



PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL
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**MINUTES OF THE
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 8TH OCTOBER 2015
AT THE SPORTS PAVILION**

PRESENT: Cllrs E Wallace (Chairman), Court, Hare, Henly, Lawson & Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Lisa Underwood (Assistant Clerk) and 0 members of the public.

The meeting opened at 8.01pm

60. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were accepted from Cllrs Clarke & Qusted.

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

62. MINUTES

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th September 2015 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and the Chairman signed them.

Cllr. Hare noted that under item 57, the Terms of Reference had been checked, however he still feels that with regard to the proposed diversion of part of footpath 2309, this falls under Recreation & Open Spaces, because of the lost view, and not Planning & Services and suggested that for any future matters of a similar nature, Councillors go to view the footpath before making any decisions. The Assistant Clerk advised that John Denison, an ex-councillor and avid walker, had been consulted by the P&S Committee, who was in support of the proposal. The Assistant Clerk also advised Cllr. Hare that he was welcome to attend as a member of the public at any P&S meeting, and speak on an agenda item.

Clerk's Report from meeting on 10th September 2015

Item 54 - Youth Provision

Youth provision wasn't highlighted at the Full Council meeting on 17th September, as suggested. The Assistant Clerk will speak to Cllr. Qusted about this matter.

63. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no public speakers.

64. CHANGING ROOMS AT THE SPORTS PAVILION

Following various incidents of the changing rooms being left untidy, changing room doors being locked, the double doors being left open, lost keys and kit being left in the changing rooms, all sports clubs have been contacted, via email, with some photographic evidence of the said incidents. but no replies have been received.

There is still cricket kit left in the changing rooms, the Assistant Clerk has requested that this is removed by the end of September, otherwise the Parish Council will have it removed, no reply has been received. Members AGREED that this kit should now be removed to the storage containers in the car park. The Assistant Clerk commented that she wasn't sure if the Caretaker or Groundsman had any keys to these.

After some discussion Members instructed the Clerk to add clauses regarding the use of the changing rooms and the responsibility of keys to the new leases in April 2016.

65. STEPS UP TO THE BOWLING CLUB

Cllr. Henly advised that the Bowling Club would like the edge of the steps painted white and for the handrail to be replaced. Cllr. Henly advised that the Bowling Club would be able to paint the steps. Members AGREED for the Bowling Club to do this and instructed the Assistant Clerk to arrange for a new rail to be fitted, as a high priority.

Resolved: Cllr. Henly to advise the Bowling Club to paint the steps and the Assistant Clerk will arrange for a new rail to be fitted.

66. WSCC CYCLING AND WALKING STRATEGY QUESTIONNAIRE

WSCC have requested comments on cycling and walking in the Pulborough area. The Assistant Clerk suggested the order of importance for local cycling and walking priorities, and suggested the following top four priorities for cycling/walking infrastructure improvements:

- Improvements in pedestrian access in Lower St (pavements are too narrow).
- Improvements, including better lighting, for Cinder Path, FP2327 (in Village Transport Plan).
- Increased maintenance of Sopers Hill.
- Provision of cycle route from Pulborough Village to Brinsbury College.

Members AGREED to these suggestions and instructed the Assistant Clerk to reply accordingly.

Resolved: The Assistant Clerk to reply to the questionnaire.

67. BYLAWS

The Assistant Clerk has not drafted a disclaimer regarding BBQ's on the recreation ground, as the Bylaws, displayed at the recreation ground and at Cousins Way recreation ground make reference to BBQ's and the fact that people should not use them. The Assistant Clerk advised that the Parish Council's insurance company have advised that if the bylaws are displayed stating no BBQ's, a Judge would be unlikely to make the Parish Council liable if anyone got hurt using a BBQ on the recreation grounds. Members suggested that an article be placed in the next Parish Bulletin and every Spring & Summer reminding people that BBQ's are not permitted.

Cllr. Hare commented that there was no mention of dog fouling or air drones in the bylaws. It was commented that there are no dog fouling signs around the recreation ground. The Assistant Clerk advised that it is a lengthy process to get the bylaws changed, but she will enquire with HDC regarding these two items.

