

HUGHENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Extra-ordinary Council Meeting

Council Offices, The Common, Great Kingshill, HP15 6EN

3rd October 2017 at 8.00 pm

Draft Minutes

Present

Cllr P Nicholls (Chairman), Cllr M Burch, Cllr R Gould, Cllr K Gilmour, Cllr P Gieler, Cllr S Jones, Cllr H Stearn, Cllr C Waterton.

Officers in Attendance

Shona Hadwen (Clerk), Jill Armshaw (Deputy Clerk)

Public Attendance

There were seventeen members of the public in attendance.

The Chairman welcomed members of the public and thanked them for attending. The Chairman explained the procedure in relation to agenda item 2 – public participation - and then went on to explain the purpose of the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

17ECM001 Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr S Kearey & Cllr P Williams.

2. Public Participation

17ECM002 Two members of the public spoke to explain that they were attending the meeting to find what is happening with the playground services in the parish.

3. Discussions on Playground Matters

17ECM003 The Chairman invited Cllr Gieler to provide background information in relation to all playgrounds in the parish and to present the recommendations of the Working Group.

17ECM004 Cllr Gieler summarised the current position regarding the playgrounds.

Hughenden Parish Council owned and managed playgrounds:

- Great Kingshill Common
- Templewood, Main Road, Walters Ash

Village Hall owned and managed playgrounds with inspections and routine maintenance provided by the council:

- Hughenden Valley Village Hall
- Naphill Village Hall
- North Dean Village Hall
- Widmer End Village Hall

17ECM005 Cllr Gieler explained the challenges facing the council with regards to equipment coming to the end of its lifespan and which may require possible replacement. Some equipment has already been de-commissioned due to health and safety reasons. In one of the council's own playgrounds, (Templewood) there is only one piece of equipment remaining. The estimated cost to repair and replace the

existing play equipment across all council owned and village hall owned playgrounds is in the region of £200,000, which is almost 100% of the £207,464 precept that the council receives annually. Cllr Gieler presented the recommendations of the Working Group with regards to the village hall owned playgrounds. The council will also look at the maintenance and repair work required in the playgrounds it owns, liaising as necessary with local residents over the equipment that is to be provided and maintained in both playgrounds.

The Council RESOLVED:

17ECM006 That from 4th October 2017 responsibility for the maintenance of the village hall owned playgrounds – Hughenden Valley, Naphill, North Dean and Widmer End reverts to the village halls.

17ECM007 That the council continue to organise and fund both the annual and quarterly inspection reports for the village hall owned playgrounds until April 2019 and will pay for recommended high-risk repairs.

17ECM008 That from April 2019, the council continue to organise and fund the quarterly and annual inspection reports for the village hall owned playgrounds. Upon receipt, the reports will be sent to the village halls for their attention.

17ECM009 That the council may offer funding such as grants or loans to assist with playground maintenance if required.

17ECM010 The Chairman opened the floor to questions from the public. Discussions took place regarding the following:

- Insurance options
- Funding of the village hall owned playgrounds in the future
- Funding of the council owned playgrounds in the future
- Next steps

17ECM011 The Chairman stated that the council wish to work closely with the village halls during the next eighteen months to ensure a smooth transition and the continued provision of playground services within the parish.

17ECM012 There being no further questions the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman's Signature:

Date: