



## North Hinksey Parish Council



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### Minutes of a Meeting of the Recreation & Amenities Committee held at 7pm on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 via video conference

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

**In Attendance:** S Henley (Clerk)

**Members of Public:** One (part of meeting)

1. **Apologies for Absence:** There were none.
2. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:** There were none.
3. **Questions from Members of the Public:** There were none.

Cllr MacKeith joined at this point.

#### 4. **Play Areas :**

a. Update on:

i. Quarterly Inspection works: An update had been received from Graham Sillman and was discussed as follows:

- Supply and install of replacement blank caps to the finger entrapments on the toddler multiplay complete.
- The springy Rocking Rider was loose at its base and had been temporarily removed and the area made safe. He was awaiting advice from Playdale.
- The Junior Multiplay had a water retention issue on the bridge and he recommended that drainage holes were drilled in the edges of the planking to prevent this happening again. As there were no funds in the Maintenance budget, Cllr Blase proposed that this was completed by Graham Sillman from the grass cutting budget. This was seconded by Cllr MacKeith and unanimously APPROVED.
- Quotes for the remaining items from the quarterly report to be supplied shortly.
- Proposed bark chipping on entrance paths – Cllr Potter to meet Graham Sillman on site so a quote could be prepared for the full Council meeting.

ii. Zip Wire Failure: The repair was still not complete and the Clerk was chasing HAGS.

iii. Basketball Nets: These had been fitted but had required holes to be drilled for them to be fitted.

b. Wetpour Quotes: Review of additional quote and discussion on next steps.

The Clerk had obtained a third quote from Playground Facilities Ltd who recommended a wetpour skim at a cost of £10,826.46 for black or £14,710.81 for black/blue skim, guaranteed for 6 years. Councillors were reminded of the previous two quotes received for wetpour and tiger mulch.

The use of bark chipping was discussed as a lower cost alternative. The clerk advised against this as previous experience had shown it to be high maintenance. Following discussion Cllr Potter proposed that the Clerk contact ROSPA for recommendations on a suitable type of surface. This was seconded by Cllr Rankin and unanimously APPROVED.

**5. Louie Memorial Playing Fields Management:** Consider recommendations from Working Group meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for monitoring peat and water levels in the fen **(Paper 1)**

The recommendations were discussed, including to survey the fen to measure peat depth and work out how much carbon was stored in the peat. In addition to install two dipwells to enable the water table depth to be measured which would help target work.

Cllr Dowie drew attention to a channel which had been dug on the eastern edge of the fen a few years ago which might affect water levels. After further discussion Cllr Potter proposed to authorise the recommendations in paper 1. Also, for the position of the channel (and any other water channels) to be determined with advice provided on what effect they might have on water and peat levels. This was seconded by Cllr Kay and unanimously APPROVED.

Cllr Dowie asked if the bird and bat boxes mentioned could this be progressed this year? Cllr Potter to check with the Working Group and any costs to be considered by full Council.

There followed a discussion about proposed alternative uses for the triangle of land behind Lime Road houses and it was explore options at the forthcoming Green Spaces workshop.

**6. Grass Cutting Quotes for 2021: (Folder 2 – Dropbox)** Review of costs and specification for

- a. Louie Memorial Playing Fields
- b. St Lawrence Churchyard
- c. Village Green

The Clerk circulated two quotes for all NHPC areas, although Cllr MacKeith was seeking an alternative quote for the Nature Reserve. Of the two quotes, BGG's represented the best value for money. Cllr Kay proposed to add a recommendation to accept BGG's quote for the playing fields, churchyard and village green to the February Council Meeting agenda. This was seconded by Cllr MacKeith and unanimously APPROVED.

The Clerk to check whether the costs would be the same if the Nature Reserve was not included in the contract.

It was agreed the Cllr Berrett would upload the existing Churchyard Management Plan to the website for information.

**7. Asset Register:** Review of draft register for 2021 and agree actions required. The Clerk explained that the register required various updates for this year with some items no longer kept and requiring writing off. The Committee reviewed the draft document and Cllr Blase agreed to clarify on some items kept at the Pavilion. The Clerk to check the correct valuation for the Pavilion and Scout Hut and the register to be reviewed by full Council.

## **8. Reports**

- a.** North Hinksey Conservation Volunteers: The Clerk read out the following update from Voirrey Carr:

Now that we are in another hard lockdown, it is impossible to gather volunteers to work at weekends. It is very risky to be working in an area that is well used by the public. I keep an eye on the paths and cut back where necessary (usually at very early times of the day) to allow people to get through the pathways safely and clear away fallen branches etc after heavy storms. I hope the restrictions will lessen as Spring approaches -that is usually a busy time for us.

There are sometimes young people gathering in the copse and by the pond -obviously this is not good- they are certainly not keeping appropriate distance. Recent cold and wet weather has reduced this problem.

- b.** Louie Memorial Pavilion Trustees – Cllr Blase reported the Pavilion was still not being used as per Government guidance. The Caretaker was completing weekly water flushing for legionella prevention and checking the building. There had been reports of young people climbing on the building but no damage had been sustained.

- 9. Finance:** The Committee reviewed the reports and the Clerk/RFO clarified the movement of £40,000 to earmarked reserves for wet pour replacement and the Pavilion.

- 10. Any other items for information:** There were none.

- 11. Date of next scheduled meeting:** Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7pm, via video conference.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.01 hours.