



PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

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**MINUTES OF THE
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM AT PULBOROUGH SPORTS PAVILION
ON THURSDAY 13th JUNE 2024**

PRESENT: Cllrs Lee (Chair), Marcuson (Vice Chair), Court, Clarke, Ellis-Brown, *Esdaile and Hunt

*Cllr Esdaile 7.36

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Beverly Nobbs (Deputy Clerk)

The meeting opened at 7.30 pm.

1. APOLOGIES FOR THE ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and reasons approved for Cllr Martin, (personal commitment), Cllr Campbell (personal commitment) Cllr Curd (personal commitment).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & CHANGES TO REGISTER OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest or changes to the Register of Interests made.

3. MINUTES

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th March 2024 and 9th May 2024 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and the Chair signed them.

4. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no public speakers present and therefore the Chair moved on to the next agenda item.

5. RECREATION CLUB REPORTS

The Deputy Clerk informed the committee that no reports had been received.

6. CLERKS REPORT

Members **RECEIVED** a report from the Deputy Clerk on the following:

- **Pocket Park Benches**

Following the request from the previous meeting to remove the benches from Pocket Park and site them on the main recreation ground, our groundsman has reported that the bench legs are concreted into the ground.

He has removed the seat from one bench and needs to clear the weeds and overgrowth from the other two before they can be removed from the site. The legs unfortunately need to be dug out and will not be able to be reused.

Our groundsman will be able to make legs for them in the future and once done he will site the three benches in the recreation field.

- **Nutbourne Common name change**

To confirm that the name has now been registered with Horsham District Council and it has been updated on their records as of 14th May 2024 to 'Nutbourne Common/Nature Reserve'.

- **Van Insurance**

Members asked if this had been agreed by Full Council. Cllr Lee explained that the Van had been gifted to the Parish Council and would be stored at the Village Hall. The Pantry volunteers are finding it difficult to pick up the supplies needed in their cars.

It was **RESOLVED** to take this to Full Council to decide whether the Parish Council want to use the van. Members would like to know if it will be gifted so that the Parish Council takes over the ownership or if this is not the case what the conditions of the lease would be and then take this item back to Full Council.

7. REQUEST FROM PULBOROUGH CRICKET CLUB TO USE THE PARISH ROOM ON MATCH DAY'S

Members considered a request from the Cricket Club to use the Parish Room for Tea's and Coffee's on Match Days.

Members **RESOLVED** that it could damage the Pantry food hygiene certificate and on Saturdays, volunteers use the room for pick-ups and packing up the Food Parcels, so it is not viable.

8. UPDATE FROM THE SPORTS FIELD MEETING

Members received a verbal update from Cllr Lee on the sports field meeting and to decide whether the Parish Council can afford a 10% incursion fee where Stoolball play on the Cricket Square.

Cllr Lee reported that two representatives from Stoolball, two representatives from Cricket and four representatives from Football attended the meeting.

The meeting was to gain feedback for future requirements the Clubs may have, to ascertain what physically they need from the field and to try to resolve the dispute between Cricket & Stoolball about the usage of the Cricket Square.

Football is very happy and thriving and successful they are pleased to give a positive update; the only requirement is for some extra storage if and when we get the new building. Stoolball have challenges with demographics with their players and are trying to attract new players. they have always used the other side of the field unless

it is a league game as they need to use better ground; they do not wear spikes when playing nor do they dive. The ECB recommends that a cricket strip can be used for three to five games.

The Cricket Club wants to charge 10% of the £3.500 for Stoolball to use their Cricket Square during games. As a compromise we can offer free usage of the field subject to the approval of the costs for the Cricket Square, we have not seen proof of this charge yet. The Cricket Club do not need use of all the strips for their games if the ECB recommendations are correct. Cllr Ellis-Brown stated that we need to see their full accounts before a decision can be made, the Cricket Club has not agreed to this, but the other Clubs have.

Cllr count commented regarding the loss of income we will lose if we give free use of the field, however, the new MUGA will be in use so there will be revenue coming in.

In the longer term ask the Clerk to approach other councils with similar facilities to see where they generate their income.

Member **RESOLVED** to approve the 10% compensation charge subject to the Cricket Club submitting their full accounts to the Parish Council.

9. **COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT UPDATE**

Members RECEIVED a verbal update from the Deputy Clerk on the progress of the community allotment and working group.

We have had a positive response from the community so far in terms of volunteers generously giving up their time to come and help, and many donations of seeds and mature plants.

Together, these activities are starting to transform our community allotment from a barren, overgrown plot to a productive and welcoming haven which is receiving keen interest from the local forest school, and the health centre for social prescribing.

In addition to individual contributions, local companies have delivered wood chips at no cost and have provided labour to dig and turn the soil, also free of charge. This assistance has been crucial in preparing the allotment for successful planting and our ongoing horticultural activities.

A particularly heartwarming success already has been the involvement of a group of local children who painted rocks for our bee garden during half-term. Their creativity and enthusiasm have added a vibrant and personalised touch to our community allotment.

We will be holding our first Community Allotment Group meeting on 19th June where we will:

- Update the terms of reference
- Start work on and assign responsibilities towards a coordinated activity plan for planting, maintenance, resource, and funding requirements (to be managed by the Events and Grants Coordinator), volunteer recruitment and training, community engagement, events, and social media updates including the promotion of inclusivity and accessibility (to be managed with the Clerk/Deputy Clerk)
- Define evaluation metrics/success measurement to include expected produce contribution to Pulborough Pantry in late 2024 and 2025.

10. YOUTH PROVISION UPDATE

Members received a verbal update on the progress of youth provision in Pulborough.

The Clerk recently visited Chanctonbury Centre and was impressed by the incredible work they are doing. The Chair of Recreation and Open Spaces asked me to assess the feasibility of hosting a weekly sports event for children in the Village Hall.

The Clerk had a productive meeting with Andi Dustan, the Head of Leisure, and Ian, a Horsham Sports Specialist. We concluded that it is feasible to host a weekly session in the village hall at a prime time for young people.

The plan is to have the first hour dedicated to primary school-aged children, engaging them in unique sports such as dodgeball, frisbee golf, and dance, which are not typically part of contemporary sports activities. Later in the evening, we aim to offer gym-based activities for older children.

This initiative will enable Pulborough to finally have a regular sports group that involves younger kids. The sessions are scheduled to start in September and will run during term time, as this is considered the most effective period.

The costs are yet to be finalised. If a small contribution from parents is needed, it will be discussed in future meetings.

11. COMMUNITY GARDENS

Members considered taking over the lease of the BT Garden which is currently on Licence from BT Openreach (no charge) by the PCP and maintained by local volunteers.

Members discussed this at length, as the garden is cared for by Cllr Hunt and volunteers nothing will change if the Licence is taken over by the Parish Council. Members RESOLVED to take this on in October 2024

12. PROTECT YOUR REC – REPAINTING THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Members RECEIVED a report from the Deputy Clerk that the Volunteer dates to paint the playground equipment on the main recreation ground will go ahead from Monday 15th July 2024 – 17th July 2024 this will be advertised on social media tomorrow and the noticeboards next week.

13. PAYMENTS

Members **RESOLVED** approval of the Payments List, which was duly signed by two, authorising members, comprising the following payments:

Pulborough Social Centre	£60.00
Travis Perkins	£49.46
WSCC	£10,421.46
Travis Perkins	£12.08
Harry Quenault	£21.00
SLCC	£298.00
Elora Chriss	£23.28

Meeting Closed at 8.34 pm

.....CHAIRMAN

.....DATE