

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION FIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Monday 5th February 2024 at 7.30 pm
In the Village Hall, Middle Street, Shepton Beauchamp TA19 OLQ

Members present: Cllr Tim England (Chairman) Suzanne Brister
Ian Brister Lou Wrightson
Gareth McAveety

In attendance: Stella Davies (Clerk)
Myles Lambert

Item

RFA/51 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Ed Wakely, Terry Cocker and Alison Cox.

RFA/52 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/53 Approval of minutes

To approve the minutes from the committee meeting held on Monday 2nd October 2023

Resolved. That the minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 2nd October 2023 be signed as correct.

RFA/54 Finances

To update the committee on the current financial situation of the Recreation field.

The Clerk updated the committee on the estimated financial situation at the end of the financial year. This is showing that just over £6,800 as available to spend on improvements to the recreation field. However, £3,745 of this money is earmarked for play equipment.

The income received and estimated expenditure incurred by the Parish Council there is a deficit of just over £4,500.

Therefore overall, the recreation field is estimated to be in profit by just over £2,000. However, there are a lot of one-off income amounts in this financial year, which will not be received next year.

She did mention that if the proposed development goes ahead in Piece Lane, there will be monies coming from Somerset Council that can be used for improvements to the recreational facilities, although this is not likely to be for about 2 years.

RFA/55 Grass cutting

To update the committee on the new contractors who have the grass cutting contract

The Clerk reported that there were now new contractors carrying out the grass cutting at the recreation field. They have carried out one cut so far and did not cut the grass too short due to the wet ground. They have marked out where the daffodil bulbs are and they have cleared the far area where the two saplings are. They are contracted for 25 cuts over the year. They don't take the grass away they just cut and drop. We can ask them to do extra cuts if necessary. It was agreed it looked a lot tidier now. Ian mentioned that now they were cutting tight to the edges of the field he would need to move some poles that they store near the edge nearer to the ditch.

RFA/56 Clearing of excess waste on the recreation field

To discuss the clearing of the excess grass cuttings on the edges of the field, the 2 saplings that need to be moved and the areas that need to be cut by the new contractors.

Lou mentioned that the 2 saplings at the top of the recreation field need to be relocated as the gang mowers can't get round them. It was suggested they get moved to the bank area. The fallen leylandii trees at the top need to be cut down once the high winds have subsided. The old grass cuttings around the edge of the field near the leylandii need to be moved and it was suggested we ask Ed if he is able to move it. Tim said that he could always have the cuttings taken to the dung heaps on his farm if Ed had nowhere to dump it. The Clerk to ask Ed if he is able to do this when the weather is a bit drier.

Action – Parish Clerk /Cllr Wakely

RFA/57 Maintenance of Play Equipment

To feedback on the play equipment checks and the annual play inspection report.

Tim and Gareth had been carrying out the regular checks on the play equipment. Most things are OK apart from the rust on the Multiplay equipment. The rust had been taped up and so Gareth suggested we use epoxy resin instead. The rotten wooden slat needs to be replaced. The working party can look at this. The annual inspection mentioned that the shackles were low risk but should be monitored. Clerk to buy the resin from Amazon.

Action – Parish Clerk

The annual inspection also mentioned the zip wire as the seat does not meet the requirements as it was too low. It was reported as a low risk. The tensioner may need to be adjusted regularly. It was suggested that the working party look at this.

The Clerk mentioned that in addition to the monthly checks which are carried out and documented (the records need to be kept for 21 years), there should also be a visual weekly check carried out. Lou offered to do this.

Action - Lou

The signage by the MUGA needs to be amended so that it shows the Parish Council as the people to contact. Tim said he would print a new sign and Lou said she would check if she has the keys to the display cupboard that houses the sign. It was thought that the sign should include the fact that no children under 5 should be using the zip wire, children should not use it without supervision and that no adults should be using it.

Action – Tim/Lou

RFA/58 Maintenance of goal posts

To decide if we need to obtain quotations for the repainting of the goalposts or if it can be done in-house and decide the best time of year to do this.

