



MEMBERS OF THE SPORTS & RECREATION GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Met on Friday 28th June 2024 at 4pm at Marshalswick Community Centre

PRESENT: Councillors Graham Leonard (Chair), James Lambert*, Adam Twidell*, Carol Chalkley
Public Member Chris Cooke*

*These members attended the meeting via Zoom link

APOLOGIES: Councillors Raihaanah Ahmed, Mike White, Public Member Jez Cox

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

ABSENT: -

583 Disclosures of Interest and Dispensations

There was none.

584 Election of Chair

Councillor Leonard was nominated by Councillor Chalkley for Chair. This nomination was seconded by Councillor Twidell before it was unanimously;

Resolved

To elect Councillor Leonard as Chair for the coming year.

585 Election of Vice Chair

Councillor Chalkley was nominated by Councillor Leonard for Vice Chair. This nomination was seconded by Councillor Twidell before it was unanimously;

Resolved

To elect Councillor Chalkley as Vice Chair for the coming year.

586 Review and approve the Terms of Reference (TOR)

Due to the low turnout of committee members, the decision to review the Terms of Reference has been deferred until the next meeting on the 4th December 2024.

587 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Sports and Recreation Ground Committee held on 6th March 2024, having been previously circulated, were reviewed before it was unanimously:

Resolved

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

588 Update on Capital Works for 2024/25

Members reviewed the report circulated with the agenda and discussed the installations and improvements proposed for the year. Following discussion, it was unanimously;

Resolved

To proceed with the recommendation and carry out the work as detailed below.

- Spider Climber and replacement football wall at Sherwood Park Open Space
- Removal of horse apparatus and installation of inclusive group seesaw at William Bell Open Space
- Expansion of wetpour surfacing at Harness Way Open Space
- Replacement timbers on the slide in St Leonards Open Space
- Replacement hanging loop and deteriorated timbers in Jersey Farm Adventure Playground
- Replacement swing seats in Damson Way and St Leonards Open Spaces

The Committee also agreed to allow a further 10% (£4,800) of the above total spend to carry out further maintenance works following recommendations from the Play Inspection Company in their annual reports.

589 Path around Harness Way Open Space

At the meeting of the Committee for Sustainability held on 23rd April Councillor Wells and Councillor Chalkley presented a joint proposal to create a new crushed granite footpath linking the two recently surfaced entrances from Jersey Lane with the playground and the access path from Cheriton Close. This would allow access across and around the open space during times when the ground is wet as well as providing a valuable link from the entrance on Cheriton Close and Harness Way to Jersey Lane, making journeys to the shops and amenities at St Brelades Place considerably easier. It is felt that the path would encourage residents to visit the open space that would otherwise avoid the area due to the muddy conditions of the ground during wet weather.

It is also felt that visitor numbers would increase to the open space and playground if there was all weather access across the grass. This would not affect the football goals or the basketball area, the path route would be around the perimeter of the grassed area and afford a scenic route around the open space. Following discussion it was unanimously;

Resolved

To proceed with the installation of a granite footpath around Harness Way Open Space, subject to three quotations being sought as per the Financial Regulations.

590 Improvements at Sherwood Avenue Open Space

Following the successful painting and replacement posts at the tennis courts at Sherwood Park Recreation Ground, the contractor has recommended an annual jet wash and moss treatment to ensure the longevity of the surface. Currently, John O’Conner maintain the courts but they do not perform the above tasks annually. The cost to the Parish Council would be £780 per year as a fixed rate for three years. Following discussion, it was unanimously;

Resolved

To proceed with the above annual maintenance and to include the annual cost in the next three years Sports and Recreation Ground budget and review thereafter.

591 Repainting youth shelter in Sherwood Avenue Open Space

Following discussion members agreed that new coat of anti-graffiti paint will enhance the overall appearance of the youth shelter and bring the facility up to standard. It was unanimously;

Resolved

To proceed with a washdown and repaint of the shelter using remaining capital from the 2024/25 budget.

592 Picnic Benches in Open Spaces

During the walkabout in 2023, members noted a desire to provide picnic benches in our open spaces. The following areas were identified to benefit from the installation of a picnic bench:

- St Leonard’s Open Space
- Jersey Farm Adventure Playground
- Harness Way Open Space

The benches are made of recycled plastic so are resistant from fire damage. Following discussion it was unanimously;

Resolved

To purchase three picnic benches for the locations detailed above.

593 Matters of Note

- Independent play inspections have been carried out at our playgrounds and the reports have now been received by the office. Additional essential repair and remedial works considered a “moderate risk” have been added to the list of works scheduled for this year.
- A large broken bough has been removed from Harness Way Open Space following a site inspection. The bough was broken over an unofficial path and the tree work was carried out the day after it was discovered.
- Two new waste bins have been ordered for William Bell Open Space and will be installed at the earliest opportunity, replacing two broken ones. The new bins are more substantial and vandal proof.
- New wildflower beds have been created in Sherwood Avenue Recreation Ground, St Leonard’s Open Space and William Bell Open Space.
- Efforts are ongoing to obtain a quote to have dual bins installed at Sherwood Park and Spencer Meadow.

- The Clerk has again written to Ant Steel in respect of completing further street art at the skate ramp.
- To date, Sandringham School has not referred any DOE participants to become ambassadors for our open spaces.
- A new clothing bank has been installed in the Sherwood Park car park.
- Average court earnings at Spencer Meadow over the last year is £364 per month.

594 Matters Arising Since the Circulation of the Agenda

The Projects, Amenities and Community Engagement Officer updated members that tree work will be carried out around our open spaces following receipt of the three yearly tree inspection from St Albans District Council.

595 Suggestions for Future Meetings

To review the updates from the Sports and Recreation Ground Committee to the asset register.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 16:24pm.

Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 4th December 2024

Chair

Date.....