



## BRAMSHOTT & LIPHOOK PARISH COUNCIL

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CLERK

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### A MEETING OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE TOOK PLACE AT 8PM IN THE HASKELL CENTRE, MIDHURST ROAD, LIPHOOK, ON MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

#### MINUTES

**PRESENT WERE:** Mr S Coyte (Chairman), Mr L Futchter, Mrs A C James, Mr A Jordan  
Mr W Ratcliffe (Parish Councillors). Mr A Groves (Clerk). Mr T Richardson (Tennis  
Club) and one member of the press were present.

#### 25/05 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

#### 26/05 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr Rudgard (Parish Council Sports Representative).

#### 27/05 MINUTES OF THE MEETING – 11 APRIL 2005

**Resolution:** The minutes were agreed and signed as being a true record subject to Minute  
21/05 being amended to read "FUN FAIR".

#### 28/05 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – 11 APRIL 2005

**18/05 Sport & Recreation Forum.** Cllr Mrs A C James reported that a home for the  
Table Tennis Club had been found at the Village Hall. The Chairman reported that  
Grant Aid had been provided by the Parish Council, and Rebecca Owen had left  
EHDC and a new Sports Development Officer was being sought. Cllr Futchter asked  
if the identification of new sports pitches needed to be looked at. The Chairman  
proposed that as the Local Plan had been formalised, site visits should be carried out;  
suitable times were discussed. A vote was taken

**20/05 Best Kept Village Competition.** Cancelled. Retention of the trophy was

discussed.

**21/05 Fun Fair.** One complaint had been received. The fair had stopped punctually, at 10.00 pm each evening.

**Decisions:** Site visits to potential sports pitches would be organised for a Sunday morning.

SC

## 29/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman read out the declaration.

## 30/05 REPORTS

**Sports and Recreation Visit – 19 May 2005.** Cllr Coyte referred to the notes on the meeting, and reported that the matters raised were in hand. The Clerk confirmed that the tree on the Little Recreation Ground had been inspected by the tree warden. The report was accepted by the Committee.

**Allotments Visit – 29 June 2005.** Cllr Ratcliffe referred to the notes on the meeting and said that there were points that needed further discussion. Discussion followed on how the responsibility for paths between allotments might be decided, the sending of a note to plot holders to remind them about their responsibilities to keep the paths tidy, drainage at the top end of site and a possible site visit in the winter, and the repair to the gate. The Clerk asked for approval to carry out the gate repair. The Chairman said that the Asst Clerk had been given details on what was needed to affect the repair, and asked if members were happy to go ahead with this. A vote was taken.

The need for a notice at the entrance gate concerning parking and security was discussed. The Chairman said that parking should be included in the letter being sent to Allotment holders together with a reminder to keep the main gate secure. The provision of signage was discussed. A vote was taken. In answer to a question from Cllr Futcher, the Clerk confirmed that there were fourteen people on the waiting list for allotments. The report was accepted by the Committee.

**Decisions:** The Allotment Gate was to be repaired.

Clerk

A note was to be sent to all Allotment Holders reminding them of their responsibility to keep the path between their allotments clear, and to secure the main gate when they left the Allotments.

Clerk

Appropriate signage was to be provided.

Clerk

## 31/05 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None.

## **32/05 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – RECREATION GROUNDS**

The Chairman asked the Clerk to brief members. The Clerk said he would brief members on Parish Council aspects, and would not make comment about any other anti-social behaviour. The Clerk said it had been the worst summer for the six years since he had been in post, in terms of rubbish, litter, and damage on the Recreation Grounds. Most of this stemmed from young people who are known to go to Bohunt School, live in the local area, were drinking in the evening, many of them being under age. They had been breaking glass and vandalising items. The Clerk said that in his view this was anti-social behaviour. In some case there was criminal damage such as the torching and burning of the Skate Park sign and rubbish bins, and breaking fences in the Recreation Ground. The Clerk said he had passed on these concerns to the Police. The difficulty for the Parish Council was that incidents and anti-social behaviour were happening in the evenings and could only be reported in retrospect. There had also been a break in at the Radford Park Site Hut which the Police had attended. The police had said it would be crime referenced, that they could take no further action as it was only an attempted burglary, and nothing had been taken. The issue of a crime reference number was the only action that appeared to be taken when incidents were reported. This had been raised during his discussion with the police. The police had said they were looking into the provision of an officer who could report back and follow up incidents. The Clerk said he was aware of other incidents involving the Tennis Club, the Football Club, and the Bowling Club. He said he sympathised with the problems the Clubs had experienced. He did not believe that they were problems that could be solved quickly or easily and needed much investment in terms of time and education and there was no overnight solution. The Clerk said the Parish Council should think seriously about having “zero tolerance” in terms of the smashing glass and taking bottles and glass onto the Recreation Grounds. The Clerk said he would not support the closure of the Recreation Grounds in the evenings as other Council’s had done, because it was an open space and should be available to the community at all times.

The amount of rubbish and smashed glass at the Library and the Recreation Ground during the summer was raised and discussed. The Clerk said that the Ground staff cleaned and cleared the Recreation Ground areas every weekday, and although that might suit some members of the community because damage and rubbish was being concentrated in a Parish Council area, there was a cost in time taken in clearing up and this had an impact on all taxpayers. Anything that could be done to improve the situation and reduce costs would benefit everybody. The Clerk concluded by saying that the problems experienced four or five years ago in the Square had now moved to the Recreation Grounds, although it was seasonal.

The Chairman said it was a question of what could be done to address the problems. Damage to the Methodist Church and youngsters on the roof of the Church was also raised. The Clerk said that the police had asked that members of the public should continue to report incidents, as soon as they occurred, and to make sure it was recorded with force enquiries so that the matter could be tracked. The use of private security measures by other Councils was questioned. The Clerk said that he was aware that some councils worked in partnership with local police and security companies but he did not have any details. The

Clerk felt that the police should be expected to patrol the area as part of their community policing responsibilities.

The responsibility for school children who were at the Recreation Ground during the day, the provision of signage at the entrance to the Recreation Ground to cover the carriage of glass and other “do” and “don’ts” and the law in relation to litter, glass, and alcohol were discussed further. The Clerk re-iterated the need for members of the public to continue to report incidents to the police, and his concern that the community needed reassurance that the police would act on matters, that they took an interest, so that local confidence in the police could be restored.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting. Mr Richardson, speaking on behalf of the Tennis Club, said he agreed with the comment by the Clerk that this was one of the worst years for some time. Mr Richardson said that he had been in Liphook for 17 years and was appalled by what was going on. He said that the problems at the Tennis Club, continued, with youngsters climbing on the roof of the Tennis Club pulling tiles off, and smashing glass. To combat this, they had recently removed the wooden shelter from the hard courts which was thought to be one of the reasons why people wanted to get into the courts. With the help of the Parish Council, they had also put up signs, and were using anti-vandal paint. They had also discussed what else they could do, and had written to Inspector Thorne on 23 August (copy of the letter would be made available) highlighting general problems and one specific problem. The latter was when two lumps of concrete were thrown from the area of the Little Recreation Ground onto the grass courts when people were playing tennis. The police were phoned immediately who informed the players to move away from the area and sit tight. Nothing happened. Inspector Thorne had responded to Mr Richardson the next day, by E Mail, saying that the letter had been passed to Police Sgt Miller and PCSO Neal. Nothing had been heard since. This went back to another point mentioned by the Clerk about the lack of response from the police and what was to be done. This was part of the problem. The gist of the letter to Inspector Thorne was that the Club knew there were problems, vandalism would be difficult to stop, kids would always go out and do these things but what advice could the police give? Nothing had been received back, the Tennis Club members had concerns, their hands were tied, and from the comments made by the members of the Committee they felt the same. Mr Richardson said he was disappointed that there was no member of the police present to offer some guidance. He said that as the Chairman of the Tennis Club and a member of the community, he felt that there was no presence by the police to deal with anti-social behaviour. He hoped that as it was becoming darker and colder matters might improve. The question was what else could be done?

The hard pruning or removal of the conifers beside the hard courts, were discussed. The Chairman said that Mr Richardson should seek the views of his members over the height of the conifers, and the Parish Council would do whatever they could to help. The checking of the Little Recreation area for removable objects, the problems of locating and using CCTV in the area, the provision of lights and the problems experienced with extra lighting, the behaviour of young people were all discussed further.

The Clerk suggested that a meeting should be held with the Police, and representatives of the Parish Council, the Sports Clubs, and other interested parties to discuss the problems and how they could be addressed. He advised that without police support and involvement,

individual groups were unlikely to progress matters on their own. It was a community problem that would be best addressed by the community as a whole and the Parish Council had a remit to raise these issues with the police on behalf of the community.

The continued reporting of incidents, the success rate of bringing matters to court, police priorities and response to incidents, and the dangerous incident with the Tennis Club were discussed further. The Clerk referred to some successes which resulted from the reporting of activities.

The Chairman felt that a meeting would be worthwhile. The Parish Council, the police, the sports club, the library and the Methodist Church were suggested attendees. The Chairman said that a letter should be sent to the police suggesting that a meeting should be held. This was agreed.

Mr Richardson invited all members of the Committee to attend the grand opening of the Tennis Clubhouse on 2 October, to thank the Parish Council for their help and assistance and for providing grants. The Chairman and members thanked Mr Richardson for the invitation. The Chairman re-convened the meeting.

**Decision:** A letter was to be sent to Inspector Thorne setting out the concerns and inviting him to attend a meeting to which appropriate representatives would be invited.

Clerk

### 33/05 GUNNS FARM

The Clerk said that there were continued concerns over the Gunns Farm site particularly the play site and open space which was all owned by EHDC. It was in a poor condition, and there were Health and Safety concerns, and the site was deteriorating. The site needed investment, and the options were to stop its use, make it safe, or bring it up to a standard to enable it to be used by the community.

The site, ownership, possible use, long term maintenance, the EHDC view, and the way ahead were discussed further. The Clerk advised members that a letter should be sent to EHDC expressing the concerns and that action needed to be taken to resolve the matter. The Clerk re-iterated the options. He advised members against the Parish Council taking on the site. He reminded members that the Parish Council had decided not take over the site from EHDC when they last discussed the matter.

The Chairman proposed that a letter be sent to EHDC asking them to bring the equipment and land back to a condition whereby it could be used by the community, and to let the Parish Council know what funding they would offer for long term maintenance. A vote was taken.

**Decision:** A letter was to be sent to EHDC as set out above.

Clerk

### 34/05 RECREATION COMMITTEE BUDGET 2006/2007

The Committee discussed the draft budget for 2006/2007. The following points were raised or discussed:

3847 – Equipment. The Visit to SALTEX; two options for the replacement of the SABO were being looked at to a value of about £14,000. Demonstrations were being organised. Need to consider Landrover replacement for the future.

3801 – Salaries. Reduction; one less member of staff.

3181– Licence Fees. Reduction. Cricket Club were not using the Recreation Ground and fees were calculated in arrears.

3872 – Transfer: Rec Reserve. Funding for toilet included; might need to be increased.

3117 – Security. Adequacy of funding was questioned; costs could be covered. Signage might have to be considered; it was hoped that in year funding might be available.

The Chairman asked that the draft budget be accepted. A vote was taken.

**Decision:** The draft budget was approved. Clerk

### **35/05 POOP- SCOOPS**

The Chairman said that more regular emptying of the poop scoop bins had been successful. He proposed that the bins should continue to be emptied twice weekly and the budget should be amended accordingly. A vote was taken.

**Decision:** The poop-scoop bins at Radford Park were to be emptied twice weekly. Clerk

£410 was to be added to the budget for 2006/2007. Clerk

### **36/05 RECREATION GROUND TOILETS**

The Clerk, at the request of the Chairman, provided an update. The Clerk informed members that Mr Bird had agreed to take on the project. As plans for the original plans for the pavilion could not be found in the Parish Office, he would be writing to Building Control at EHDC to give Mr Bird the authority to be given any plans that were held. Mr Bird would then prepare some sketches and options and indicative costs for the committee to consider. It was hoped that these would be ready for the next meeting. The need for the camera survey was briefly discussed; it was hoped that funding could come from in-year funds, and if not, £200 might need to be put in the budget for 2006/2007.

### **37/05 URGENT BUSINESS - USE OF RADFORD PARK/VILLAGE GREEN**

The Clerk said he had received a letter from the Bonfire and Carnival Committee. He asked the Committee if they could agree, under the standard arrangements, to the use of Radford Park and the Village Green by the Bonfire and Carnival Committee for the Carnival. A vote was taken.

**Decision:** The Bonfire and Carnival Committee were permitted to use Radford Park and the Village Green for the Carnival.

Clerk

**38/05 EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC/PRESS**

**The Motion:** “This Council resolves to exclude members of the public and the press for Item 14 in order to discuss confidential matters and those classified as exempt under Section 100I and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.”

The Chairman proposed the motion, seconded by Cllr Mrs A C James. A vote was taken.

**Resolution:** Agreed.

**ITEMS CLASSIFIED AS EXEMPT**

**39/05 MATTERS ARISING FROM ITEMS CLASSIFIED AS EXEMPT – 11 APRIL 2005**

None.

**CONCLUSION -** This concluded the business of the meeting at 9.25 pm.  
Confirmed at the meeting held on 7 November 2005  
Signed .....  
Chairman