This was to do with the goalposts on the MUGA. It was thought this was another job for the working party, probably in the summer. It was thought with wire brushes and some white paint, we could extend their life a bit longer.

RFA/59 Maintenance of pavilion

To decide the priorities for carrying out repairs/maintenance of the pavilion.

Tim said we should prioritise the repairs needed for the pavilion. It was agreed that any rebuild would not happen within the next couple of years. The water heater was a problem as the hot water was going cold before the football teams could all shower, plus there were other issues with the building. It was decided to meet within the next 2 weeks to draw up a list of defects which could then be reported to the February or March parish council meeting. This was provisionally set for Saturday 17th February.

It was thought that long-term improvements would need to be funded through grants. Suzanne said that the Football Foundation was open for grant submissions. She will check if the football club need to apply for the grant or if the recreation field committee can apply.

Action - Suzanne

RFA/60 Signage

To report on the current signage in the recreation field and to decide who is going to put the new signs up (including the 'do not park in front of these gates' sign which is in the kitchen!)

The Clerk reported that new weatherproof signs have been purchased to replace the temporary ones. There is a no parking sign in the kitchen which can be used on the wooden gates. Lou will check the size of the sign and Tim will check if it needs a batten attaching to the gates before it can be fixed there.

Action – Tim/Lou

RFA/61 Play Area

To discuss the fencing of the play area and the removal of the grass humps.

The Clerk said she had to get quotes for the fencing and it was agreed that some of the humps can be removed. The Events team need to be able to get into their store without going into the play area. Lou said she could put some temporary plastic mesh fencing in the gap that people used as a shortcut at the far end of the play area.

Action - Lou

RFA/62 Fundraising

To discuss future fundraising.

The Clerk mentioned that she had contacted the insurance company to see if our public liability insurance would cover us for certain events. A Fete was covered. If we held a Camp Out, they would need more details and there may well be an additional premium. Tim said he would let the Clerk know what was envisaged and then she could contact the insurers.

Action - Tim

The following suggestions were made:

- Camp out
- Summer Fete
- Grants (e.g. from Tesco, Co-Op, McDonalds, Playquest)
- Delivering Christmas cards around the village
- Car wash at the recreation field

Tim will follow up on a grant from McDonalds and Gareth will look at Tesco. He will also look on the Creative Play website as they suggest companies that you can apply for grants from.

Action – Tim/Gareth

RFA/63 Date of next working group and list of jobs needed

To arrange a date for the next working group and decide which jobs to tackle

It was suggested that it should meet on Sunday 17th March, with Sunday 24th March as an alternative if the first date was too wet. Lou will post these dates on Facebook and email the volunteers from last time.

Suggested tasks from this meeting are:

- Replace the wooden slats on the multi play
- Wire brush the rust and use epoxy resin on the multi play where the tape is
- Replace the signage by the MUGA
- Wire brush and paint the goal posts in the MUGA area
- Paint the main gates
- Put the 'no parking' sign in the kitchen on the wooden gates
- Paint the bench ends
- Look at the tensioner on the zip wire

RFA/64 Any other business

Ian mentioned that he had relocked the wooden gate, which had previously been unlocked to allow for the neighbour's hedge to be cut.

Dog Poo – Suzanne mentioned that there had not been any recently on the football pitch, although there is still some around the picnic benches and in the area from the pavilion to the football pitch. It would seem that the signs are working.

Lou suggested that the hedge on the right-hand side as you come into the recreation field via the pedestrian gate, be properly hedge laid. Lou knows someone who is qualified and will do it for no charge as they can then advertise their services on Facebook.

It was mentioned that the trees where the leylandii had been taken down, needed thinning at some point, as a lot of them were dead.

Finally, Myles was welcomed as a member of the recreation field committee.

Meeting closed: 08:45 pm

Next meeting: Monday 29th April 2024 at 7.30 pm in the village hall