



MEMBERS OF THE SPORTS & RECREATION GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Met on Wednesday 7th December 2022 at 7.30 pm at Marshalswick Community Centre

PRESENT: Councillors Graham Leonard (Chair), Geoff Churchard, Janet Churchard, Jenny Roberts and Public Members Jez Cox, Mike White

APOLOGIES: Councillors John Newton-Davies, Jonathan Maskell

OFFICERS: Simon Thwaites, Clerk, Rebecca Pannese, Project, Amenities & Community Engagement Officer

ABSENT: Public member Tom Clegg

520 Disclosure of Interest and Dispensations

There was none.

521 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Sports and Recreation Ground Committee held on 5th October 2022, having been previously circulated, were reviewed. It was unanimously:

Resolved

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

522 Increase in budget request for Damson Way 2023/24

It was agreed that more time was needed to consider the approach to be taken at this location, i.e. whether more consideration needed to be given to existing play equipment here and elsewhere before resurfacing. It was agreed to retain the figures in the draft 2023/24 budget and to arrange a working party at some point in the spring/summer to clean the existing apparatus. It was unanimously;

Resolved

To retain the increased sum within the draft 2023/24 budget for approval at Full Council on December 14th.

523 Slide Repairs at William Bell Open Space and Spencer Meadow

Following discussion it was unanimously;

Resolved

To proceed with the refurbishment using 150mm ½ round play grade timbers the cost of £8,100.

524 Walkabout dates

The Chair agreed to send an email to all members next year with a selection of dates to select from.

525 Matters of Note

- Graffiti has been removed from signs and the bin at the location of the skate ramp Whilst there are remains of graffiti on the ramp, the notices and information signs are now clear.
- The replacement rugby posts have been installed at Jersey Farm Open Space.
Correction – this has been delayed pending manufacture of the horizontal bars.
- Two new nets for the 5-a-side goals in the newly resurfaced court at Spencer Meadow have been purchased following wear and tear on the old ones.
- Public member Jez Cox has provided the parish magazine, the Neighbourhood News, with a profile. We extend our thanks to Jez and offer the opportunity for other public members to submit their profile for consideration for future editions.
- Following a general inspection of the playgrounds, the underneath of the basket swing at Jersey Farm Adventure Playground was found to be unsafe; there was little to no bark, the membrane had eroded and the hardcore stone underneath was protruding through. The Clerk met with the manager of John O’Conner the next day and the issue has since been resolved.
- SADC have confirmed that the annual safety playground inspections will be carried out once again in the new year by “The Play Inspection Company”.
- Sandridge Parish Council have decided to defer the decision to request a transfer of Jersey Farm Open Space until the new Council following the May 2023 elections.
- After several emails from the Clerk to Cemex requesting financial assistance towards the Jersey Farm Pump Track, a decision has been made that they are not in a position to contribute due to budget commitments.
- A resident contacted the office informing us of several areas of damage to the chain link fencing between Spencer Meadow and the adjoining field (to the south of the pitches). There are quite significant holes, allowing access for dogs to escape into the farmers field, and two collapsed concrete posts. The fence will be repaired in this financial year once quotes have been obtained.
- A new bench will be installed at Spencer Meadow on the perimeter of the pitches. It is a memorial bench for someone closely connected with the sports club and has been arranged through liaison with the family and the office.

The Project, Amenities and Community Engagement officer informed members that a replacement slide within the Jersey Farm Adventure Playground was unlikely to be achievable but that she was looking at alternative apparatus with contractors.

It was noted that the Chair intended writing to the Planning Authority in respect of further queries raised over the proposed bike track on the Jersey Farm Open Space.

526 Matters Arising Since the Circulation of the Agenda

Jez Cox informed members that motorcycle tracks had appeared on the Jersey Farm Open Space.

527 Suggestions for Future Meetings

It was agreed that forward planning would assist the committee in making prudent spending plans and that a greater overview of facilities across all play areas would be helpful.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.12pm.

Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 15th March 2023

Chair

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