



## **MEMBERS OF THE SPORTS & RECREATION GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

Met on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.30 pm at Marshalswick Community Centre

**PRESENT:** Councillors John Newton Davies, Graham Leonard (Chair), Geoff Churchard, Jonathan Maskell, Janet Churchard and Public Member Jez Cox

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Jenny Roberts

**OFFICERS:** Simon Thwaites, Clerk, Rebecca Pannese, Project and Amenities Officer

**ABSENT:** Public Members Tom Clegg, Mike White

### **482 Disclosure of Interest and Dispensations**

There was none.

### **483 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Sports and Recreation Ground Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, having been previously circulated, were reviewed. It was unanimously:

#### **Resolved**

That the minutes be approved and signed as a correct record.

### **484 Bike track on the Jersey Farm Open Space**

Members discussed progress on this project as summarised below;

- A planning application will be submitted to the Planning Authority as soon as practically possible after the tender process has completed on March 18<sup>th</sup> and a contractor appointed. Finalisation of the contractor of choice should take place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March, or shortly thereafter. The Clerk and the Chair will 'score' the responses and select the contractor based on their proposals.
- The Project and Amenities Officer is looking into the requirement for an ecological survey.
- CEMEX have yet to determine the Parish Council's application for grant funding/materials.
- It was recommended that Members visit the new track at the Marlborough Road club in Cottonmill to see the new facilities there.
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### **485 Sports Courts at Spencer Meadow**

Members considered a request by the Sandridge Rovers Football Club for a safe box into which they could deposit key fobs after using the artificial pitch. However, concern was raised as to how secure this key would actually be and the likelihood of 'unofficial' access and the problems that might cause. Consequently, following discussion it was unanimously;

#### **Resolved**

Not to progress this request.

The Football Club will be informed of this decision.

**486 Frequency of Committee Meetings**

The following committee meeting dates were noted by members;

June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022

September 21<sup>st</sup> 2022

December 7<sup>th</sup> 2022

**487 Capital Works for 2023/2024**

The Project and Amenities Officer was asked to obtain costings the following items and to report back to the next meeting with a view to their being put provisionally into the 2023/2024 Sports and Recreation programme of works.

William Bell – table tennis table

Adventure Playground – reinstate missing slide

Play equipment for children with disabilities

Renovation to the timber steps to the slide at Damson Way

Provision of wet pour paths linking the four pieces of apparatus for wet weather use

Renovation of the slide at Spencer Meadow

Land drains at Harness Way

The Clerk undertook to organise the following;

To write a short article for the next Neighbourhood News on the subject of potential items of play equipment for children with disabilities.

The Clerk/Projects and Amenities Officer to investigate improving the access points to the Harness Way field from Jersey Lane using wood chippings

**488 Access from The Ridgeway to the William Bell Open Space**

Members were informed that a report to request funding for improvements to the surfacing at this location would be considered at the next Finance Committee meeting. The Project and Amenities Officer informed the meeting which of three options offered by contractors was thought most suitable and this was accepted.

**489 Court Hire Fees**

Following discussion in which the current, difficult, financial situation facing everyone was raised, and not wishing to add to this burden, it was unanimously;

**Resolved**

Not to increase hire fees for the coming year.

**490 Bench in William Bell Open Space**

Members discussed at length a request by an elderly resident to relocate the bench adjacent to her garden fence (on The Ridgeway) following many incidents of anti-social behaviour. It was unanimously;

**Resolved**

To ask the Project and Amenities Officer to cost the installation of new fence panels at the boundary point in question and to consider planting shrubs that would deter further intrusions to the resident's garden. This to be reported back to the June meeting with a holding response sent to the resident meanwhile.

**491 Matters of Note**

- “No studs” signage at Spencer Meadow has been installed in Court 2. Two large signs have been secured to the perimeter of the court requesting that appropriate footwear be worn at all times, and that all litter must be removed.
- An application has been submitted to St Albans District Council for devolution of the Wheat Close (Sandringham Crescent) playground and adjacent open space.
- A hardcore footpath has been installed linking Hazelmere Road through Skyswood to Sherwood Park.
- SADC are intending to install a new fence to secure the playground from the garage site at William Bell Open Space. Several times over the last year John O’Conner have repaired the fence to the playground, having been damaged by people climbing over to get to and from the garage site.

**492 Matters Arising Since the Circulation of the Agenda**

There was none.

**493 Suggestions for Future Meetings**

Please see above.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.42pm.

**Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022**

Chair .....

Date.....