

Sandridge Parish Council



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TO: MEMBERS OF THE SPORTS AND RECREATION GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Councillors: Graham Leonard (Chair), Carol Chalkley, Mike White, Adam Twidell, James Lambert, Raihanna Ahmed

Public members: Jez Cox, Chris Cooke

Officers: Rebecca Pannese; Project, Amenities and Community Engagement (PACE) Officer
Simon Thwaites; Parish Clerk

A meeting of the Sports and Recreation Grounds Committee is to be held on Wednesday 5th March 2025 at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre

Rescheduled for the 17h March at 7.30pm

A G E N D A

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Disclosures of Interest and Dispensations**
To receive declarations of interest from Members on items on the agenda and to receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests.
- 3. To approve the minutes of the Sports and Recreation Grounds Committee meeting held on the 4th December 2024**
- 4. 2025/26 Capital Works**

Harness Way

At the December meeting it was agreed for the PACE Officer to investigate the possibilities of

replacing the “spider unit” in the Harness Way Playground with either a single in-ground trampoline or a several smaller ones. Meetings with contractors ensued and various options were discussed, with some contractors only able to install one and some coming back significantly over budget. There are two options that most closely reflect the committees preference and they are as follows;

- Two in-ground trampolines both 1.24m x 1.25m with surrounding wet pour which will join up to the existing surfacing. Total cost £15,000
- Two in-ground trampolines both 1.75 x 2.25 with surrounding wet pour which will join up to the existing surfacing. Total cost £21,900

The above quotes are based on the contractor undertaking the work at the same time as completing this year’s works at the same location, thus resulting in better value for money and a reduction in disruption to the open space.

Note; The budget allocation for the Sports and Recreation capital works for 2025/26 is;

Harness Way - £12,000

Jersey Farm Adventure Playground - £10,000

Spencer Meadow Playground - £17,500

Spencer Meadow carpark - £14,000

Should the committee be minded to vire the funding within the capital works budget to enable more extensive works to be carried out at Harness Way, Full Council will need to be informed. It is therefore:

RECOMMENDED:

To proceed with one of the above options installing two in-ground trampolines and wet pour surround at Harness Way replacing the current spider climbing unit.

Spencer Meadow

The PACE Officer has been researching the possibility of changing the current booking system for the MUGA's. Presently, hirers have to book through the Village Stores in Sandridge and pay when collecting the key fob, returning it after use. A newer, more up-to-date system would allow users to book through the website and obtain access using a code that is automatically emailed to them upon receiving payment. At the entrance and exits to both courts would be a keypad into which hirers input the code that then releases the gates.

The booking process would be as follows;

- 1) Hirer books the court online and provides their contact details
- 2) An auto-email is generated to the hirer with an access code to the court
- 3) The code is entered on the keypad both to enter and exit the courts
- 4) The code would be changed on a weekly basis to prevent misuse

The booking system would be developed by our website hosts SetSqaure, and integrated onto the existing content management system. The cost for this to be built is approximately £750, with a monthly cost of £105. This would include the following;

- Branding and setup of the tennis courts booking system, including the configuration and design, building and testing.
- Creation of a booking page that can be accessed via a link on the existing SPC site.
- The page would have a unique, granular timetable where users can make bookings,

receive an email, edit bookings, and prevent multiple bookings that clash.

- Implementing a unique code, to be changed every Sunday PM for gate access which will appear in customers emails once the court is booked and paid for.
- The booking system also comes with an app that can also be used to manage bookings.

The access entrance and exit keypads on both courts can be installed by a local security company and will cost IRO £950.

Floodlights will be available through a card reader meter system.

It is therefore:

RECOMMENDED:

To continue researching the pros and cons of upgrading to an access code system with an integrated website booking facility, using funds drawn from the Spencer Meadow Playground budget (the Committee having decided not to pursue with the climbing frame replacement) and a recommendation being brought back to the Committee in June

OR:

To proceed with the upgrade to an access code system with an integrated website booking facility, with funding being drawn from the Spencer Meadow Playground budget (the committee having decided not to pursue with the climbing frame replacement).

5. Spencer Meadow Astroturf

The astroturf surface was installed in 2021 and since then has had low level maintenance such as removing leaves and any large debris on the court. The recommendation when it was installed was to undertake periodic specialist maintenance to ensure the lifespan of the surface. A quote has been obtained to provide the following;

- Carry out a high pressure clean, injecting water into base of the synthetic grass and remove all debris from surface
- Spray apply a moss chemical treatment
- Supply and the application of 1 ton of 2EW (dried silica sand) evenly across whole court area.

The cost for the above is £1,495. It is therefore:

RECOMMENDED

To proceed with the maintenance of the astroturf in 2025/26 with funding from general playground and sports expenses.

6. Graffiti Artwork to the Skate Ramp

The Clerk and the PACE Officer met with street artist Mandy Johnson to explore what options would be available to complete the artwork of the skate ramp. Three options are attached with costs ranging from £600 to £1,725. Also attached are examples of Mandy's work. Funding for these would come in part from the Skate Ramp maintenance budget and part from General Expenses (both within Sports and Recreation). Option 3 does appear to offer an opportunity for good community engagement, something the artist has experience of. The Clerk has explored grant funding for the project on suggestion of the artist as below;

- **The Screwfix Foundation.** Not applicable for projects that will be used by members of the general public.
- **Persimmon Community Champions.** Not applicable for parish councils.

- **Arts Council England.** The Clerk has made enquiries and funding may be available although strictly speaking the Parish Council would need to first qualify as a 'Cultural Organisation' which may be an issue.

It is;

RECOMMENDED:

That Members decide which (if any) of the attached project options it would like to proceed with. The Clerk meanwhile to explore whether grant funding is available but with the work continuing regardless (if approved).

7. Duke of Edinburgh Park Ranger Scheme

A verbal update of the scheme will be given by Councillor Adam Twidell.

8. Brainstorming for a 5 year plan

At the previous meeting, the committee discussed initial ideas for how best to create a five-year plan for capital installations across the parish playgrounds and sports facilities. It was decided that the committee wanted to hear the opinions of local residents who not only use the playgrounds in the parish but have wider experience of other facilities outside of the area; and for their feedback to help guide decisions on future projects. Following on from the meeting, the PACE Officer used Sandridge Parish Council's Facebook page to engage with the public and the comments are included with the agenda papers.

9. Matters of Note

- The dilapidated basketball boards at Spencer Meadow will be replaced in the tarmac court and removed in the astro court.
- A new graphic has been ordered to replace the current damaged one on the "Welcome to William Bell Open Space" sign.
- The annual play inspections were carried out in January and the reports are due imminently.
- Tree works have been carried out following receipt of the tree safety survey from Tim Moya Arboriculturists (commissioned by SADC). Works have been carried out in Skyswood, Sherwood, Harness Way and Spencer Meadow Open Space.
- The picnic benches (two in Harness Way Open Space and one in St Leonard's Open Space) have now been installed.
- Volunteers have planted a new native hedgerow in Harness Way Open Space, adjacent to the new footpath. Volunteers also had a session working around the pond, with hedge laying and general maintenance taking place.
- Cllr Chalkley and two other regular volunteers undertook a "tidy up" of the Harness Way playground, removing piles of leaves and debris and creating a more inviting space.

10. Any other Business

11. Matters Arising Since the Circulation of the Agenda

12. Suggestions for Future Meetings

Date of next meeting – 7:30pm Wednesday 18th June 2025 at Marshalswick Community Centre