car park: Simon has struggled to get contractors to look at this but he will persevere
- Tables and gazebos: These have been ordered and have arrived. Cllr Wakefield has looked to see where the old table might be sold online. He has a price (though they are not worth very much) and members agreed he should proceed as soon as the new tables are in place.
- The rustic tables are being made.
- The hedging is looking great; thank you to Cllr O'Regan who planted the whips. Simon advised that the chipping has been completed but an extra cost was incurred for removal of branches/logs which were too big to be chipped.
- Storage and shelving: to be discussed after the show.
- Lean-to at the rear of the Pavilion: A professional builder will be needed for this. The Chair will continue to look at this.
- Double doors: Cllr Hussey to chase the contractor
- The Chair circulated details of grass reinforcement mesh to protect the grass outside the Pavilion. It was agreed to propose to the Parish Council that it approves a cost of up to £200 to buy a sections and test an area
- Signage: Charlotte presented proposals for signage to be erected at the entrances of the field. The cost quoted for one sign is approximately £985 (based on a 1m x 40cm aluminium sign with two recycled plastic posts). A smaller sign could be used at the Combe Cellars entrance. The wording would need to be agreed. It was further agreed that other signage around the field needs to be tidied up/consolidated. The Chair agreed to pass options for improved signage to the Parish Council for consideration.

HF240424.06

WOODSHED COFFEE BAR

Cllr Wakefield was not present at the meeting. It was noted that the income for the Woodshed has been impacted by the bad weather.

HF240424.07

THEATRE

All four theatre events are booked and contracts have been signed:

- 16 June (Fathers' Day) - Immersion Theatre – Peter Pan
- 5 July - Miracle Theatre - Love Riot
- 3 August - Illyria – Hound of the Baskervilles
- 21 August – Three Inch Fools - Secret Diary of Henry VIII

It was agreed that a TENS licence would not be required for these events.

HF240424.08

EVENTS

8.1 **Village Show**

Most is now booked but volunteers are needed. It was agreed that Charlotte and Annie would circulate a list of jobs and timings and members would try and recruit volunteers to help.

The show is mostly a repeat of last year with an extra two hours at the end of the day mainly for volunteers to enjoy. It is a parish event for local people and therefore doesn't need to be advertised far and wide. A TENS licence has been applied for.

Villages in Action have approached the Committee about a new show *Car Share* which takes place inside a car. It was agreed that Charlotte would contact them about running it at the Village Show.

8.2 **Bonfire Night Event**

No report at this stage.

HF240424.09**OTHER BOOKINGS & ACTIVITIES**

The Chair advised that the pop-up saunas will not be returning.

The Cycle Club will be a gathering on the field on 19th May to remember Ron Vaulter. His memorial tree has been planted and a plaque will be installed. A short quote from his obituary about his relationship to community might be appropriate for the plaque. The Chair will follow this up.

It was agreed not to charge Combe Tuggers for use of Hearn Field on 28th September as it is a free community event with all proceeds going to the village hall roof fund.

HF240424.10**OPERATIONS****10.1 Bookings & Payments**

It was agreed at the last meeting to review the hire charges. This is still to be done.

10.2 Publicity & Marketing

It was agreed that it should be communicated to the community how the COVID recovery funds are being spent.

10.3 Teams

It was agreed to start putting a list of people who are prepared to help with general maintenance. It was acknowledged that some jobs are suitable for volunteers but some jobs will require the services of a professional. There are some jobs which need doing now; it was agreed that the Chair and Simon will start to have a look at these.

HF240424.11**PAVILION AND OUTBUILDINGS**

It was noted that the electricity is still in credit by approximately £350.

It was noted that the exterior of the Pavilion requires repainting. It was agreed to look at this after the double-doors have been replaced.

The flooring in the disabled toilet floor has been completed.

The large lever on the bottom gate has broken. This needs repairing/replacing. Liz agreed to have a look at this.

HF240124.12**GROUNDS, GARDENS AND CAR PARK**

It was noted that there are a lot of rabbits on the field which might damage the new hedge whips. It was agreed to keep an eye on them.

There was a discussion about the requirement for car park notices a proposal was put forward to make it clear that the car park is for those using Hearn Field that the gate may be closed at night. There was also a discussion about whether a pedestrian gate would be required. It was agreed that further thought about the precise wording is necessary to take into account issues with enforcement and compliance with the Open Spaces legislation.

HF240424.13**MEMBERS' ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OR GENERAL DISCUSSION, FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS AND/OR ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION**

Simon reported that the tractor shed door support has dry rot and needs replacing. The Chair will look at this with Simon.

The Annual Parish Meeting is being held on 1st May at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome.

HF240424.14**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

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Chairman