

## CULLOMPTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the CCA Council meeting convened on Wednesday 21st November 2012

### **Present**

#### **Members of the Council**

Ashley Wilce (chair), Eileen Andrews (vice chair), Moira Lear, Marcus Scott, Sharon Vaughan, Rod Crocker, Brian Mitchell, Lynn Read, Dom Woollatt, Janet Sutton Webb, Cheryl van der Salm

#### **In attendance to address meeting**

Phil Collins, Enforcement Officer, MDDC

Paul Lewendon

Debbie Whiteway, Cullompton Rangers Youth Team

#### **Members of the public**

Peggy Marshall

### **Apologies**

John Chard, Angela Vigar

### **Public Question Time**

Peggy Marshall has some wild flower seeds and wanted permission to sow them in the CCA fields to create a wild flower meadow. Moira Lear agreed to help decide where they should be sown.

#### **Proposal: Accept with thanks.**

Prop: EA            Sec: LR            All in favour.

### **Minutes**

#### **Proposal: To accept the minutes of the previous meeting on 17/10/12**

Prop: BM            Sec: LR            All in favour.    Accepted with no amendments.

### **Matters Arising**

#### **Dog fouling**

Phil Collins attended to explain the difficulties of enforcing a ban on dogs off leads in the recreation area and to clarify the enforcement powers available to MDDC. It is not an offence for a dog to be off a lead, unless the land is subject to a special bye-law. As from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2012, there will be a Control Order "Dogs on Leads by Direction", but the dog would have to be causing a nuisance or be out of control. Any general ban on dogs off lead in recreation area would have to be enforced by CCA.

The enforcement team is aware of the dog fouling problem in the fields and does patrol regularly, but has limited resources. It would help the team to target their patrols if anyone witnessing dog fouling in the fields reported it to MDDC (01884 255255) with description of owner, the dog and time of day. New up to date signs will be put up in the fields to replace the ones which have been defaced once the new legislation has come into effect.

#### **Whippet Track**

Paul Lewendon set out his proposals to repair and upgrade the whippet track and use his extensive contacts and experience to set up a programme of dog racing events to start next year. He would rent the track from CCA, maintain it free of charge and recoup his costs through payments from the

clubs holding races. The amount of rent he would pay to CCA and other terms and conditions would need to be agreed once track is ready for use.

**Proposal: To accept Paul's offer to maintain the track free of charge and prepare it for use, and to agree terms prior to its use.**

Prop: AW      Sec: EA      All in favour.

### **Hockey Field Rental**

The football club has an invoice to pay for arrears of rent. Marcus and Debbie made representations that the invoice be reduced to reflect the fact that football club maintains the field in question. Council felt that the cost of £4 a week was reasonable and already took the maintenance work into account.

**Proposal: To request the Football Club pay the invoice as presented, sooner, rather than later**

Prop: AW      Sec: DW      All in favour.

Going forward, EA suggested that an alternative arrangement could be that instead of paying rent, the football club could provide help with regular maintenance work in the CCA fields, e.g. grass cutting, or with one off repair or maintenance work – an informal discussion had already been held between AW and MS on this subject. The exact quid pro quo arrangements would need to be worked out if the Football Club committee agreed to this proposal. Without such an agreement, it would be necessary to increase the rent, which has not gone up for 10 years.

**Proposal: To set a new rate for the rent of the Hockey Field at £6 per week, to be applicable from September 2013 to May.**

Prop: JSW      Sec: LR      All in favour.

**Proposal: To ask Marcus and Debbie to discuss with their committees and agree whether to accept the quid pro quo arrangement or to pay rent.**

Prop: EA      Sec: AW      All in favour.

### **"Way Forward"**

Draft Terms of Reference had been circulated prior to meeting.

**Proposal: To accept TOR for Council and for Executive Committee.**

Prop: AW      Sec: LR      All in favour.

Proposed changes to the Constitution had also been circulated and were discussed.

