

WHEATHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Playing Fields Committee

Wednesday 17th September 2008

Present: Cllrs. J. Turner (Chairman), K. Stammers, S. Walford, A. Waterfield, I. Begg, A. Brewster, N. Page with Kevin Barrow (Cricket Club), Jim Lynch (Wheat. 89), Keith Andrews (Tennis Club) & Andrew Harvey (Wheat. Wanderers)

Chairman's Note: All quotations recorded in these minutes comply with S. O. 73

Apologies for Absence: None received

In Attendance: The Clerk Mrs. B. Green & the Assistant Clerk Mrs. I. Casper

The minutes of the meeting were taken by Mrs. Casper.

- 1) Emergency Repairs to play equipment – Cllr. Turner informed members that the Annual RoSPA safety report carried out in May had raised issues with some equipment that needed urgent attention as the school holidays were imminent. The quotations for repair had been put before the August Parish Council meeting and approved and Cllr. Turner asked for ratification of her actions from the committee. The quotation was from Proludic £919 for repairs to the Twin Fly apparatus. Cllr. Stammers seconded the proposal, Vote – unanimous. RESOLVED. Cllr. Brewster questioned whether the committee should use this company in the future.
- 2) Brocket View Gate – Cllr. Burgess had informed the committee Chairman that the gate at Brocket View has been erected with the hinges upside down preventing the gate being lifted off. Cllr. Burgess thought the hinges should be turned round so the gate could be lifted off. Cllr. Turner informed members that the emergency services carry cutting equipment and could get access to the field. The contractor who had been asked to give a quotation is extremely busy and could not look at the job before November. The committee RESOLVED that given the risks involved there should be no change to the hinge set up.
- 3) Marford Pavilion
 - a) Quotations for internal decorating work – Jim Lynch confirmed that football club members would take on this job. The committee RESOLVED it would pay for materials used. Cllr. Turner thanked Mr. Lynch and club members on behalf of the committee. The pavilion floor needs repairing and after discussion Mr Lynch said his members would redecorate later in the year when the floor was ready. A quotation had been received for removal of existing floor tiles, patching floor, levelling and applying 2 coats of Green Watco Epoxy Gloss Coat floor coating £835. The committee RESOLVED that the floor repair work be done, then the internal decorating.
 - b) Quotation for replacement of soffit – Cllr. Turner informed members that the plastic soffits at the pavilion were in a terrible state and needed replacing. A quotation of £1350 had been received to replace the plastic roof soffits with soft wood, painted.

3b) continued..

Cllr. Waterfield and Mr. Lynch queried whether these were in fact **fascia** soffits that needed replacing.

Cllr. Page queried the committee only having one quotation. Cllr. Turner informed members that although she had been surprised at the cost of replacement she was acting in accordance with S.O. 73.

The committee RESOLVED that this item be deferred and two more quotations be sought.

Action - The Chairman and Vice Chairman to have a site meeting with Mr Lynch to ascertain exactly what is needed and agree a specification to be sent out for quotation.

Note: Mr. Lynch advised waiting until next summer to implement this job as putting softwood up in winter is not good practice. Agreed.

c) Tennis Club Floodlighting – The Tennis Club has put in a planning application to extend the hours of floodlighting during the week - Monday – Friday from 8.30pm to 9.30 pm (1 hour each evening with no further extension).

The Parish Council had considered this application at its August meeting and its decision, on a recorded vote, had been to recommend no change to the existing hours and recommend refusal to the application.

Keith Andrews was informed that he could read the minute in the parish office.

The District Council have not yet made a decision on this application.

Cllr. Waterfield was concerned that at the time the Parish Council decision was taken a lot of issues were not discussed and he felt the item had been pushed through.

After discussion it was clear members of the committee were not happy with the recommendation that had been made.

The Tennis Club has been working closely with members of the Youth committee discussing the council using their lighting columns for football which takes place on the playing field.

Mr. Andrews informed the committee that no other application would be allowed after the current one went before the District Council.

Cllr. Turner proposed “That members of the Playing Fields committee do not agree with the decision that has been made and recommend that the Parish Council reviews its decision at its September meeting”. Seconded Cllr. Begg. Vote – unanimous.

The committee RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the Parish Council looks again at their opinion sent to the District Council in respect of this planning application.

4) Folly Fields

a) Internal Decoration – Cllr Turner informed members that the paint on the ceiling of the pavilion is flaking off.

