



## North Hinksey Parish Council



Mrs Helen Broughton, Locum Clerk to the Parish Council

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

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

Tel: 07494 054581

### Minutes of a Meeting of the Recreation & Amenities Committee held at 7pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 at Seacourt Hall and via video conference

**Those present:** Cllrs Berrett, Bolder, Dowie, Fairclough, Kay, MacKeith, Potter and Rankin

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

There were 3 members of the public present

In the absence of Cllr Blase, it was proposed and seconded that Cllr Rankin take the Chair. This was unanimously APPROVED.

#### Cllr Rankin in the Chair

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Bastin and Blase
2. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:** Cllr Dowie declared a non-pecuniary interest as an allotment holder.
3. **Questions from Members of the Public**

#### Question 1 regarding item 5b on the agenda – cutting back of bushes.

*Why is this being proposed when no Planning Application has yet been put forward or approved for the "proposed Skatepark", and thus both the location and the potential approval of the proposed Skatepark are uncertain, and therefore any work connected with it should be subject to a risk assessment (which has not been provided) of the risk that the cost of the work may be unnecessary and therefore wasted expenditure? How does this relate to the objectives of the Environmental & Wellbeing Committee, which is seeking to increase tree cover?*

It was clarified by the Clerk and Cllr Potter that there had been a misunderstanding and that item 5b had been included on the agenda in error and that no decisions would be taken at this meeting.

#### Question 2

*At the North Hinksey Parish Council meeting held on 25th November the Parish Clerk reported that she had received proposals from the 4th Oxford Scouts to refurbish the Scout Hut on the Upper Louie Memorial Field and had circulated them to all North Hinksey Parish Councillors. Why are these proposals not scheduled to be discussed at the Recreation & Amenities meeting to be held on 2nd December since the Scout Hut is an Amenity in North Hinksey parish?*

It was explained by the Chair Cllr Rankin and by Cllr Potter that the Recreation and Amenities Committee does not have delegated authority to make a decision on the Scout Hut lease and that this was a matter for Full Council.

#### 4. Play Areas:

##### a. Review of Quarterly Safety Inspection

A quotation (Q979) for £332 had been received in respect items requiring attention following the quarterly safety inspection.

It was proposed and seconded **that quotation Q979 be accepted and that the Clerk obtain a quote for pressure washing of the fenced play area on the lower field.** A named vote was requested and this was unanimously APPROVED.

#### 5. Louie Memorial Fields Management

##### a. Skatepark

Six submissions had been received following the Skatepark tender and these would be considered by the Working Group with a proposal going to the next Council meeting.

##### b. Cutting back of bushes to the tree line behind the proposed Skatepark location in the non-birding season.

This item had been included on the agenda in error. The concerns of residents and the North Hinksey Conservation Volunteers were noted.

It was proposed and seconded that no action be taken. A named vote was requested. The proposal was unanimously APPROVED.

#### 6. Memorial Garden, Nature Reserve and Orchard

##### a. Review of the management plan for the Memorial Garden, Nature Reserve and Orchard.

The contractor would be starting work on 3<sup>rd</sup> December on maintenance of the Memorial Garden. There was some discussion regarding redesigning the Memorial Garden to reduce ongoing costs. The Clerk would request an update and timeline on the new path. It was proposed and seconded **that following approved maintenance work no further money be spent on the Memorial Garden until specialist advice was received and quotes obtained on a low maintenance garden.** A named vote was requested. Cllr MacKeith was against, Cllr Bolder abstained and all other Cllrs voted in favour, so this was APPROVED.

It was proposed and seconded **that Cllrs Fairclough and MacKeith produce a remit for a low maintenance re-design of the Memorial Garden and that councillors email any ideas within the next 2 weeks.** This was unanimously APPROVED.

It was proposed and seconded **that flailing of the hedge along North Hinksey Lane in January or February be added to the management plan.** This was unanimously APPROVED.

##### b. Installation of a new bench in the Community Orchard.

The Clerk confirmed that installation costs for the bench had been paid for.

It was proposed and seconded **that a new bench be installed in the location of the original bench in the Community Orchard as soon as possible.** This was unanimously APPROVED.

7. **2022/23 budget recommendations**

It was proposed and seconded **to increase the budget for dog bins to £1300 and Inspection and Safety Checks to £1,100.** This was unanimously APPROVED.

8. **Any other items for information:**

Public questions for this meeting to be added to Dropbox.

Election of a Vice Chairman to be agreed at the next committee meeting.

9. **Date of next meeting:** It was agreed **to reschedule the 27th of January committee meeting to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022.** This was unanimously APPROVED.