**Proposal: To accept draft Constitution and to initiate the process of presenting them for acceptance at a special meeting, subject to Charity Commission approval.**

Prop: AW      Sec: EA      All in favour

### **Repairs to Middle Bridge**

Repairs to Middle bridge had been completed, but both bridges had been affected by flooding (on day of meeting). One was gone completely. Staff from Town Council had taped off the areas to keep people away. Repairs will need to be made once water has subsided.

### **Play equipment repairs**

AW is still waiting for a quote from M & R Services.

### **Certificate of Service**

Designed by JSW. Will be presented to George Manfield in recognition of his long years of service on CCA Council and to make him an honorary member.

### **Proposal: To present the certificate at the next AGM.**

Prop: EA          Sec: LR          All in favour.

### **Drainage Ditch**

AW is waiting for a response from the Highways Agency and from Network Rail.

### **Jubilee Wood Book**

JSW has agreed with the Library that they will have the book on display for 3 weeks starting 26/11/2012 so that anyone who might want to order a copy is able to have a look at it first. The price charged by CCA needs to cover our costs in buying them and include an element of profit as this is a fundraising venture. A charge of £30 would give £1 profit on a minimum order, but profits would increase the more copies were ordered. The meeting thanked Janet for producing the book.

### **Proposal: To set the charge per book at £30.**

Prop: JSW          Sec: MS          All in favour.

### **Finance**

AW had circulated Balance Sheet and Income Statement. There were no comments.

### **Correspondence**

Lynn Read has offered to fill the vacancy for Treasurer caused by the resignation of Nikki Wollatt. Cheryl van der Salm has agreed to fill the vacancy for Secretary.

### **Proposal: To accept both offers.**

Prop: AW          Sec: SV          All in favour.

### **Proposal: To accept John Mapson's request to be co-opted onto the CCA Council.**

Prop: AW          Sec: EA          All in favour.

### **Chairman's Business**

#### **Request from DCC to carry out topographical survey of the fields**

AW asked the Council to consider whether they wished to agree to this. It was agreed after some discussion that it would not be pragmatic or in the best interests of CCA to say 'no'. In addition, CCA Council has already agreed we are in a better position to safeguard our asset by remaining in negotiation with DCC and MDDC about the route of any road.

**Proposal: AW writes to the surveyor to say that the Council will agree to the survey but would like his request in writing. AW to explain the background of meetings and discussions which have already taken place with DCC and MDDC (as the surveyor seemed totally unaware of them).**

Prop: AW          Sec: ML          All in favour.

### **Lantern-making and parade**

Volunteers needed to carry fundraising buckets on the parade night on 1<sup>st</sup> December. Rod and Marcus volunteered.

### **Proposal: To reimburse Nikki Woollatt for costs of lantern-making materials.**

Prop: JSW      Sec: SV All in favour.

### **Absentee CCA representatives**

AW has tried to contact all affiliated associations but has not had any response from some of them. Two of the independent members elected at the last AGM have never attended a Council meeting (Brett Lewis and Terry Belson). In addition, the representative appointed by the Town Council has never attended a meeting and AW has written to the mayor to ask for this to be put on the next Town Council agenda.

CCA Council agreed to take no further action about absentee members but to review situation in future.

### **Bench from former Magistrates' Court**

Reg Payne has offered the CCA the bench from former Magistrates' Court.

### **Proposal: To accept the offer of the bench.**

Prop: AW      Sec: JSW      All in favour.

It was agreed that the bench could be put in the play area.

### **Avenue of oaks**

AW reported that to complete the avenue would need another 20 saplings at a cost of £50. An alternative would be to take up alternate saplings on one side and replant them on the other. This would make them 12 m apart rather than 6m which it was felt would be better spacing for oaks as they grow.

### **Proposal: To replant alternate saplings.**

Prop: EA      Sec: JSW      All in favour.

### **Any other business**

#### **Trees by play area**

### **Proposal: To trim so that they no longer hide activity in the play area.**

Prop: AW      Sec: EA      All in favour.

### **Jubilee Wood saplings**

Peggy Marshall suggested they would grow better without grass at their roots. AW will try to find a supply of carpet pieces to put round them to inhibit growth of grass.

Meeting closed at 9pm.