



## North Hinksey Parish Council



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### A Meeting of the Recreation & Amenities Committee to be held at 7pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 via video conference

**Those Present:** Cllr Potter (Chairman), Cllrs Allen, Bastin, Berrett, Blase, Dowie, Kay, MacKeith and Rankin

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

**Members of Public:** 6

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Judi Bolder.
2. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:** There were none.
3. **Questions from Members of the Public:** There were none.
4. **Louie Memorial Fields Management**
  - a. **Skatepark Working Group:**
    - i. **To confirm councillor members and appoint members from the Botley Skatepark Project and other local youth representatives.** Cllr Potter advised that eleven members of public had expressed an interest in joining the working group. The current council had two more years end in office 2023 and would like the Working Group's input to plan the design and obtain planning approval. It was agreed that Cllrs Allen, Blase, Dowie, MacKeith and Potter would be part of working group plus ten or eleven members of public.
    - ii. **To determine initial meeting(s) aims and activities of the Group.** Cllr Kay highlighted that the remit of the working group was not to make decisions but to feed into R&A Committee. Cllr Potter was keen to arrange the first virtual meeting as soon as possible and it was agreed that the first meeting would agree individual responsibilities with most participants being available on Sunday afternoons. Seed funding was available with the £12,000 insurance money from when the original skatepark was condemned. CIL money and external grants were to be investigated.
  - b. **Trim Trail:** To consider and approve quotes from Graham Sillman for items highlighted in the ROSPA report of 2020 and Quarterly Inspection (Paper 1). Funding was Included in the MUGA and Trim Trail budget for 2021-22.
    - i. **Grass Matting for trampoline, chin up bars and monkey bars at a cost of £1,340.** Cllr Blase proposed, Cllr Rankin seconded and the quote was unanimously APPROVED.
    - ii. **Trim Trail Steps replacement at £1,100.** It was thought that the steps were expensive to replace and as they had not been flagged as a safety concern Cllr Bastin proposed to defer a decision and not accept the quote. This was seconded by Cllr Kay and unanimously APPROVED.
  - c. **Wet Pour Surface at Children's Play Area:**
    - i. **Review of information received from advisory bodies (Paper 2a & 2b)**

Cllr Potter outlined how previous repairs had been completed a few years ago but these had now failed. The current wetpour had cracked and pulled away from the edges and was now causing significant trip hazards. Three quotes for replacement wetpour had previously been discussed by R&A but ROSPA and the OPFA had both advised looking at repair options. However, the ROSPA advice of filling with sealant had been done before and had not lasted.

ii. **To consider feedback from Graham Sillman on proposed patching of wetpour as discussed at recent site visit. (Paper 3)**

The Clerk, Cllrs Potter and Rankin and Graham Sillman had met on site to discuss options. Graham had declined to produce a quote for repair as he had concerns about the longevity of any repair work. Methods of effecting a repair were discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would approach the three contractors who had previously quoted to ask for their suggestions. Two contractors had responded with advice and the third had withdrawn due to the scope of works being changed.

iii. **To determine future actions in respect of wetpour surface**

After an extended discussion Cllr Kay proposed that R&A Committee agree not to complete a full replacement but to pursue final quotes and firm details on a repair to take to full council or another meeting of R&A Committee. The Clerk to instruct the two contractors of the Council's intention and request detail on how to address the shrinkage issue. Cllr Rankin seconded and Cllr Dowie requested a named vote. All voted in favour other than Cllr Dowie against and no abstentions, so the motion was APPROVED.

d. **Car Park: To review arrangements for opening and closing of gates and determine whether any changes are required.**

Cllr Potter undertook to replace some of the notices as a few did not have the correct phone number for the Clerk. A representative from the volunteer group who opened and closed the car park said they were currently locking at 8pm and the new notices should advise that the car park would be locked at 8pm or dusk, in line with other parks which worked well. People read the notices and usually parked on the road at night. Cllr Potter proposed to add the new 8pm or dusk wording to the notices along with the correct clerk's phone number. This was seconded by Cllr Rankin and APPROVED.

