



PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL
Swan View, Lower Street
Pulborough
West Sussex RH20 2BF
Telephone: 01798 873532
Email: reception@pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk

**MINUTES OF THE
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM AT PULBOROUGH SPORTS PAVILION
ON THURSDAY 11th APRIL 2024**

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

(Cllr Ellis-Brown arrived at 19:34)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Beverly Nobbs (Deputy Clerk),

The meeting opened at 7.30 pm.

111. APOLOGIES FOR THE ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and reasons approved for Cllr Martin, (personal commitment), Cllr Esdaile (personal commitment), Cllr Court (unwell)

112. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & CHANGES TO REGISTER OF INTERESTS

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

113. MINUTES

The 14th March 2024 minutes were not agreed and a revised version will be circulated to Councillors for signature at Full Council.

114. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no public speakers present and therefore the chair moved on to the next Agenda item.

115. CLERKS REPORT

Members received a Clerks Report from the Deputy Clerk.

- **War Memorial – St Mary’s Church**

The office received an offer via St Mary’s Church from a stonemason to clean the War Memorial at the Church. He is one of the contractors who cuts the grass at the Church.

I have accepted this very kind offer and the Gentleman will be cleaning the Memorial in the next few weeks.

- **Possible Incursion onto Pulborough Recreation Field**
To report that bollards were installed at the Recreation Ground on Thursday 28th March 2024, all of the incursion sites have now been covered.
- **Cricket Square**
We have received a report from our groundsman Fred that when the Cricket Square is being mown, the arisings are being left around the edge of the recreation field, instead of being disposed of in the agreed place which is next to the containers at the back of the Car Park. The Cricket Club has been made aware of this issue.

116. RECREATION CLUB REPORTS

There were no reports received for this meeting.

It was suggested that all Clubs be reminded that they need to gain permission from the PPC before placing any advertisement banners and posters.

Members RESOLVED that we will make each club aware permission needs to be sought from the PPC before any advertisement banners or posters can be displayed.

The football club has asked for a safe space/compound to keep their nets, this is currently being looked into and progress will be reported at the next meeting.

117. NUTBOURNE COMMON RECREATION GROUND.

Members received an update from the Deputy Clerk. Dominic Sunderland, South Downs National Park Authority, has been approached regarding the bramble encroachment onto the heather. Dominic has organised and pencilled in a day with volunteers to do this work on 1st May 2024, I have since had this confirmed and the work will go ahead weather permitting.

Cllr Ellis Brown advised that with agreement from Nutbourne Residents Association, this area is now known as Nutbourne Common/Nature Reserve.

Cllr Marcusson has received advice from Wilder Horsham that we should:

- Expand the heather area, as this is so important in encouraging wildlife (it probably was once heathland) by taking out some of the silver birches and small oaks on the perimeter of the heather. Taking out more oaks to the south would allow more light and lessen the amount of falling oak leaves as they increase the nutrients in the soil which is not good for the heather.
- Keep the circular path around the outside as it is which would be less disturbance of the heather...and would also keep the dogwalkers happy (they are the main users of the Common after all)
- Keep one dead-end path into the heather, there already is one there to the north, leading to the benches.
- Introduce gorse around the heather, not too far away from it for the wildlife that use both. This would also deter people from walking around the heather.
- Maintain the heather. The first cut should be in the autumn, almost to ground level. It's best to cut one-third of the area at a time, for the wildlife that use different stages of heather growth. Also, aesthetically better look.

- Keep all wood on site, for the wildlife and it can be used to direct walkers onto the paths.
- Update the noticeboard. This should explain what we are doing here and why. It could have the countryside code ie keep to paths/dogs on leads/leave all fallen wood for the wildlife.

118. COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT UPDATE

Members received an update from Cllr Ellis-Brown on the progress of the Community Allotment. Cllr Ellis-Brown advised discussion has been had with Nicola for plans, there are plans for a shed and the Wardens are collecting a polytunnel in the coming week. This will be stored in the groundsman's tractor shed until used as it is for the future allotment as it is too big for the community allotment. Rotovating will take place next week and the membrane will be laid. The pathway will need to be decided, we need to consider disabled individuals. Several plants have been donated, including fruit trees, sweet peas, potatoes, and various packets of seeds. The companies interested in sponsoring a raised bed need to be contacted.

119. YOUTH SPORTS PROVISION

Cllr Hunt and Cllr Ellis-Brown provided an update on the provision of youth activities in Pulborough.

Cllrs Hunt, Ellis-Brown and the Parish Clerk met with Gareth Miller, Renegades, who has offered to bring his mobile unit onto the recreation ground for a trial session. It was decided that this would not be practical and that more information is needed, including safeguarding and insurance details. St Mary's School will be approached as a potential site.

The Cooking Club has been going well, with between 9-12 children every Friday.

120. RIVERMEAD UPDATE

Members received an update from the Deputy Clerk. We have had a meeting with the SDNP (Dominic) regarding the re-wilding of the Nature Reserve. We have plans to create a pathway down to the Brooks which will incorporate vacuum holes/ French drains that will hopefully alleviate the flooding. We are looking into grants to cover the cost of having the broken culvert replaced, the pathway made and information boards created to provide information about wildlife and the Brooks.

121. POCKET PARK - UPDATE

Members received a report from the Deputy Clerk. We are seeing an increase in anti-social behaviour in Pocket Park. The Wardens are aware and are increasing their patrols. Any illicit activity should be reported to Sussex Police, PCSO and the Wardens immediately.

Cllr Lee suggested that we remove the seating as this may be encouraging anti-social behaviour. Cllr Curd said that the river is being blocked with debris.

It was suggested that we work on educational sessions with the school. Cllr Lee asked if we could put on the website that patrols in the area are being stepped up.

122. CRICKET NETS – TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Members received the draft terms and conditions for the new cricket nets. Following some discussion it was agreed that:

- The draft terms and conditions are revised
- The cages to be extended to cover the entire area
- New larger disclaimer signs to be posted
- Cricket Club to be approached regarding closing the nets entirely in winter

123. 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
Pulborough Cricket Club	£323.76
Expenses for Kevin Lee	£115.09
HDC - NNDR	£1200.00
Beverly Nobbs Expenses	£39.59
Burgess and Randall	£42.85

Meeting Closed at 8.17pm

.....CHAIRMAN

.....DATE