



PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL
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**MINUTES OF THE
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE ROTHER HALL AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON THURSDAY, 13TH JANUARY 2022**

PRESENT: Cllrs Henly (Chairman), Clarke, Hare (from Min.65), Hunt and Riddle.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs H Knight (Clerk)

The meeting opened at 7.31pm

61. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Santo, Lawson and Court. Cllr Hare had advised that he would be late arriving due to a prior commitment for the Council.

62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & CHANGES TO REGISTER OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

There were no changes to Register of Interests.

63. MINUTES

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th November 2021 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and the Chairman signed them.

There was no Clerk's Report.

64. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no public present.

65. RECREATION CLUB REPORTS

The Clerk advised that the clubs had nothing to report but advised the following:

Pulborough Bowls Club had reiterated that their plans for centenary celebrations will go ahead and that they are keen for renewal of their lease to be considered, which will allow them to progress any long-term plans for the club.

SCYP termly report had been copied to the Committee and listed under the Correspondence List.

The Sports & Social Club meeting minutes of 28th September and accounts were copied to the Committee and listed under Correspondence List.

66. NEW MULTI USE GAMES AREA (MUGA)

Members had received two quotations for revised options. Other quotes had been sought but not received. The Clerk reminded Members that at this point an estimated cost only was needed to support a funding application to the SDNPA, with preferred provider/option in mind, and if agreed to proceed, the final appointment of contractor and specifications would be the subject of later deliberation if the funding bid is successful. The quotations provided were subject to a site survey.

An additional option had now become apparent via a new quote provider (Quote 1), namely the installation of a recarpeted surface. This was considerably cheaper than new surfacing as the recarpet is laid on top of the existing surface, removing the need for costly removal/disposal. However, some repairs to the existing surface would most probably still be required to ensure a suitable sub-layer. The Deputy Clerk had offered the opportunity to other estimate providers to quote for recarpeting if possible but had not yet received responses. It was noted that whilst the quotation for this included all previously costed ancillary items, eg nets, goals, fencing, floodlighting, the cost could be further reduced by removing the floodlights, which the quote provider had assured could if wished be a later project. Members pointed out, however, that it would be sensible to include new floodlighting as this would be to a modern standard and better fit with SDNPA Dark Skies policy.

It was noted that the funding bid now included VAT because the VAT element cannot be reclaimed as this would take the Council over the De Minimis limit for the financial year.

Considerable discussion took place during which members debated the relative merits or otherwise of a complete replacement facility project, a surface only replacement (with no renewal of fencing/ancillary items) or patch repairs (for which costs were unknown but would be considerably cheaper though not economic in the longer term). Comments were made about the need to have a safe and usable court for the club teams and public, that it would be an asset to the village, a probable increased income stream, and would ultimately enhance the sports pavilion refurbishment/replacement facilities. Concerns were expressed that in seeking SDNP CIL funding, it was expected that a similar matched funds bid would be made to HDC, probably resulting in a substantially reduced amount of S106 funds available for the Council to bid for the sports pavilion project. The Clerk confirmed that, if approved, the Parish Council could use £5,000 of existing earmarked reserves (MSF Resurfacing) and £5,000 already in the draft budget (for consideration by full Council the following week) without further impact on the proposed budget or precept. As the amount of funding contribution from the Council was over the committee delegated financial limit, this item would need to be a recommendation to Council.

It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** the following to full Council at its 20th January 2022 meeting:-

- To approve submitting funding applications, with the preferred option being Quote 1 as the basis for a recarpeting project, including all ancillary items as per the quotation such as floodlighting, at an estimated total cost of £134,268.00 (including VAT), to form the basis of estimated equal funding bids to SDNPA and HDC of £62,134.00 (including VAT) each; That the funding bid application questions be dealt with as discussed and noted by the Clerk;
- That the Council approves contributing £10,000 of its own funds to the project, made up from £5,000 existing reserves in the MSF Resurfacing EMR and £5,000 of MUGA funding already identified in the 2022-23 budget;
- That the cost of submitting a likely required planning application be approved, anticipated as being a fee of £234.00;

67. TREE INSPECTION SURVEY

Members considered three quotations received for the triennial tree survey due to be undertaken in February 2022. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to appoint Arborsense (Arboricultural Consultants) for this work at a cost of £700.00 (no VAT).

