



# North Hinksey Parish Council



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## Minutes of a meeting of the Recreation & Amenities Committee held at 7pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at Seacourt Hall and via video conference

**Those present:** Cllr Blase (Chair), Cllrs Berrett, Dowie, MacKeith, Potter and Rankin

**In attendance:** Mrs H Broughton (Clerk)

There were no member of the public

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Bastin, Bolder and Kay
- 2. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:**  
Cllr Dowie declared a non-pecuniary interest as an allotment holder.  
Cllr Blase declared a non-pecuniary interest as Chair of the Pavilion Committee.
- 3. Questions from Members of the Public:** There were none
- 4. Play Areas:** ROSPA Play Area Annual Safety reports had been received and circulated. Items that had been recommended for action were considered  
Community Orchard  
Encroaching vegetation on walkway near entrance to car park: volunteers would be cutting this back.  
Decaying timber on walkway: has been inspected by Cllr Blase who found no issues and as a low risk no action was required at this time.  
Nail on middle gate protruding: has been repaired.  
Lower Field Copse and Fen  
Gate trip hazard: low risk level. Yellow paint suggested and signage. It was agreed to consider further solutions and discuss at the next meeting.  
Lower LM Field Playing Area  
Rotator pole level 6: Ask contractor to tighten.  
Gate with dog grid entrapment: Contractor to adjust gate and recommend a more permanent solution.  
Inner swing seat connectors neds replacing, high risk: Ask contractor to replace connectors and quote for a new basket.  
Secondary support for lower basket, medium risk: Ask suppliers if a suitable clear cover can be used.  
Upper Field  
Graffiti: ask if any paint left and paint over and arrange for graffiti to be painted over.  
Shelter corrosion: no action.  
Top swing basket reconnect to secondary chain: Ask contractor to repair.

5. **Monthly maintenance visit of Play Areas**

Proposed by Cllr Church that the Council agree a monthly maintenance visit by the contractor to carry out smaller repairs to the play areas. The contractor had recommended against this as not be good value for money and there was currently a quarterly inspection. It was unanimously AGREED to reject the proposal.
6. **Louie Memorial Fields Management**
  - a. **Skatepark Working Group:** An update was received from Cllr Potter. This project is being run by community members. An event was held at the Community Café last Sunday and designs and an online survey are being advertised via Instagram groups. A further working group meeting will be held at the end of the month and the aim is for core elements of the design to be agreed by this date which will then be consulted on with the community.
  - b. **Metal steps:** Proposed by Cllr Blase and seconded by Cllr Potter to approve removal of metal steps on the Louie Memorial Playing field at a cost of £341 plus vat. This was unanimously APPROVED.
  - c. **Titan Swing:** Proposed by Cllr Blase and seconded by Cllr Rankin to approve quotation 921 for repair of one set of chains on the Titan swing that has reached 72% of original section. This was unanimously APPROVED.
7. **Memorial Garden, Nature Reserve and Orchard**
  - a. Cllr MacKeith had updated the management plan for the Memorial Garden, Nature Reserve and Orchard, which had been circulated. It was proposed by Cllr Potter and seconded by Cllr Berrett to obtain proposals and quotations for maintenance of the Memorial Garden. A named vote was requested. All voted in favour other than Cllr Dowie, so was APPROVED.
  - b. **To approve a request for a soakaway to be installed in the orchard.**

The request was considered by the committee with the general view being that the orchard was not a suitable site due to flooding, trees being affected and issues with crossing of boundaries and responsibilities. It was suggested that the soakaway could be installed in the car park to the rear of the building.

It was proposed by Cllr Blase and seconded by Cllr Rankin to refuse the request for a soakaway in the orchard and that the Chair and Clerk agree a response. A named vote was requested, and all members voted in favour, so the motion was APPROVED.
8. **Oxford Conservation Volunteers**
  - a. It was proposed by Cllr Blase and seconded by Cllr Potter to agree that OCV revisit the Nature Reserve on 18<sup>th</sup> September to mow the remaining areas of grass meadow and undertake trimming work on the willows round the pond at a cost of £120. This was unanimously APPROVED.
  - b. It was proposed by Cllr Potter and seconded by Cllr Rankin that OCV be booked for a workday on the Fen on Sunday October 31<sup>st</sup> or Sunday November 14<sup>th</sup> and that details of the works required be confirmed following the full council meeting in October, which would be informed by input from the Playing Fields Management

Working Group. A named vote was requested. All members voted in favour, so this was unanimously APPROVED.

#### 9. **Reports**

- a. North Hinksey Conservation Volunteers: A written report had been circulated. Cllr Blase would look at the nettles along the path and report back to full council.
- b. Louie Memorial Pavilion Trustees: It was reported that the Pavilion has partially re-opened and that there were conversations being held with football teams regarding its use. 17 members of the local Sudanese community were currently the only group using it on a Saturday night. There were plans to re-open the youth club. The AGM was taking place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September.
- c. Playing Fields Management Working Group: The Working Group has not met since April / May 2021 however the main recommendations have been implemented. The council altered grass cutting to enable wildflowers which has been a success. Birdboxes were well used during the nesting season. There is an ongoing discussion regarding rotating pollarding of the willow trees with the caveat that this should be balanced with the needs of wildlife. There was general agreement that the Copse area did not need much management, but the working group was discussing the possibility of a tree survey every 2 to 3 years.

#### 10. **Budget**

Various items such as tree condition, replacing timber walkway, replacing gate on the lower pavilion field may need budgeting for. Cllr Potter suggested a budget for tree works that were outstanding from a previous survey. Cllr Blase would draft proposals for the next meeting.

#### 11. **Any other items for information:**

- Gates at car park are being shut earlier
- Wetpour is in good condition
- Picnic benches are in good condition and well used

#### 12. **Date of next scheduled meeting:** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 7pm at the Seacourt Hall and by video conference.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm