



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, 9TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

PRESENT: Cllrs Henly (Chairman), Court, Hunt and Lawson

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs H Knight (Clerk)
Ms J Bell (Sussex Clubs for Young People) (to Min.26)

The meeting opened at 7.32pm

23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Hare and Clarke.

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & CHANGES TO REGISTER OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.
There were no changes to Register of Interests.

25. MINUTES

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th July 2021 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and the Chairman signed them.

Clerk's Report

Min. 16, Minutes/Clerk's Report: Min. 189 – Playground Inspection

The outstanding playground works were due to have been completed on 20th August, with one day of finishing painting and some minor items. Subsequently, the new tyre swing that had had the bushes replaced had failed again and Kompan were supplying a replacement tyre with reinforced fixings (the new tyre being part of the original work quoted). This, an infill panel and one remaining item of painting would now take place on 22nd September.

Min. 16, Minutes/Clerk's Report: Min. 189 – Playground Inspection

Vandalism to slide section and noticeboards: The Deputy Clerk had previously reported deliberate damage requiring additions to the contracted play equipment work. The perpetrator had been identified thanks to concerted efforts of a resident witness account and work by the Neighbourhood Wardens and PCSOs. Sussex Police had investigated and were in contact with the perpetrator. As the individual is classed as a child, PCSO Michael Gamble and the Clerk had discussed the most sensible approach and options for reparation. The Clerk had confirmed to the

PCSO that Sussex Police could decide on the most appropriate form of community payback for the offence.

26. PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Committee Chairman welcomed Jo Bell, Operations Manager at Sussex Clubs for Young People (SCYP), to the meeting.

Meeting adjourned 7.35pm

Meeting reconvened 7.45pm

During the adjournment, Jo Bell reported on the continued search for a suitable venue for the club, particularly crucial with the colder season approaching, and sought the Council's assistance if possible. Councillors asked various questions and conversation covered that the St Mary's Primary School building was definitely no longer an option, and that if necessary external fundraising sources may be required to secure a new regular base for the club. Additionally, Cllr Henly as Committee Chairman and a Village Hall Trustee offered to liaise with the Village Hall Manager and Trustees to discuss the potential for hiring space at the Village Hall (Pulborough Social Centre).

27. RECREATION CLUB REPORTS

SCYP had provided their Termly Report 27th July-27th August 2021 which had been circulated to the committee, in addition to the verbal report held under Agenda item 3 Public Adjournment (Min.25 above). Attendance at the club's external sessions with the Purple Bus had increased significantly over the past months, aided by some school parents accompanying younger children which assisted SCYP with adult supervision. Most sessions had over 30 young people attending, with 79 on one occasion. A group of young people had been taken on 2 external trips, focussing on pondlife, nature and wildlife care. These were provided free where possible to those needing support.

The following written reports had been received by the Clerk from the cricket and bowls clubs:

Cricket Club

The last League match was played on Saturday 4th. September. Our season was not very successful losing more matches than won but managed to survive in the same division.

We have our annual friendly match against a Social Club team next Sunday. Any proceeds from this fundraising event are split between the Clubs.

Early October will see the end of season renovation of the square in readiness for the 2022 season.

We are also seeking funds to renovate the practice nets which are in need of repair before the new season.

Bowls Club

Nothing has changed with our club. The work is progressing as earlier, although the weather held us back for a while, however with the end of the season in site I would expect a moving on as we can concentrate on that project without other distractions.

Pulborough Youth Football

Cllr Hunt, having been in contact with them regarding potential external sponsorship opportunities, had received an email report from Pulborough Youth Football Club as follows:

Thank you for contacting me and taking the time to talk to me the other day. My apologies for taking a bit of time to email you with further details but I was on holiday

last week. I will try and give you a 'brief' overview of the Youth Football Club we have set up.

I moved to Pulborough from Billingshurst 4 years ago and live (not far from the) recreation ground. I quickly realised that there wasn't any children's sport played in Pulborough and I have 3 young boys myself. When my eldest was 5 I was in the social club one evening and Darren Greenfield, who runs the social club, advised if we could find enough children they would sponsor us. 3 weeks later we had 10 children, 10 balls & 10 bibs, 2 coaches, child welfare officer, FA DBS checks and completed safeguarding courses. We have become part of the men's football club so have the same treasurer, secretary & chairman.

We have also been sponsored by 'Spellman High Voltage Electronics Ltd' who are based on Broomers Hill, Pulborough. They have provided our teams with kits and clothing for the coaches.

Covid-19 slowed our progression as it was stop-start but next season we currently have the following:

- U8 team, with manager & assistant. Currently 12 players and they will be playing in the ACYFL (Arun & Chichester Youth Football League) on Sunday mornings with training Wednesday evenings.

- U7 team, with manager, assistant & a coach. Currently 12 players and they train on Sunday morning with some friendlies. Potential to join the league later on this season.

- U6 team. I have currently got 9 players interested but nobody has stepped forward to volunteer as a manager & coach. Obviously these things can only run with volunteers!

We have been able to run the teams with a very small charge to parents along with sponsorship from the social club & Spellman. This has enabled us to purchase regulation goals, training equipment, line marker, required courses for the volunteers, etc. We want to keep the cost down for parents as it is more of a community club with all our players living in Pulborough and attending St Mary's Primary School.

This weekend, Sunday 29th August, the U8 team have a friendly kicking off at 10am and the U7 team have training at the same time. They will both be on the recreation ground if anybody is interested to see what we are about (although a little light on players with the holidays!)

28. PARISH COUNCIL PESTICIDE USE

This item had been referred from the committee meeting held 27th May 2021, Min.9. Members noted information provided on which pesticides/herbicides are used and where these are applied as follows:

Round Up – for around trees and bollards on borders of recreation ground, around playpark fence, pavilion car park and social club;

Grazon – for use on brambles at the allotments and Nutbourne Common;

Weedox – for weeds on the grass around the committee room at pavilion.

The Clerk had also circulated information she had found relating to 'natural' herbicides. It was apparent that these also could be dangerous and needed careful use.

Members also noted that under the Clerk's direction, the Council's Groundsman had attained NPTC certificates PA1 Safe Use of Pesticides and PA6 Hand Held Application Unit 151 in January 2018. Certificates do not expire though it is generally recommended to undertake refresher courses every 3-5 years, meaning that 2021 is the earliest this might be considered necessary.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk arrange for the Groundsman to attend refresher training on using chemical weedkillers as soon as practicable.

29. MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY FOR MANAGEMENT OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENT

Members considered the spreadsheet sent with the agenda, which detailed the quotations for the remaining works from the Inspection Report (Priority 3s) together with the lifespan of all equipment, as stated in the latest Inspection Report. As a starting point, the Clerk suggested that, whilst all lifespans were a benchmark guide only, ranging between 2 and 10+ years, the committee might consider the midway point. Based on all equipment with 2-5 years anticipated remaining lifespan, officers could be asked to obtain quotes for replacement of those items to report back and the Finance & Policy Committee subsequently advised for budgeting purposes, with an annual review by the R&OS Committee.

Cllr Hunt wanted to include an opportunity for users of the equipment, eg parents of young children and less able users or children with special needs, to feed their views into the purchase of future equipment. The Clerk advised that the committee could decide to co-opt non councillors in an advisory role to provide this feedback if Members wished.

Following some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to refer this item to the next meeting.

30. FENCE AT ALLOTMENTS

Members noted further correspondence from the plot holder who has been seeking repair of fences bordering the allotment site near his plot, and reduction of trees/vegetation overshadowing the plot. It was noted that the Groundsman has strimmed and removed ground vegetation and overhanging tree growth as high as possible.

Following debate about ownership of the wooden fence in question, the Committee and officers were unable to ascertain this and who is therefore responsible. It was **RESOLVED** therefore that in the first instance the Clerk will contact the landowner which the fence borders on the assumption of their ownership of the fence, and politely request that they consider replacing the broken panels.

31. OFFER OF FREE TREES ON PARISH COUNCIL LAND

This item had been referred from the meeting held on 11th March 2021. Min.179.2. It was felt to be still too early for tree planting, however Members could be thinking of suitable locations for the October meeting to consider, with a view to planting during October, November or December this year. The Clerk suggested that one or more of the tree contractors the Council utilises may have useful knowledge of suitable locations on Council land and appropriate trees to plant. Members were particularly interested in having a variety of types, including fruiting/berry trees and small copses..

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would seek such suggestions and Members would also give this thought, for report back to the October meeting. Members would then assess all suggestions, including any impact on the Groundsman's work.

32. GRAB LORRY HIRE

Members had received two quotations for hire of a grab lorry (mixed waste 8 tonne capacity) to clear away vegetation collected and stored by the Groundsman, from the fenced area in the sports pavilion car park. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation from RJB Haulage & Grab Hire of £580.00 + VAT.

33. TREE CONDITION, MAIN RECREATION GROUND

Members had received the report from the HDC Arboricultural Officer regarding two oak trees close to Collingwood on the main recreation ground that he had observed whilst in the area. The English oak (Tree ref. 151) suffering from honey fungus was not as much of a concern and could be monitored. The red oak (Tree ref. 149) which he noted is suffering from *Meripilus giganteus* at its base was however more of a concern due to a fair amount of deadwood and its proximity to highly used public area/cricket outfield. Whilst not likely to pose an immediate danger, the onset of winter weather and continued degradation from the disease will leave the tree susceptible to failure caused by windthrow.

The Clerk updated Members on her subsequent discussion with the officer and that the next triennial tree survey would be due from February 2022. It had not been possible to obtain quotations in time for this meeting to consider but the Clerk had already sought three quotations which were awaited, for a) removal of deadwood only from the red oak, and b) complete removal of the red oak tree. It was noted that whilst removal of considerable deadwood now would suffice, with a view to ongoing monitoring and eventual removal, the Clerk's recommendation is to remove the tree entirely and plant a new tree in a more suitable location.

Following due consideration, it was **RESOLVED** that the condition of the English oak (Ref 151) be monitored and picked up in the 2022 tree survey; and that the red oak (ref. 149) is to be removed as soon as practically possible; It was further **RESOLVED** that the Clerk, under delegated authority to deal with urgent matters up to £1,000, will approve the best value quotation received and authorise the work, liaising with the Council Chairman and Committee Chairman. It was suggested that the Council's Tree Warden could be asked to assist with monitoring the English oak.

34. CORRESPONDENCE**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government**

Letter regarding accessible and inclusive play areas. Copied to Committee.

During discussion of this letter, Cllr Hunt offered to research potential grants for provision of accessible and inclusive play equipment.

WSCC

Town & Parish News – special edition re ash dieback. Copied to Committee.

SDNPA

- Notification of a 'Nature Recovery' webinar on 13.10.21 at 6.30pm.
- Newsletter – July & August 2021.

CPRE

- Annual report 2020 & Invitation to the CPRE Sussex Virtual AGM on 25.09.21.
- CPRE Sussex September 2021 News (*email forwarded to Committee*).

Kompan

Case study on playground works. Copied to Committee.

Publications

- Wey & Arun July & August e-newsletter.
- CPRE The Countryside Charity – Summer 2021

35. PAYMENTS RESOLVED

Members approved the following payments and were signed by one authorised signatory, the other signatory will sign them outside the meeting in the Parish Office.

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|---|----------|
| WSCC | 8,736.80 |
| WSCC | 740.00 |
| Pulborough Social Centre (Village Hall) | 196.10 |
| HDC | 413.40 |
| Arun Mowers | 210.43 |
| Business Stream (Scottish Water) | 1,159.62 |
| Business Stream (Scottish Water) | 206.57 |
| Business Stream (Scottish Water) | 173.44 |
| HDC | 62.00 |
| HDC | 39.90 |

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

.....CHAIRMAN

.....DATE