

EAST HOATHLY with HALLAND PARISH COUNCIL

(Draft) meeting of the Full Council on 19th August, 2024 at 7.00pm.
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Cllrs. Butcher, Cole, Freezer (chair), Magness, Partridge, Pope and Whitlock.
Also participating: Malcolm Ramsden (clerk) and three members of the public.

Please note that meetings are recorded.

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend. The first fifteen minutes of the meeting will be available for the public to express a view or ask a question on relevant matters on the agenda. The public and members of the press are also welcome to stay and observe the rest of the meeting (subject to any items considered as confidential within the terms of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960).

Chair summarized the developer offer to take on the ongoing care and maintenance of the Paddock Green play area Active Green Infrastructure (AGI) for a payment to Council of c.£635,000.

Responses to various questions covered:-

- *Council would be taking over a fully equipped and complete area.*
- *Maintenance, care, replacement of equipment (including grass cutting and dog poo bins), as and when required, would be the responsibility of the Council in perpetuity.*
- *Anticipated life span of the play equipment possibly 15 years.*
- *The payment would be a one-off sum paid on taking over and could only be used for the area under consideration.*
- *Any interest earned on the amount received could also only be used for the area under consideration.*
- *Whilst details of how the costs, per house type were known, the way in which the individual house type figures were calculated were unknown.*

In response to a question regarding publicity of the referendum, chair explained the purdah restrictions placed on Council and Councillors by Wealden District Council.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are invited to make any declaration of personal or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on the agenda and are reminded to make any declarations at any stage during the meeting if it then becomes apparent that this may be required when a particular item or issue is to be considered

None.

3. APOLOGIES – to receive apologies for absence

Apologies received and reasons accepted from Cllr. Thatcher.

4. MINUTES

4.1 To resolve that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 29th July, 2024 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

Following a proposal by Cllr. Pope and seconding by Cllr. Thatcher

0717 **RESOLVED** *to approve that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 29th of July, 2024 be taken as read and be signed by the Chair.*

4.1.1 Matters arising from minutes not otherwise covered by agenda items
Carried forward.

5. FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION

5.1 Paddock Green Active Green Infrastructure maintenance offer

Cllr. Magness, referring to the question of how the house type figures might be calculated, suggested that it might be expected to cover 50 years of anticipated costs

and highlighted that ongoing costs would need to be financed. The possibility that the contractor engaged for the rest of the site maintenance work or the residents' management committee might be invited to take on the AGI project if Council declined the offer.

Cllr. Pope explained the workings of a site management company which would use residents' service charge payments to meet a number of estate costs.

Cllr. Magness raised the possibility that parishioners might not feel comfortable using the AGI and would leave, when the funds were exhausted, parishioners paying (via. Council Tax contributions) for something that not all parishioners would use.

Cllr. Whitlock queried the benefit to the whole parish as all of the monies, including interest, could only be used for the AGI with chair pointing out that all residents of the parish would be able to enjoy the benefits of the AGI area and play facilities.

Cllr. Whitlock expressed concern that if Council were to agree to the offer that the decision might be seen as setting a precedent for any future developments.

Cllr. Butcher recommended that Council accept the offer which would ensure Council's control of the area in perpetuity and ensuring its future as an area of green infrastructure.

Chair, in recognizing the burden and challenges facing management companies in continuing maintenance of areas already in management companies hands, suggested that acceptance of the offer would take away any such burden and future problems for any Paddock Green management company which would be of benefit to parishioners.

Cllr. Partridge reminded members of the huge difference between maintaining the parish sports ground and maintaining one play area in the development.

Following a proposal by Cllr. Pope and seconding by Cllr. Magness

0718 **RESOLVED** to reject the offer of the developer to take on the AGI and, instead, suggest that it be offered to any other contractor engaged with the maintenance of the other areas within Paddock Green.

Cllr. Butcher asked that the vote be recorded:-

In favour of rejecting the offer to take on the AGI – Cllrs. Cole, Magness, Partridge, Pope and Whitlock

Against rejecting the offer to take on the AGI – Cllrs. Butcher and Freezer

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Monday 30th September, 2024 at 7.00 pm at the Village Hall, East Hoathly

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

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PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK (07948 496760) and/or
clerk@easthoathlywithhalland.org.uk

Background papers that are available can be found on the Parish Council website:
<https://easthoathlywithhalland.org.uk/>