

NORTH HINKSEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE, HELD ON THURSDAY 23rd JANUARY 2020, AT 7.00pm, IN THE SEACOURT HALL, 3 CHURCH WAY BOTLEY.

Present: Councillors: C. Potter (Chair), L. Berrett, J. Bolder, D. Kay, D. Blase, G. Fairclough, A. Rankin, M. Dowie, A. Mackeith and P. Allen.

Others: C A Ryde, Clerk

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor Bastin. Councillor Fairclough joined the meeting at 7.15pm
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
The minutes of the meeting on 12th September 2019 were agreed.
4. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** None.
5. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a) Maintenance of fence at western boundary of Upper Louie Memorial Playing Field (LMPF)

Councillors considered correspondence regarding the current state of fencing at the boundary of the privately-owned track between LMPF and Matthew Arnold School (MAS), and DISCUSSED recommendations to full council concerning the maintenance of the fence.

The Clerk undertook to review documentation in NHPC's possession to see if any papers gave a clear idea of who owned the track and what the track boundaries were.

The Chair undertook to speak with MAS to see if they had any documentation showing the boundaries and ownership.

Councillors expressed a number of concerns, especially about the use of barbed wire so close to a public play area.

It was AGREED that the following needed to be clarified:

- The boundaries at the track LM Field interface
- The right of way across the track as used by MAS
- The location of the previous fence lines
- Who was liable if an injury occurred on the barbed wire
- Once the above were established, the land owner should be asked to indicate the boundary and put up a notice warning about the barbed wire.

b) Review of Louie Memorial Playing Fields management

Councillors NOTED the work carried out during the autumn and early winter in accordance with the 2014 BBOWT recommendations, and DISCUSSED management to be undertaken through to April 2020.

Pond

A clearance day run by the Oxford Conservation Volunteers with local residents was held in the middle of November 2019. A lot of progress had been made with a large amount of vegetation cleared.

Signage

The signage needed to be checked to ensure that the path boundaries were clearly marked now that the vegetation had been cleared.

BBOWT Recommendations

The Committee reviewed the BBOWT recommended management plan and noted that there was nothing urgent required in January and February but it was AGREED that contact should be made with BBOWT and local volunteers to enable them to have direct input into the work required in the 2020 Spring.

c) Update on play equipment

Councillors to NOTED maintenance works undertaken since September and the current position for further works from HAGS (supplier of new equipment in upper playing field). There was no date for the Zip wire repair and remedial works needed to improve the badly installed safety matting beneath the Zip wire.

A Contractor had been asked to replenish the safety surface beneath the LM Field Monkey Bars. The basket in the lower LM field playground had been repaired.

d) Reports from:

i) North Hinksey Conservation Volunteers

There was no new work to report owing to the winter session break, but the NHCV chair stated by email: "I am very proud of all the clearing that has been done in the fen area and it will be very interesting to see if there is a wider range of plants in spring/summer .

The pond is bigger than ever thanks to the work done by OCV and your helpers."

Councillors noted that the next working dates for the volunteers were 8th February 2020 and the 7th and 28th March 2020.

ii) Louie Memorial Pavilion Trustees

It was reported that the football pitches were in good condition despite the recent bad weather and that there was a new football team expressing an interest in using the pitch.

6. ANY OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Councillor Potter drew the Committees attention to discussions at NHPC Council regarding co-opted members of committees and voting rights. The latter could affect R&A as technically it was concerned with land management. Councillors were asked to forward their opinions to the chair concerning R & A Committee co-opted members.

7. DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: 2nd April 2020.