

Haccombe-with-Combe Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Hearn Field Committee held on 17 July 2024

Present: Cllr Robert Hussey (Chairman), Cllr Julia Evans, Cllr Martin Wakefield, Charlotte Bouchard, Elizabeth Deane, Annie Drew & Simon Guppy

Members of the public: 7

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

OPEN FORUM

A representative of the Friends of Hearn Field Group wished to make it clear that representations made by the group have only combined herself or other members of the group. Any other opinions or views expressed are not those of the Group. There has been some unintentional confusion, whereby, for example, views have been expressed by other members of the community/Hearn Field Committee which are personal views and not those of the Group. It was made clear that Friends of Hearn Field Group have not used the word 'consultation' which seems to have been taken forward and used [in the proposal document to be discussed at item 4.1] and the original meaning appears lost. It was also confirmed that no member of the Group has ever believed it was a good idea to apply or reapply for a Premises Licence and a public meeting is requested.

With regard to the draft proposal for the meeting, the Group looks forward to the Committee's detailed discussion and vote on this tonight and asks for consideration of the following:

A public meeting (not public consultation) to take place in the Autumn with an interactive discussion and open and honest forum with a right to reply. It was noted that there is no mention in the proposal document that Hearn Field is a village green which is a really important factor. Objectives 5 and 8 regarding openness and transparency are welcomed. A request was made that a member of the Group is granted membership of the Hearn Field Committee. Harriet Langworthy has volunteered for this role. The Group would like more time to respond to the proposal so that they can respond properly and contribute to the make-up of the public meeting.

HF170724.01

APOLOGIES

- Cllr G Humble
- Mike Melville-Shreeve

HF170724.02

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.

HF170724.03

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Members approved and signed the minutes of the Hearn Field Committee Meeting held on 24 April 2024.

HF170724.04

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

4.1 Community Consultation

In response to the comments made in the open forum, Cllr Evans advised that the term 'consultation' had been used in a proposal accepted in July's Parish Council meeting and that the document was put together on this basis. Terms of reference and format were delegated to the Hearn Field Committee. The draft document was drafted with a clear understanding that it would come to this Committee meeting for discussion.

Cllr Evans gave a brief summary of the document stressing that the focus is on the use and the management of Hearn Field. This is not a mandate to obtain a Premises Licence neither is it a mandate to increase the number of activities on the Field beyond what is listed in the document. This is about understanding from people what they like and don't like. Making sure

everyone is involved in this approach is also a key objective. A drop-in session is planned for an afternoon to engage and talk and will combine with a paper-based questionnaire. Additional suggestions for inclusion into the proposal include the fact that it is a village green and the cost of running the field. Finally, Cllr Evans suggested an amendment to point 4 – Analysis of Feedback – that the proposed actions are discussed at an open public meeting rather than at a usual Committee meeting. Simon Guppy also suggested that an informal meeting is arranged between the Hearn Field Committee, Parish Councillors and Friends of Hearn Field so that we have a complete list of ideas and concerns in advance of the consultation and questionnaire.

The Friends of Hearn Field Group expressed that they would very much like to be involved in the drafting of the questionnaire. Cllr Evans advised that she would feel conflicted only listening to the view of the Friends of Hearn Field without having listened to the views of the wider community as well.

After a discussion the following was agreed:

- The proposal document is accepted.
- Cllr Evans to draft questions for the paper-based questionnaire and these will be crafted at an informal meeting to which members of the Friends of Hearn Field Group and neighbouring properties would be invited along with three or four other members of the wider community to ensure that all views across the parish are considered.
- The questionnaire and arrangements for the community consultation to be approved at the next Hearn Field Committee meeting.

[See also item 7.3 below re date of community consultation event]

4.2 Hearn Field telephone

The Hearn Field now has a mobile telephone and the purpose of it is to provide a point of contact for residents. The responsibility for this will be shared between members.

4.3 Volunteers email list

Liz Deane advised there are currently around 85 volunteers who are actively doing things for Hearn Field. There is also list of people who volunteer for events. Members are looking at how to manage this list safely.

4.4 Other ideas

The Chair suggested that in order to give more opportunities to engage with the community about Hearn Field, a Hearn Field member could make themselves available at the monthly PACT meetings so that issues relating to Hearn Field issues could be informally raised by members of the community. It was agreed that the Chair takes this forward.

HF170724.05

LATE SUMMER CALENDAR

- 5.1 The Chair circulated a draft document to tighten up on the procedure and process for managing bookings (confirming numbers, noise management, parking, disposing of litter etc). The checklist should minimise potential issues with bookings.

It will also be useful to build up a calendar of maintenance and other issues to keep the facility looking better and running more smoothly.

There was a brief discussion about strimming the hedges and other maintenance. It was agreed that there should not be an expectation that volunteers carry out heavy work involving machinery and that this should be given to a contractor (twice a year).

Cllr Wakefield suggested that a full health and safety inspection/risk assessment of the Hearn Field site is carried out including the grounds and car park. The Chair agreed to look at this with Cllr Wakefield.

HF170724.06

FOR CONSIDERATION AND DECISIONS

- 6.1 To consider a proposal to paint the Pavilion using Covid funds
The Chair advised that he had obtained two quotes for the Pavilion and will seek a third.
- 6.2 Members received an application from the Lighthouse Church based in Shaldon to run a community event with fun activities and cream teas. Members of this parish would be welcome to attend. It was agreed to accept the booking.
- 6.3 An inquiry has been received about the policy for storing boats on Marshland Gardens. Liz Deane advised that, historically, people have been able to leave their small boats on the land to the right of the steps.
- 6.4 For information, the Chair advised that the Parish Council has joined the Open Spaces Society.

HF170724.07

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

- 7.1 Cllr Evans proposed not to put the ticket price up for this year's Bonfire and Fireworks event. This was agreed. She has also looked at whether the fireworks can be purchased for any cheaper from an alternative supplier. She has found one other which provide the right safety category of fireworks. Simon Guppy advised that, if there isn't much difference in price, his preference would be to stay with the existing supplier.
- 7.2 It was agreed that the formal co-option of Harriet Langworthy on to the Committee would be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- 7.3 It was noted that a date for the community consultation had not been agreed at item 4.1. It was agreed that this would be held on 12 October at Hearn Field Pavilion.

HF170724.08

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 18 September at 7.30pm in Hearn Field Pavilion. It was noted that Cllr Evans would not be able to attend this.

[This meeting was subsequently rescheduled to 25 September]

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Chairman