68. TREES ON MAIN RECREATION GROUND

Following concerns raised in October about several mature trees nearing end of life and in poor condition, a tree surgeon contractor carrying out other works for the Council had been asked to assess their condition and any remedial work. The report, circulated to Councillors, concluded that they were nearing end of life with signs of disease, and that there were no real pruning options that would allow the trees to be retained safely. The contractor provided a quotation for removal of the 2x maple trees opposite 15 and 16 Rectory Close but added that Council may choose to await the result of the February tree survey. It was **RESOLVED** to await the forthcoming triennial tree survey report, noting that this was imminent.

69. OFFER OF FREE TREES ON PARISH COUNCIL LAND

It was noted that the tree surgery contractor asked for advice on suitable locations for new trees had recommended that the Council continue its policy of replacing felled trees, such as those discussed under Min. 68.

Cllr Hunt reported that Cllr Esdaile was currently undertaking a tree survey for Wild Pulborough in her personal capacity, which included identifying suitable locations for new trees, and could be asked to provide the committee with this information. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Esdaile be asked to update the committee and also that if possible the new tree inspection survey provider be asked for their view on suitable locations. It was **RESOLVED** to defer this item until such time as new information is available, noting that free trees are available through various sources throughout the year.

70. SDNPA CALL FOR NATURE SITES

Members had received details of the above request and a suggestion had already been made of registering Rivermead as a potential site. It was further proposed that Nutbourne Common be submitted, since the SDNPA is already working supportively with the Council at that site, but that Pocket Park would not be suitable. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to put forward the Council owned sites of Rivermead and Nutbourne Common, using the registration questionnaire responses as discussed and noted by the Clerk.

71. FENCE AT ALLOTMENTS

Members noted that no response had been received to the Council's letter dated 18th October 2021 to the property owner adjoining the boundary of the fence in question. Noting that this matter had been ongoing for some time, the Clerk discussed several options with the Committee. It was **RESOLVED** to write to the landowner once more to seek a response to the Council's previous letter.

72. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

Members considered three quotations received for the next annual round of playground inspections, noting that Quote 2 included 4 inspections per year. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Kompan Ltd (quote 2) at a cost of £460.00 (excluding VAT) to undertake the 2022-23 playground inspections.

73. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items were noted, as per the list previously circulated:-

Sussex Clubs for Young People (SCYP)

- Termly report. Copied to Committee.
- Email correspondence regarding attendance of the Youth Club at the Village Hall. Copied to Committee.

Members commented on recent club activity and noted that the Youth Club had not been at the Village Hall for the past two weeks although they had indicated at the end of 2021 that they would be re-starting from 12th January 2022.

Sports & Social Club

- Minutes of meeting held on 28.09.21. Copied to Committee.
- Email correspondence re points raised in minutes. Copied to Committee.

Members noted that the Deputy Clerk had sought clarification and full details from the club as to repair works it wished the Council to undertake, which had previously been referenced within their meeting minutes. To date no response had been received.

The Skill Mill

Email detailing the above organisation. Copied to Committee.

Members noted that this could be a useful resource for some council projects, such as fence painting, cleaning, bramble clearing. The Clerk was asked to find out whether they would provide their own equipment for such work.

Residents

- FOI request regarding Glyphosate use by PPC and reply from Clerk. Copied to Committee.
- Thanks to the Parish Council for allowing a tree to be planted in memory of their friend.

Publications

- Wey & South quarterly magazine.
- Countryside Voice – Winter 2021.
- South Downs newsletters – Oct, Nov & Dec 21.
- Wey & Arun News- Nov & Dec 21.

74. PAYMENTS RESOLVED

Members approved the following payments and were signed by two authorised signatories.

Burgess & Randall Ltd	£55.00
Tools4trade Ltd	£489.00
Coozo Creative Solutions Ltd	£17.79
Hirst Footwear Ltd	£26.95
Azbags Ltd	£55.85
Mrs L Underwood	£84.55
Mrs A Lawson	£74.80
Pulborough Social Centre	£1,553.20
Daisy Communications	£24.59
National Westminster Bank	£3.15

The meeting closed at 9.21pm

.....CHAIRMAN

.....DATE