

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION FIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Monday 3rd April 2023 at 7.30 pm
In the Village Hall, Middle Street, Shepton Beauchamp TA19 OLQ

Members present: Cllr Tim England (Chairman) Suzanne Brister
Ian Brister

In attendance: Stella Davies (Clerk)
Bruce Barton
Georgina Fitchett

Item

RFA/19 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Lou Wrightson, Ed Wakely, Terry Crocker and Alison Cox.

Resolved. To accept the apologies

RFA/20 Declarations of interest – Members to declare any interest, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interest they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for dispensations that accord with the Localism Act s33 (b-e). (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

There were no declarations of interest.

RFA/21 Approval of minutes

To approve the minutes from the committee meeting held on Monday 30th January 2023.

Resolved. That the minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 30th January be signed as correct.

RFA/22 100 club

To update the committee on the status of the 100 Club.

Georgina said that she had now refunded most people from the old recreation field committee 100 Club.

The Clerk reported that Lou had got many more members and there were now 64, which would mean a profit of £644 per year to spend on the recreation ground. Lou had suggested that as a start we could plant daffodil bulbs in the banks around the car park. It was thought that this was a good idea.

RFA/23 The Pavilion

To update the committee on the remedial work to the electrical system

Ian wanted to make the committee aware that on a Friday afternoon in March when the electrical system remedial work was being carried out, he noticed that the radiator had been left on.

The new wiring system is different as the defibrillator now runs off the mains. Georgina said previously it was wired through the cupboard that held the MUGA lighting system. This was because the electricity was able to be switched off for the clubhouse at the mains, but the MUGA lights and the defibrillator stayed on. The MUGA lights were not part of the main lighting system as they could then be used without having to access the pavilion. The electricity supply to the defibrillator needs to be left on at all times. The Clerk will check with the contractor how we can get round this to enable the electric supply to the outside lights, the MUGA and the defibrillator to be left on.

Action – Parish Clerk

The Clerk reported that the insurance company had put an exclusion on the electrical wiring installation because the MUGA lights work had not been completed. They had now confirmed that as the work had been completed and the electrical installation certificate had been sent to them, this would now be included as part of the policy.

It was mentioned at this point that it would be good to clean up the outside of the pavilion, with the help of a working party. Tim mentioned that he had some spare paint and so would be repainting the gates, with the help from a villager.

Tim mentioned that the Parish Council would be sending out a survey to see what villagers would like to see at the recreation field and also to see if anyone would be available to help now and again with some of the tidying up and improvements.

RFA/24 Grass Cutting

To update the committee on the grass cutting contract and to confirm if the gang mowers and rollers are at Barrington cricket ground

Tim said he had contacted Barrington and the gang mowers had been sold.

The Clerk said she had sent out a tender document to 7 companies for a 3-year contract and the responses will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting in May.

If we eventually decided to do the mowing ourselves, Tim said he had several people who would be willing to help, although this would mean we would need to purchase a mower and insure, store and maintain it. This would be a long-term option and could be discussed again in a couple of years.

Suzanne mentioned that there was County Cup Match at the weekend and asked if there could be an extra cut. Tim said he would ask if this could be done.

Action – Tim England

Suzanne said that Terry had applied for a ground maintenance grant and a ground machinery grant on behalf of the football club.

It was mentioned that the orange fencing was still around the site of the bonfire that was held last year and no grass seed had been put there and it still looked unsightly. There were still ruts in the ground where a mini digger had been used to remove the turf. Tim said he had been told it was going to be re-turfed by the Events Team and he would contact them to find out what was happening. Currently no permission had been given by the Parish Council to hold the bonfire on the recreation field this year.

Action – Tim England

RFA/25 Maintenance of Play Equipment

To update the committee on the meeting to go through the safety report and propose recommendations to put to the parish council.

Bruce said that a meeting had not yet been arranged. It was decided to ask Lou to contact Ian and Bruce and arrange a meeting.

Action – Lou Wrightson

The Clerk said that the 2 swing seats had now arrived and that she would contact Gareth to let him know.

Action – Parish Clerk

Tim said that someone had mentioned that the zip wire was a bit slack and so this would be looked at when they had the meeting.

It was mentioned that the legs of the benches were being damaged when the grass around them was strimmed.

RFA/26 Security

To decide whether to keep the vehicle access gates permanently closed, when the recreation field is not in use by the football club or for any other events.

It was suggested the gates should be kept permanently closed for the following reasons:

- The football club mentioned that they always had to remove dog mess before their matches. Last weekend they moved 15 lots and it was around the play area and picnic tables as well as the football pitch.
- It had been noted that cars were parking in the recreation field and owners were letting their dogs out to run round the field, so not in close control, while they remained in their cars.

- It had been reported that there were cars there in the early hours of the morning
- There is a grey car which seems to be permanently parked in the recreation ground parking area

Georgina said she had a spare padlock which could be used to secure the gates. We would need 5 keys (2 for the football club and one to go with the 3 sets of master keys).

It was mentioned that the 2-metre sign on the overhead gate had come off, probably in the high winds, so this needs to be put back on.

Resolved. There was a unanimous decision to keep the gates permanently closed when not in use by the football club or for any other events.

RFA/27 Fund raising

To discuss how we can raise funds towards improvements to the recreation ground and pavilion.

Tim mentioned that before lockdown the Recreation Field would have run events to raise money and that we need to look at this in the future.

Various ideas were discussed including:

- Bingo at the Duke of York
- Plant sale at the recreation field
- Easter egg hunt
- Quiz night
- Race night
- Event at the recreation field (e.g., classic car event)
- Village fete at the recreation field

Some of the events would take a lot of organising and it was thought we should start with something easy, such as Bingo, preferably just before Easter and Christmas. We would need to book that with the pub in good time. Tim will speak to Paul in the pub for available slots.

Action – Tim England

Events held at the recreation field would be better in the summer and so we could look at organising something next year. We could ask for sponsors to support the events and make the event around the sponsor, so that our costs were covered.

Meeting closed: 9 pm

Next meeting: July 3rd at the Pavilion at 7.30 pm

Informal meeting: It was decided to provisionally meet as a working party at the Pavilion on Tuesday 2nd May at 6pm for a short meeting to see what work was needed at the recreation field and in the Pavilion.