



North Hinksey Parish Council



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Minutes of the Meeting of the Recreation & Amenities Committee held on Thursday 10th September 2020 at 7.00pm via video conference

Those Present: Cllr C Potter (Chairman), Cllrs P Allen, A Bastin, L Berrett, D Blase, J Bolder (part of meeting), M Dowie, G Fairclough (part of meeting), D Kay, A MacKeith, A Rankin

In Attendance: S Henley (Clerk)

Members of Public: 1

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr G Fairclough (arrived later in meeting)
2. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda: Cllr Blase declared a pecuniary interest in item 6e as a member of the LM Pavilion Trustees as funds from Botley Boys and Girls would go towards the Pavilion. Cllr Rankin declared a non-pecuniary interest as his father was acting as relief caretaker.
Cllr MacKeith joined the meeting at this point and confirmed no declarations.
3. Questions from Members of the Public: None

4. **Play Areas:** Review of ROSPA Play Area Annual Safety Inspections and agreement on further actions required.
Cllrs Fairclough and Bolder arrived during item 4 and confirmed no declared interests.
Cllr Potter outlined that these had been booked in July but not done until the end of August. There were no high risk actions requiring urgent attention but further works were required. Grass matting could be considered for some surfaces mentioned on the report.
Cllr Blase highlighted the need to replace the current wet pour surface and whether a different surface could be used this time as the existing surface was nine years old. Although a lot of items were repairs, there were quarterly inspections recommended in accordance with manufacturer's instructions in addition to the weekly visual checks by the Caretaker.
Cllr Potter proposed a Motion to ask Graham Sillman to look at items of work highlighted in the report and provide a quotation. In addition, to ask Graham to commence quarterly inspections and quote for any maintenance works from these. This was Seconded by Cllr Rankin and unanimously approved.
Cllr Potter noted that a previous quote of £20k for replacement wet pour had resulted in the Council putting these monies in Earmarked Reserves. It was thought that the replacement should be in place prior to next summer holidays and could take a week to 10 days. The previous patching work had not worked very well and the Committee should consider other options such as play bark, grass matting, rubber pour or artificial grass.

Cllr Potter proposed a Motion to authorise the Clerk to seek quotes for replacement wet pour from play manufacturers and also to seek quotes elsewhere for different surface options. This was Seconded by Cllr Fairclough and unanimously agreed.

The report had highlighted that additional signage was required on the MUGA. Committee members were asked to review the MUGA signage on site and the Clerk to check with ROSPA as

to the correct wording. This was Proposed by Cllr Kay, Seconded by Cllr Fairclough and unanimously agreed.

5. **Tree Survey:**

a. Review Tree Inspection Report: Councillors reviewed the report received.

b. Review of quotes received for all works due in the next 12 months

The Clerk had approached four tree surgeons for quotes following the survey but had only received one full quote and this still required additional input. A second tree surgeon had withdrawn his quote.

It was thought the oak T23 required extensive work, so this was an estimated cost. T24 was a group of willows which required a further quote due to the fact they the work presented difficulties with access.

The quote included quotes for trees within the Allotments and these to be discussed by the Allotments Committee.

Councillors agreed to further discuss the tree survey at a future meeting and ensure any quotes included all trees. The Clerk to check that the balance of the £3,000 allocated for the tree survey and associated works was still available.

c. Agreement on recommendations to make to full Council meeting. Cllr Potter proposed a Motion that any remaining funds in EMR for trees may be used urgently with satisfactory receipt of quotes for those actions recommended to be done within the month (5 trees). This was Seconded by Cllr Blasé and unanimously approved.

6. **Louie Memorial Playing Fields Management**

a. Report from North Hinksey Conservation Volunteers:

The Clerk read out an update from the group who were starting some conservation work at the weekend. They were planning small group of no more than 5 due to Covid restrictions and would be having more but shorter sessions with no student volunteers this year. Safety advice had been circulated to volunteers. A lot of tidying up and cutting could be done independently. It was thought that there was more wildlife in the area since the lockdown.

b. Louie Memorial Pavilion Trustees: Cllr Blase updated that there had been no use of the Pavilion since the last meeting due to Covid and they had to refuse several requests. There had been some incidents of people climbing on the roofs but no damage was caused. The Trustees would like to continue their support for the work of the PC and planning for the replacement Pavilion.

c. Discussion on proposal to hire Oxford Conservation Volunteers for pond clearance and fen management. A large job had been done last November at short notice. Cllr Potter had made enquiries and 27th Sept and some days in October and November available. They had previously done work days in the Fen and could provide person-power for an annual cut-back of growth in the fen and pond at £120 for each work day which was the same as last year. Cllr Potter Proposed ask the group about both jobs with November being the ideal time. This was Seconded by Cllr Blasé and unanimously approved.

d. Review and agreement on Grass Cutting Schedule. Councillors discussed the grass cutting for the whole parish in order to clarify to the contractors. Cllr MacKeith confirmed that the Village Green required a fortnightly cut and councillors agreed that the contractor should

following the existing 2020 schedule as advised at the start of the season. The Management Plan for the Churchyard had recently been sent to the contractor to follow.

The schedule for the Upper and Lower LM Fields was discussed with Cllr Bastin proposing the first cut on the Lower Field being left as late as possible in order to encourage turning it into a meadow. After discussion the following was proposed by Cllr Kay:

Lower Field – once monthly May-July

Upper Field – every three weeks April to July and once monthly from Aug to Sept

This was Seconded by Cllr Rankin, all councillors were in favour except Cllr Dowie who voted against, with Cllr Allen abstaining so the Motion was carried. The Clerk to liaise with the contractor but it was agreed to review the cutting of the Upper Field at a subsequent meeting if required.

- e. Consideration of request from Botley Boys & Girls Football Club to paint a small football pitch on the Upper Field. Cllr Blase advised that this proposal had changed since the initial plan was circulated with the actual size now being 36m x 27m which was the FA approved size. As an updated plan was not available for review, Cllr Fairclough Proposed that the work was agreed in principle with Cllr Blase to circulate an updated drawing following the meeting to show the exact position of the pitch. This was Seconded by Cllr MacKeith. Cllrs Allen and Blase abstained with all other councillors voting in favour, so the Motion was approved.
7. **Fence on Upper Playing Fields Boundary:** Update on current status by Cllr Potter and agreement on any further actions required. Cllr Potter advised that, due to shortage of time for this discussion, this was non urgent and could be discussed at full Council if necessary.
8. **Finance:** Update on R&A budget spend year to date. Cllr Potter had received clarification from the Clerk on current budget spends. She confirmed that £2,000 required re-allocating from the Pavilion budget and the Clerk to action.
9. Any other items for information: There were none.
10. Date of next scheduled meeting: Thursday 28th January 2021 at 7pm, venue tbc

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.04 hours.