Two quotations had been received from a contractor:

1) to rub down and re-paint with anti-mould paint - £382.25 OR

2) To rub down, paint with primer sealer and coat with anti-mould paint £421.60

Cllr Turner recommended acceptance of quotation 2.

Mr. Lynch advised members primer sealer is the way forward, but anti-mould paint is not water resistant.

Cllr. Page queried only one contractor being asked for a quotation.

After discussion the committee agreed that Jim Lynch would pay a site visit and assess the problem, Cllr Turner will liaise with Mr. Lynch regarding a specification for the remedial work needed.

The committee RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the next committee meeting.

b) Archery – Cllr. Turner read out a letter received from Mr. Jonathan Booth the Chairman of Wheathamptead Archery Club.

4b) continued..

The club have an old storage hut that they would like to replace and would like to talk to members of the committee re siting/size of a new container.

The committee RESOLVED to have a site meeting with members of the club and discuss their future plans.

Action – Clerk to contact Mr. Booth and arrange a time and date for the meeting.

c) Hedge adjacent to 60 Folly Field – Cllr. Turner informed members that the resident, had expressed her appreciation of the way the hedge has been cut and passed on her thanks to the committee.

d) Play equipment- Cllr. Turner informed members that in the Annual RoSPA report the swing unit had been found to have substantial wear on the crossbeam. A photograph had been sent to Wicksteeds who advised that this swing unit is very old and in order to assess its condition they would have to take the unit apart. The parts for this swing are obsolete and there is no guarantee it could be put back together. Wicksteeds advice is to remove the swing.

Cllr. Turner has been to the site, put tape around the unit, a dangerous structure notice in place, and delivered a note to the Chairman of the Folly Fields Residents Association informing him of the issue.

Cllr. Brewster showed photographs of the swing unit at Maltings Drive, which appears to be identical to the unit at Folly Fields.

Cllr Stammers remarked that if we have two sets of the same unit maybe one unit could be cannibalised to repair the other.

After discussion Cllr. Turner strongly recommended that the committee take RoSPAs's advice and remove the unit in question. The swing unit at Folly Fields should be dismantled and quotations sought to do this work.

Cllr Walford informed members that Folly Residents has requested new play equipment two years ago.

Cllr Waterfield proposed the committee seeks another quotation from an independent play equipment inspector, seconded Cllr. Page. Vote – 5 in favour.

The committee RESOLVED to obtain quotations from independent play equipment inspectors.

Cllr Page then opened a discussion regarding the play equipment at the Folly and suggested that the play equipment could be re-sited to Melissa Field. The existing play area could be incorporated into the car park area which at the moment is inadequate, especially on football match days.

Members agreed this could be a solution but would need careful consideration and full debate with the residents of Folly Fields.

This item will be included in the Strategy for Leisure document.

5) Butterfield Road Playing Field

a) Football goal post and corner flag request - The Wanderers have requested this equipment be purchased - cost approx. £300.

Action – Kevin or Andrew (Wheat Wanderers) will call into the office to confirm which equipment needs ordering. SO RESOLVED.

b) Jim Lynch report on position of MUGA (Multi use games area)

Mr. Lynch reported that depending on the size the MUGA could go anywhere, the largest area is between the two pitches.

Cllr. Brewster explained what a MUGA is and sites to be considered are at Marford Field and Butterfield Road.

The committee RESOLVED that when the potential sites are chosen there will be full consultation with youth groups and residents.

5)continued

c) The Wanderers were informed that a new lock is to be put on the gate at Butterfield Road. The office staff will let members have the combination.

d) The Clerk informed the committee that St. Albans District Council have confirmed that during half term week the skateboard will be coming to the village, for one day, date not know yet for 4 hours. It will be positioned on the Hall side of the railings and cordoned off.

The committee RESOLVED an article to go in the Pump and letters to go to local schools informing them of this event. Action – Clerk.

6) Clerk to confirm to Cricket Club that a grant has been sent.

7) Play Equipment Strategy – Cllr Begg informed the committee that a ‘brainstorming’ session had taken place on the Strategy for Leisure. He had circulated a document, but as yet had received no feedback.

RESOLVED that a meeting will take place between the Playing Fields and Youth Committees on Monday 29th September at 8pm.

Action – Clerk to circulate date and agenda and ask that all members either send comments in advance to Cllr. Begg or bring them to the meeting.

Cllr. Begg confirmed to Mr. Barrow that the Cricket Club is included in this strategy.

8) Date of Next Meeting – 9th December (budget meeting)

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.08pm