



MEMBERS OF THE SPORTS & RECREATION GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Met on Wednesday 17th January 2024 (re-scheduled from the original date of 6th December 2023) at 7.30 pm at Marshalswick Community Centre

PRESENT: Councillors Graham Leonard (Chair), Jenny Roberts, Raihaanah Ahmed, James Lambert, Adam Twidell, Mike White
Public member Chris Cooke

APOLOGIES: Public member Jez Cox

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

ABSENT: -

564 Disclosures of Interest and Dispensations

There was none.

565 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Sports and Recreation Ground Committee held on 20th September 2023, having been previously circulated, were reviewed before it was:

Resolved

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

566 Pump track update

The Projects, Amenities and Community Engagement (PACE) Officer updated members on recent developments.

- There will likely need to be a new planning application made to accommodate works to the entrance of Jersey Farm Open Space off House Lane.
- The decision to proceed with the new planning application will depend on Herts Highways agreement to the works recommended by the traffic consultant, and the works coming within the budget allocated.

567 2023/2024 Capital Works

Members were updated on the status of the works completed in the 2023/24 financial year. The following work is still outstanding;

- Line painting on the basketball area in Sherwood Park. The contractor is waiting for the weather to improve so the paint binds.
- Surface repairs to the wet pour at St Leonard's playground.

568 Skate ramp art project

The Clerk informed members that the graffiti artist has confirmed he will be attending the ramp to finish the work once the weather improves. Once a date has been scheduled it will be circulated to members and posted on social media.

569 2024/25 Sports and Recreation Committee Budget

Committee Members noted that the sum of £30,000 has been included in the draft 2024/25 budget which was presented to the Finance Committee on the 30th October 2023. The budget was approved at the Full Council meeting on the 14th December. As discussed at the June committee meeting, it is confirmed;

1. That the funds may be used in part towards completion of the pump track with the remainder being used elsewhere on apparatus to be agreed and first presented to a Full Council meeting.
2. If the committee considers the bike track no longer viable, the entire £30,000 budget may be used to fund enhancements elsewhere, again, following presentation to Full Council.

570 2024/25 Alternative works and future ideas

The following ideas were identified following two walkabouts in the summer of 2023;

Jersey Farm Adventure Playground

- Replace the hanging loops with a climbing wall or an alternative
- Picnic benches in the playground
- Replace the timbers on the walkway apparatus
- Paint the apparatus
- Basketball and dribble area outside of the adventure playground

Harness Way Playground and Open Space

- Surfacing for entrance gateway and to connect both playgrounds
- Replacement of the spider apparatus
- Picnic benches for outside of the playground

St Leonards Playground and Open Space

- Replace timbers on slide
- Picnic tables outside of playground
- Replacement swing seats

William Bell Playground and Open Space

- Replacement apparatus for the "horse merry go round"

The PACE Officer will seek to further investigate the suggestions ahead of the March meeting and report back to the Committee. Members are asked to note that the capacity to carry out these works will depend on the remaining funds from the 2024/25 budget once the total cost of the completion of the pump track is known.

571 Engaging Young People to work with The Parish Council through the DoE Scheme in Maintaining High Quality Play and Sports Facilities

Councillor Twidell tabled a report outlining details of the Park Ranger Volunteer Scheme in collaboration with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. The draft covered details such as leadership, the volunteer role and volunteer reporting. It was emphasised that the document is still in draft format and amendments are possible following involvement from members. The key points at this stage are;

- The Parish Council will liaise with Sandringham School to identify participants.
- Advice has been taken from the HCC DoE officer.
- A Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy to come to Full Council in February.
- The Clerk to review Health and Safety guidelines, equality in selection, GDPR for participants.
- Risk assessments will be completed through the Parish Office as appropriate and in accordance with the requirements of the Parish Council’s insurers.

572 Matters of Note

- The Clerk has contacted both Play in the Parks and HAPpy (HCC), offering free use of the AstroTurf court next Summer as requested at the last meeting.
- Further to receiving a quotation for conversion of the floodlights at Spencer Meadow to LED, the Clerk has enquired whether the Parish Council would qualify for an Environmental Projects Grant from Veolia. Unfortunately, the eligibility criteria require the facility to be in the vicinity of designated Veolia facility which this isn’t.
- Broadmead Leisure will be repairing the damaged wetpour around the see-saw in St Leonard’s playground as raised in the annual play inspection. The cost of the repair is £350 and will be carried out as soon as possible.
- The damaged skatelite sheets have been replaced on the skate ramp on the Jersey Farm Open Space. The cost of replacement was covered by insurance less an excess of £150.

573 Matters Arising Since the Circulation of the Agenda

Councillor Roberts briefly discussed with members the reduction in vandalism at our playgrounds over the past year. It is hoped that this trend will continue.

574 Suggestions for Future Meetings

There were none.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.19pm.

Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 6th March 2024

Chair

Date.....