

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION FIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Monday 3rd July 2023 at 7.30 pm
In The Pavilion, Lethbridge Recreation Field, Shepton Beauchamp TA19 ONE

Members present: Cllr Tim England (Chairman) Suzanne Brister
Ian Brister Terry Crocker
Alison Cox Gareth McAveety
Georgina Fitchett Ed Wakely

In attendance: Stella Davies (Clerk)

Item

RFA/28 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Lou Wrightson.

Resolved. To accept the apologies

RFA/29 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/30 Approval of minutes

To approve the minutes from the committee meeting held on Monday 3rd April 2023

Resolved. That the minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 3rd April be signed as correct.

RFA/31 The Pavilion

To update the committee concerning the electricity in the Pavilion

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to the electrical contractor and the new electrical works were in line with current electrical regulations and so the MUGA lights and the Defibrillator could not be on a separate circuit, as they had been previously. She has also had a smart meter fitted which should help with getting an accurate costing for the use of the MUGA lights. When the pavilion is used in future, the master switch has to be left on, plus the defib and sockets. The rest can be switched off. She will get some labels to put by the switches that need to be left on. **Action – Parish Clerk**

RFA/32 Grass Cutting Contract

To update the committee on the grass cutting contract

Cllr England said that a new contractor had started and with the first cut they took the cuttings away. The following cuts will be cut and drop. The mower being used is quite small, so it will take him quite a time to do. It was mentioned that the football pitch could be cut a bit shorter. It was mentioned that the contract was for 20 cuts per year and that this may not be enough to maintain the football pitch.

It was mentioned that we could put some concrete panels down to create a bunker to dump the grass cuttings, which could then be collected once or twice a year. Another option would be to get a set of gang mowers to run independently and use them as required.

RFA/33 100 club

To update the committee on the status of the 100 club

The Clerk reported that there were now 97 numbers taken, thanks to the hard work by Lou Wrightson and Cllr Rowsell.

RFA/34 Site of bonfire from November 2022

To discuss: -

- (a) the current bonfire site which has still not been adequately cleared
- (b) potential future bonfires

To resolve what advice should be put to the Parish Council for their decision

- (a) The grass has been partially replaced but there is still a gap to be filled. It was thought that the orange netting should have been removed so that the grass cutting contractor could have cut the long grass surrounding the site of the old bonfire. The school have asked if they can hold their sports day at the recreation field and need to use a 60-metre track, so it will need to be measured to see if there is room with the residue of the bonfire there as they cannot encroach on the football pitch.
- (b) The subject of the bonfire this year will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting. The committee had no objections to the bonfire being held at the recreation field but thought it should be better managed and that conditions should be put in place. The following suggestions should be put to the Parish Council as regards future bonfires:
 - Some of the Parish Council / Recreation Field Committee / Football Team should be involved in the preparation of the bonfire and the work afterwards
 - A share of the proceeds should be given to the Parish Council to be used for the benefit of the recreation field
 - There needs to be a better process in place that is agreed with the Events Team
 - Only wood from known sources should be used rather than a 'general ask' for everyone in the village to bring wood
 - The site of the bonfire should be moved so it is nearer the car park and the remaining conifers
 - The turf needs to be taken up using a turf remover (which can be hired) and the area removed needs to be 2 feet wider than the site of the bonfire
 - The turf needs to be put back and the area tidied within 2 weeks of the bonfire.
 - If the Events Team are not in agreement with these conditions, then a Bond of £250 is asked for in advance to cover any costs incurred.

RFA/35 MUGA tennis net

In view of the state of the tennis net to decide if a sign should be put up to say that the net should not be taken down between 1st May & 30th September

Lou had put the net back up but said that the mechanism was broken. It was mentioned that children did play cricket in the MUGA and the net may have been taken down for that reason. The committee went to look at the net and it was decided to repair the winding mechanism of the tennis net and instead to put a sign up to say "If you take down this net, please ensure it is put back up". The Clerk is to buy a new winding mechanism (the net is an Edwards net, supplied by Sportsequip.co.uk and the winder needs to be around 8ml – 9ml) and a sign to this effect.

Action – Parish Clerk

RFA/36 Recreation Field Survey

To update the committee on the results received so far.

Cllr England reported that he had received 84 responses to the survey. Of those, 21 people had said they would be prepared to help out at the recreation field. He outlined the results and said that he would put results in greater detail at the next Parish Council meeting.

RFA/37 Checks on Play Equipment

To decide who will carry out monthly checks on the play equipment which need to be documented.

The Clerk explained that regular checks need to be carried to comply with our insurance. Gareth, Ian & Cllr England volunteered to carry out the checks. The Clerk will produce a check list to use when carrying out the checks and give them a copy.

Action – Parish Clerk

The Clerk mentioned that there needs to be a sign by the zip wire to say the minimum age of children that should use the zip wire.

RFA/38 Security

To update the committee on the repercussions of locking the vehicle access gates.

Cllr England mentioned that there had been repercussions within the village because the recreation field gates were locked, the main one being that allotment holders were parking in Piece Lane. It was decided to recommend to the Parish Council that the gates be opened for a trial period and the situation monitored, with a view to closing them again if the situation goes back to how it was before.

RFA/39 Haws Memorial Site

To discuss what action can be taken to make the site safer.

The committee thought that at the moment the brambles surrounding the memorial site should be left in place as they created a safety barrier around it. It was suggested that the Parish Council obtain quotes to reinstate it as it was before.

Meeting closed: 9.15 pm

Next meeting: Monday 2nd October at the village hall at 7.30 pm