

NORTH HINKSEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE, HELD ON THURSDAY 28th JANUARY 2016, AT 7.00pm, IN THE SEACOURT HALL, BOTLEY.

Present: Councillors: The Chairman, Councillor C. Potter and Councillors L. Berrett, J. Bolder, Mrs. V. Carr, D. Kay, Mrs. J. Hammett, L. Kunzemann, Ms. A. MacKeith, R. Mayne and A. Pritchard.

Others: District Councillor Mrs. E. Smith, E. Casely and D. Blase (LMPMC/NHYC) and A. J. Stone (Parish Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mrs. V. Carr, Mrs. J. Hammett and A. Pritchard declared a non-pecuniary interest as members of the North Hinksey Conservation Volunteers. Councillor J. Bolder declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 3b 'Items for Consideration-Youth Club Camp Out Event' as a volunteer at the North Hinksey Youth Club.

3. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a). MUGA - Cleaning and Maintenance

The Chairman, Councillor C. Potter introduced this item and explained the problems the council had experienced in getting a suitably strong water supply to pressure hose the MUGA surface. D. Blase (Louie Memorial Pavilion Management Committee) informed the meeting that the MUGA surface closest to the pavilion was becoming slippery due to an accumulation of moss. The Parish Clerk confirmed that there was £300 in the council's budget to clean the MUGA surface but the problem had been that the water pressure at the nearby pavilion was low and insufficient to operate a pressure washer and the council had experience difficulty in identifying a local source that had a sufficiently large mobile tanked water source that could be used. However, a new water outlet tap had now been fitted to the pavilion water supply which it was hoped might allow a greater supply of water.

E. Casely (LMPMC) felt that if the new water outlet was insufficient then he was aware of a company who could probably provide a solution, and if £300 was insufficient to cover the cost the LMPMC could probably fund the difference in cost. The Parish Clerk undertook to speak with G. Sillman to ask him to check the strength of the water supply from the new outlet to see if it was suitable to allow a pressure washer to be used and if insufficient to identify a possible solution.

Action: *The Chairman and the Parish Clerk to report to the February 2016 meeting of the Council the results and costs of any other identified solutions.*

b). Youth Club 'Camp Out' Event

The Chairman, Councillor C. Potter asked Councillor J. Bolder to summarise to the committee what was contained in her previously circulated joint report with D. Blase (LMPMC). She explained that the required insurance would be covered by the North Hinksey Youth Club's own insurance and it would be made clear to the parents of those children taking part that if the Parish Council agreed to allow the field to be used it was on the clear understanding that the council accepted no liability for the event. Councillor Bolder then made reference to the circulated Camp Risk Assessment undertaken by D. Blase which the Youth Club considered to be a comprehensive identification of possible risks and actions to be taken.

Three councillors raised concerns about the event being held in the 'Upper' playing field. These included,

- a). Some local people felt that camping was an inappropriate use of the land and would encourage other people to do.
- b). The belief that such an event was more suitable to be run at Hill End camp.
- c). The cost implications for the council if anything went wrong

Councillor J. Bolder, Darren Blase and other councillors did not feel it was an inappropriate use of the 'Upper' playing field. Councillor D. Kay queried how many residents had raised concerns about the proposal; Councillor Mrs. V. Carr confirmed that she had spoken to 4 residents who lived near the playing field, 4 of whom had expressed concern. D. Blase stated that there would be trained helpers at the camp and it was planned to invite the local PCSO's to talk to the children about their work and any other local issues. With reference to Hill End Camp, the Youth Club was there to provide a facility for those children who parents could not afford to send them to Hill End Camp. Insurance cover had already been explained along with the risk assessment and there should be no cost implications for the council. D. Blase asked if he could be made aware of those who had concerns so that representatives of the Youth Club could visit them to talk through their concerns.

Councillor L. Kunzemann proposed and Councillor D. Kay seconded the motion that 'Council agrees to allow the proposed 'Camp Out' on the Louie Memorial 'Upper' playing fields on the understanding that parents of the children taking part and others associated with the event are informed that the Council accepts no responsibility or liability for the event'.

Councillors voted by 6 votes to 2 votes (Councillors Mrs. V. Carr and Mrs J. Hammett) to SUPPORT the motion. (Councillor A. Pritchard abstained from voting and Councillor J. Bolder did not vote).

c). Leisure Working Group – Interim Report

The Chairman, Councillor C. Potter explained the background to earlier meeting and decisions now summarised in the interim report. Councillors NOTED the contents of the report.

d). Upgrade Works to the Louie Memorial 'Upper' Playing Field Football Pitch.

The Chairman, Councillor C. Potter explained that the council had agreed a budget for repairs to the football pitch and wondered when the work was likely to be undertaken. E. Casely informed the meeting that the works had been agreed with a contractor but the recent weather conditions had delayed the work. It was hoped that the initial works of treating the worm castings would start this weekend and once this was completed the remaining works could start.

e). Louie Memorial Management Trust

The Chairman, E. Casely reported that the trustees had met this week and the pavilion was still being well used by the Youth Club, craft courses, other occasional lettings and a new pottery class. Their finances were at a good level and the trustees were looking at spending some money on internal improvements. The trustees fully supported any attempts at raising money for further major improvements or the re-building of the pavilion. Councillor Mrs. J. Hammett reminded the meeting that it was necessary to have drawn plans of any proposals before any grant applications could be made.

E. Casely explained that there remained a number of issues that would need to be addressed sometime in relation to the pavilion; these included the possible failure of some of the copper pipe work, some issues in relation to the electrical installation, the framework to the emergency double doors needs some repair and the heating system struggles.

The Parish Clerk informed E. Casely that he should refer any known electrical issues to their electrician, who should then discuss the problem with the council. E. Casely confirmed that the electrical issues were not of a dangerous nature.

5. ANY OTHER MATTERS/INFORMATION

Councillor Ms. A. MacKeith raised the following issues

Path Behind the Botley Primary School leading to Wytham.

Any issues in relation to the path should be reported to the local County Councillor to be taken up with OCC Highways Department.

Floodlights on the Louie Memorial Upper playing Field

These would be subject to an investigation during 2016/2017.

6. DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

21st April 2016

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.