



MEMBERS OF THE SPORTS & RECREATION GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Met on Wednesday 5th October 2022 at 7.30 pm at Marshalswick Community Centre

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor John Newton-Davies, Tom Clegg, Mike White

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

ABSENT: -

507 Disclosure of Interest and Dispensations

There was none.

508 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Sports and Recreation Ground Committee held on 22nd June 2022, having been previously circulated, were reviewed. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously:

Resolved

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

509 JFOS Bike Track Update

Members noted that the planning application was validated by the Planning Authority on the 2nd September 2022 with a closing date for comments of 5th October 2022.

The Chair informed Members that approximately 56 comments had been submitted, two thirds of which were in favour of the application, including the local constabulary. Of those opposed to the application, the key objections were anti-social behaviour, litter, parking and access. These concerns were considered and duly noted.

510 Capital Works for 2023/2024

The following expenditure agreed was for inclusion in the 2023/24 draft budget.

- William Bell – table tennis table - £2,310
- Adventure Playground – reinstate missing slide (replacement advised) - £6,160
- Renovation to the timber steps to the slide at Damson Way – (est.) £1,100
- Provision of wet pour paths linking apparatus for wet weather use at Damson Way - £8,140

Total - £17,710

It was unanimously;

Resolved

To ask the Clerk to include the above items totaling £17,710 in the draft 2023/24 budget to be reviewed by the Finance Committee in October and approved by Full Council in November 2022.

Also to increase the draft budget in that year for General Playground Expenses to £5,000.

511 Play Equipment for children with Disabilities

It was noted that, following the last meeting, the Clerk had written an article in the summer edition of the Neighbourhood News requesting information from residents with regard to their experiences with inclusive play facilities elsewhere outside of the parish. It was further noted that no responses had been received. Committee members were asked to independently research inclusive play equipment and report back to the Project, Amenities and Community Engagement Officer with any ideas.

512 Land Drains at Harness Way

The Committee discussed a contractor meeting held at this location in respect of alleviating excessive surface water. On grounds of complexity and likely cost it was unanimously;

Resolved

Not to proceed at this time.

513 Fence adjacent to the William Bell Open Space bench

It was agreed that, in consultation with the resident, it was not necessary to proceed with this matter currently.

514 Agree walkabout dates

Councillor Leonard agreed to circulate a Doodle Poll inviting committee members to select two dates for a walkabout. It was noted that weekday afternoons were preferred.

515 Review of Hire Charges at Spencer Meadow

Following discussion, it was unanimously;

Resolved

To increase the following court and pitch fees with immediate effect;

Cricket Club

A 3.5% increase on 2021/22 rates.

Football Club

A 3.5% increase on 2021/22 rates.

Tennis/Netball Court

A £1 increase to £6 per hour for individuals and a £2 increase to £12 per hour for team sports.

Football/Netball Astro Turf Court

A £5 increase to £15 per hour.

Floodlighting

A £1 increase to £6 per hour.

The Clerk was also asked to include in the 2023/24 budget setting process a request to transfer £2,000 annually from general to earmarked reserves towards the future replacement of the AstroTurf.

516 Timber cladding replacement on slides in William Bell and Spencer Meadow

The committee noted that, last month, the Finance Committee had approved expenditure of up to £4,500 to replace timber to two slides within the parish following a minor injury incurred by a child. It was unanimously;

Resolved

To proceed with these works but for the Project Officer to also make enquiries as to whether there is a recycled plastic alternative that would provide a longer life.

517 Matters of Note

- A resident called the Parish Office to inform them of a “bike riding” instructor using the Multi-Use Games Courts at Sherwood Avenue to hold his lessons. Whilst a lesson was taking place, he had told other users they were unable to use the courts. The Clerk visited the site and spoke to the gentleman and informed him that the courts were not for private use and that they were open at all times for the public to use them. He was asked to find elsewhere to hold his lessons and signs have been erected stating that the courts are to be used by all and that they are not for private use. It also states that any misuse be reported to the Parish Office.
- There have been unfortunate incidents of graffiti on the skate ramp at Jersey Farm Open Space. John O’Conner have so far managed to remove most of it but contacted the Parish Office to say that they are concerned about the skatelite material becoming damaged due to the regular pressure washing being undertaken. The Project, Amenities and Community Engagement Officer has since been in contact with the contractor who installed the ramp for advice on graffiti removal and passed the information on to John O’Conner. No further problems have been reported.
- Two new readers have been installed on Court 1 of the Multi Use Games Courts at Spencer Meadow following a failure to open. Videcom visited the site and discovered that the power supply for the controller on Court 1 had failed. This was reinstated but further discovered that both readers on Court 1 were faulty resulting in the loss of access with the key fobs. These have now been replaced.
- 12 extra key fobs have been programmed in for access to the multi use games courts at Spencer Meadow.
- The rugby posts at JFOS have been removed following deliberate damage to the horizontal bar resulting in the vertical posts becoming unstable in the ground. The Project, Amenities and Community Engagement Officer is pursuing an insurance claim and will have the posts reinstated as soon as possible following a successful claim.
Post meeting note: John O’Conner Ltd have been asked to make the exposed ground

sockets more visible to pedestrians while the posts are being manufactured.

- Cllr Graham Leonard, Cllr Jenny Roberts and the Project, Amenities and Community Engagement Officer met with regard to involving the public in larger scale projects for the parish. A survey was determined to be the best step forward and will be circulated on social media and on our website. It will ask participants for information such as; what facilities they like here and elsewhere, what improvements they would like to see in our parks and playgrounds and would they be interested in helping with community funding initiatives. Information arising from the survey will be presented to the Committee in due course.

518 Matters Arising Since the Circulation of the Agenda

There was none.

519 Suggestions for Future Meetings

The Clerk/Project Officer undertook to put up posters within some of the sports courts inviting members of the public to apply to be on the committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.19pm.

Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 7th December 2022

Chair

Date.....