



MEMBERS OF THE SPORTS & RECREATION GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Met on Wednesday 22nd June 2022 at 7.30 pm at Marshalswick Community Centre

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

APOLOGIES: Tom Clegg

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

ABSENT: Mike White

494 Disclosure of Interest and Dispensations

There was none.

495 Election of Chair

Councillor Graham Leonard was nominated and seconded for Chair. The nomination was accepted and there were no other nominations. It was unanimously;

Resolved

To elect Councillor Graham Leonard as Chair for the coming year.

496 Election of Vice Chair

Councillor Jenny Roberts was nominated and seconded for Vice Chair. The nomination was accepted and there were no other nominations. It was unanimously;

Resolved

To elect Councillor Jenny Roberts as Vice Chair for the coming year.

497 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Sports and Recreation Ground Committee held on 16th March, having been previously circulated, were reviewed. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously:

Resolved

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

498 Review Terms of Reference

The Committee wished to amend the quorum ratio of Councillors and Public Members to allow a meeting to be quorate without the need of public member presence. After prolonged discussion members were asked to consider all options and to come up with appropriate wording to be discussed and a final decision confirmed at the next meeting.

Note: The amendment to increase the frequency of meetings to 4 per annum had previously been agreed by the full Council and the TOR would be amended accordingly.

Post meeting suggestion of wording to be considered;

To amend to;

- “The quorum will be four members of the Sports and Recreation Ground Committee, comprising a minimum of three Parish Councillors”

499 Matters of Note

The Committee Chair updated members on the latest position, including;

- The completed tender process to select a contractor – JB Extreme was awarded the contract.
- SPC will work with the District Council regarding the formal contract with JB Extreme and in the monitoring of the build of the track’
- Herts Middlesex Wildlife Trust have been commissioned to undertake an ecological survey at the site, costing £300 to support the planning application. This survey is expected to be completed by the end of June.
- Planning application update.
- £25,000 of funding brought forward from 2021/22.
- CEMEX have yet to determine the Parish Council’s application for grant funding/materials. Whilst they have stated they are unable to provide materials it may be possible they will make a financial contribution to the project.

Post meeting note – the planning application has now been submitted. Once the application is live on St Albans and District Council’s planning portal the Projects Officer will email members the reference number

500 Capital Works for 2023/2024

The Project and Amenities Officer has obtained costings for the following items, as requested, with a view to them being put provisionally into the 2023/2024 Sports and Recreation programme of works.

Estimated costs of works;

- William Bell – table tennis table - £2100
- Adventure Playground – reinstate missing slide (replacement advised) - £5600
- Renovation to the timber steps to the slide at Damson Way – (est.) £1000
- Provision of wet pour paths linking the four pieces of apparatus for wet weather use at Damson Way - £7400
- Restoration work on slide at Spencer Meadow – £600
- Land drains at Harness Way - £TBA (if this proves to be a considerable expense it could be deferred to the 2024/25 budget)

Total - £16,700

The Committee discussed alternative ideas, in particular larger scale improvements and the potential of sourcing funds to facilitate this, for example by crowdfunding or lottery grants. It was decided that Councillors Graham Leonard and Jenny Roberts will meet with the Projects Officer and develop these ideas further in preparation for the next meeting, and include discussion on how to engage with the public regarding Parish Council initiatives following the surge of goodwill generated after the successful Queen’s Jubilee Celebration.

501 Play Equipment for children with Disabilities

The Committee may wish to include the installation of an apparatus in one of our playgrounds for children with disabilities. The Clerk wrote an article in the summer edition of Neighbourhood News asking parents of children with disabilities to share their experience of play equipment elsewhere. At this stage we have not received any responses. The outcome of the article and any further research will be included on the September agenda.

502 Problems for the householder on The Ridgeway arising from the siting of a bench in William Bell Open Space

Members discussed at the last meeting the problems experienced by the householder on The Ridgeway caused by youths gaining access to her garden via climbing on the bench immediately behind the fence and the resultant antisocial behaviour. The Project and Amenities Officer visited the householder and explained that the Parish Council were looking at solutions. It was decided that it is not possible to relocate the bench due to the concrete footings and so an alternative solution was discussed at the last meeting. This involved installing fence panels and planting some fast growing prickly hedgerow plants. The Projects Officer has obtained a quotation of £1,660 to give a guide cost to pursue this solution. After discussion the Committee;

Resolved

To pursue with the fence panels up to the cost of £1660 pending the outcome of a return visit to the householder by the Projects Officer and Chair when the suggestion that they may wish to make a contribution to the cost, will be raised.

503 Access to William Bell Open Space from The Ridgeway

The access footpath from The Ridgeway to the William Bell Open Space has now been resurfaced, eliminating the trip hazard caused by protruding roots and now providing a safe and even surface. The Committee commented on the success of the project and that there was positive feedback on social media following a post with before and after photos.

504 Matters of Note

- 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 Hughendon Road to the new path through Skyswood to Sherwood Park. This project is now complete.
SADC have installed a new security style metal fence between the garage site and the William Bell playground.
- The resurfaced court at Spencer Meadow continues to be well used by the community

505 Matters Arising Since the Circulation of the Agenda

There were none

506 Suggestions for Future Meetings

Items to be included on the September agenda;

- To discuss the outcome of the meeting between Councillors Jenny Roberts, Graham Leonard and the Projects Officer regarding future ideas for the playgrounds and how the public may be more engaged.
- To review the responses from the Neighbourhood News article on disability provision
- To arrange a playground walkabout after the next meeting
- To discuss the request that the Nomansland Nature Quest be considered by Full

Council

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.

Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 21st September 2022

Chair

Date.....