



# North Hinksey Parish Council



Mrs Linda Morrison Allsopp, Clerk to the Parish Council

Tel: 07494 054581 or 01865 861992

E-mail: [clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk)

Parish Office, 1st Floor, 5 Church Way, Botley, Oxford OX2 9TH

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Recreation & Amenities Committee held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at Seacourt Hall and via video conference

**Those present:** Cllr Blase, (Chair), Cllrs Berrett, Bolder, Dowie, Kay, MacKeith, Potter and Cllr Rankin in attendance via Zoom. Cllr Fairclough joined later.

**In attendance:** Mrs Linda Morrison Allsopp (Clerk).

There were 3 members of the public present.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Bastin.
2. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:** Cllr Dowie declared a non-pecuniary interest as an allotment holder.
3. **Approval of Draft Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2021. Agreed with amendments. Cllr Fairclough was present and Clerk will add names of Councillors answering the questions. Cllr Rankin to sign as Chair of the Meeting.**
4. **Questions from Members of the Public.** None.
5. **Election of Vice Chairman** – Cllr Judy Bolder proposed seconded and agreed unanimously.
6. **Play Areas:**
  - a. **Quotation for Pressure washing of fenced play area.**  
One quotation in Dropbox. Clerk asked to Check quotation is for pressure washing. Check with supplier of surface how it needs to be cleaned. Cleaning of the surface area not the play equipment and bring to next meeting. **ACTION POINT**
7. **Louie Memorial Fields Management** –
  - a. **Skatepark Working Group:** Cllr MacKeith reported entries down to two. Final decision by Parish Council meeting next week. Cllr MacKeith was asked to provide the spreadsheet of the results to the Clerk for placing in the Dropbox for the Parish Meeting. Zoom Meeting next Monday with the 2 contenders will make final decision. Details of decision making process to be provided for Parish Council Meeting. **ACTION POINT**

**b. Fen tree works papers 1 and 2.**

3 Willows to be pollarded to reduce their water take up from the Fen and start a pollarding cycle. The suggestion came from the group working to manage the wood at edge of the Fen. Work needs to be completed before 1<sup>st</sup> March. Adam Bows explained pollarding and the need to do it. Work on the Willows will allow re-establishment of Fen plants and Adam Bows getting seed for this, now and in the future. Important to keep the peat wet and the carbon within it and the Fen is bigger than previously thought. Need to maintain it. Need to ensure a balance to maintain the wildlife in the area. Cllr Dowie expressed concerns in the safety of lone working and the implications for Parish Council. Cllr Rankin explained that it depends on the Risk Assessment from the contractor and this has been provided to the Parish Council. Council has no policy preventing lone working. **Agreement to the work proposed seconded and vote unanimous.**

**8. Memorial Garden, Nature Reserve and Orchard – Work to path by Minns**

Chair gave a background to this. Two small trees and scrub to be cut back to open up the area for construction of path, to be completed by the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. **Cllr Blase proposed agreement that Minns contractor can access NHPC land Seconded Cllr MacKeith. Unanimous vote.**

**9. Management Plan:** remit for a low maintenance re-design of the Memorial Garden Cllr MacKeith presented draft management plan previously circulated. Brambles and bindweed to be dug out and area replanted with a wood chip mulch. Including a proposed extra path to reduce vandalism. Cllr Dowie – there has already been a planning application by the developer for a second path which was rejected. Clerk asked to take advice from the Planning Department to see if NHPC can put this path in. **ACTION and agenda for next week's Parish Council Meeting..**

**20.13 Cllr Fairclough arrived.**

Proposal 2 days to clear brambles then half day maintenance per month. Discuss with neighbouring offices to pay for future maintenance. Cllr Potter - Make sure detail required for future work is specified. Needs to be properly budgeted. Cllr MacKeith, Work done before but not regularly by a specific contractor. Applecat have now taken this on board and have agreed to a maintenance contract.

Take plan to 3 bidders and get quotes. Cllr MacKeith has booked Applecat to do the work on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. Cllr Dowie £3000 a year, not a low maintenance plan. Cllr MacKeith, need higher cost to bring it up to standard then lower future costs. **Subject to approval at Parish Council Meeting. Cllr Fairclough proposed that quotation for initial work by Applecat be accepted and Cllr Kay seconded. Named vote. Cllr Dowie against, rest of Committee for the proposal.**

**10. Bench:** Update on installation of a new bench (to replace a previous bench) near the gate of the community orchard. Bench has been replaced.

#### 11. Any other items for information

**Louie Memorial Caretaker** on sick leave and temporary cover in place while we recruit an Occasional Caretaker to cover sick leave and future holidays.

**Use of Pavilion at the moment** Art group Monday evening. Ladies Adult football team Botley boys and girls football team using it as their second Club. Pavilion Trustees have new equipment being delivered for Botley Boys and Girls.

**Damaged bench** - Cllr Rankin is going to fix, but it has been left safe.

**Budget papers** Cllr Kay reminded Committee that Budget papers are in Dropbox but no questions.

**Louie Memorial Playing Field** Intention to keep the edges longer for wildlife as in previous years. Check with Contractor that they are aware. **ACTION POINT**

**Water Monitoring** Cllr Dowie asked if there was any value in monitoring water coming into the Fen as a long term project and checking water quality, to build up a long term picture. Approach the Fresh Water Habitat Trust to see if they would be interested, or can offer advice. **ACTION POINT Clerk to get information, for next Meeting.**

12. **Date of next meeting:** 7pm on the 21st April 2022.

**Meeting closed at 8.35pm**