e. **Tree Work: To discuss concerns raised by a parishioner about cut wood and branches along the concrete path and agree any further actions.**

Councillors reviewed the comments made by a parishioner via email which highlighted concerns about fires being started and heavy pieces of wood thrown into the pond. Cllr Rankin had reviewed the situation and advised that no additional wood was in the pond and the remainder of the wood was reasonably well stacked up. Cllr Bastin advised that floating wood on the pond may benefit the wildlife for various reasons. Cllr Kay proposal taking no further action at present but to continue to monitor the situation. This was seconded by Cllr MacKeith and APPROVED.

Cllr Bastin left the meeting at this point (8pm).

f. **Congregational Eid Prayer: To consider request for use of playing field from organisers of event to take place on 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> May at 9.30am.** After having reviewed the current government Covid-safe guidance Cllr Potter proposed permission for the event and this was seconded by Cllr Blase and APPROVED.

However, Cllr Kay had been unable to take part in the discussion and vote due to a frozen internet connection and raised that he believed the event for up to 60 people

was against government guidelines as it was a religious festival but not at a place of worship so numbers should be limited to 6 people or two households.

Following this discussion Cllr Rankin proposed for the Clerk to contact the PSCO and the Vale to ensure the event was legal before giving final permission. This was seconded by Cllr Dowie and APPROVED.

- g. **Proposed Picnic Benches:** Agreement on positioning of benches, subject to approval of purchase at Council meeting. This was deferred for discussion at full council or an Extra R&A meeting.

## 5. Reports

- a. **North Hinksey Conservation Volunteers** – Voirrey Carr gave the following update:

There had been a lot of litter in the fields over the last few weeks so they had bought a couple of litter pickers to use when walking through the Copse. Someone had built a climbing frame and swing in the copse on the shorter path to the right. It had footholds and a swing and the group had concerns that if someone had an accident it could cause problems for the Parish Council as groups of girls play on it after school.

The group usually complete cutting back tasks and will carry this out using the 'rule of 6'. They would look at planting replacement trees and moving shrubs into that area and would be starting in the next week or two. They would also look at moving the smaller pieces of wood along the path.

Cllr Blase noted that the bins were full to overflowing at weekends and it was thought that a lot of litter was being emptied and with lockdown easing this might become easier. Cllr Potter suggested a review of whether bins were sufficient or perhaps organising a litter picking event.

- b. **Louie Memorial Pavilion Trustees** – Cllr Darren Blase updated:

The Pavilion has been closed for 12 months. We have just re-opened to allow the roller hockey club to collect their equipment from the internal store.

The condition of the building is still very poor, paint is now peeling off the ceiling. The Trustees are encouraged to hear that funding is underway for the replacement Pavilion. The Trustees received a grant over the summer and will use some of these funds to give the inside a good clean and paint the internal walls and ceilings.

The pop up cafe would like to start using the building and the outside field from Sunday 23rd May.

- c. **Playing Fields Management Working Group** - Cllr Potter reported:

The group had agreed to meet for a second time for a site walkabout in the next week or two and Voirrey Carr had asked to join the working group. Adam Bows had advised on work such as pollarding but no immediate action was needed. The group had discussed expanding the Wildflower boundary in the Lower Field. Cllr Dowie requested a map detailing this request but Cllr Potter advised that this would be produced as part of the walkabout. Cllr Potter to liaise with the Clerk on when the grass was next being cut.

- 6. **Any other items for information:** Cllr Dowie asked if there was location map of the birdboxes but none existed at present. Cllr Potter advised on their location and would produce a map but advised that six out of ten were occupied. Cllr Dowie asked if thought could be given to the location of the bat boxes and Cllr Potter confirmed the intention to do so.
- 7. **Date of next scheduled meeting:** Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7pm at the Seacourt Hall.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 20.24 hours.