68. POCKET PARK WORKING PARTY

It was commented at the last meeting that the newly filled path in Pocket Park had washed away. The Assistant Clerk provided photographs, which showed that the condition of the path was still acceptable and not as it was before it was filled. The Assistant Clerk advised that this path is a Public Right of Way (PROW) and not a footway, and so doesn't need to be maintained as a footway would. It was commented that for some people on mobility scooters, bikes or with prams it was difficult to travel across, but it was pointed out that this route was not the only way that could be travelled. Members AGREED that nothing needed to be done at this stage, but the path should be monitored.

The Assistant Clerk advised that Cllr. Quested and 3 members of the public have put their names forward to help in a working party. Cllr. Lawson commented that the area around the bridge is very overgrown and needs more heavy machinery to clear it than that a working party would use. How the rubbish is cleared away also needs to be considered. An angle iron is also sticking up in that area, and there is a hazel tree that needs coppicing. It was also commented that there are stag beetles in the area, which are protected, so care needs to be taken with any work that is being done. Cllr. E Wallace advised that Cllr J Wallace has the equipment to do the heavier work, but what are the rules for bringing one's own equipment? The Assistant Clerk was instructed to find out and report back at the next meeting, so this can be discussed further.

69. TREE WORKS

Members received various quotations for tree works needed in the memorial garden, the allotments and the main recreation ground. After viewing the quotations it was AGREED to proceed with all the quotations from Andrew Gale Ltd, totalling £480.00, which includes grinding out the stump which was left when the last dead maple was felled. The advice is not to leave the stumps as this becomes a food source for honey fungus, which is what is causing the trees to become diseased and die.

Resolved: The Assistant Clerk will accept the quotation from Andrew Gale Ltd totalling £480.00.

Members went on to discuss replacing the trees that have had to be felled recently, three in total. After some discussion members were un-decided as to what trees to replace them with. The Assistant Clerk advised that the existing Norway Maples may not be a good choice, because of the honey fungus issue. The tree surgeons have advised that other maples, being part of the Acer family will be fine. Members decided to bring suggestions to the next meeting and instructed the Assistant Clerk to ask Cllr. Esdaile, as he was the one to bring this matter to the attention of the Committee. Cllr. Court & Wilson will also gather ideas from local residents. Cllr. Lawson commented that it would be good to get them planted by the end of this year.

70. MOTTE & BAILEY

Cllr. Hare reported that Historic England have noted that the Motte & Bailey in Pulborough is the best of its type in the South East. Cllr. Hare would like to know if the Parish Council can exploit this; there is an historical benefit and a landmark and feature of Pulborough that could bring visitors to the area.

Cllr. Hare explained that there is a Napoleonic fort on West Beach in Littlehampton, owned by the golf club. Negotiations have been in progress with a restoration group, so this is an example of what can be achieved.

Cllr. Hare would like to make informal enquiries to Historic England as to whether attempting a restoration is feasible and of benefit and if any grants are available and how this matter could be taken forward. Cllr. Lawson commented that the landowner should really be contacted before doing anything further. However after some discussion, Members AGREED that Cllr. Hare could make initial enquiries on an informal basis.

71. HOLE IN RECREATION GROUND

Cllr. Wilson was concerned about the hole at the edge of the recreation as children have been playing in it and not noticing approaching vehicles. Also the kerbstones are missing, is this Highways responsibility? The Assistant Clerk advised that this area has been filled in before, but because vehicles continuously go over this area, it has worn away again. After some discussion, Members AGREED to have this area filled with Type 2 hardcore and instructed the Assistant Clerk to arrange this to be carried out and to check with Highways about the kerbstones.

72. CORRESPONDENCE

Saxon Weald

Email from Saxon Weald regarding the progress on the drainage issues at land south of Carpenters Meadow. Copied to Committee.

Residents

Email from resident noting the good work carried out at Pocket Park, but commenting that nettles and brambles need to be taken out, along with lots of weeding. *The Assistant Clerk advised the resident that this matter was being discussed at the meeting on 8th October 2015.*

Email from resident offering ideas and help regarding public art, after seeing the Parish Bulletin. Copied to Committee. *The Clerk has sent a reply, see attached, but would the Committee like to add any further comments? **Members liked the idea, but are looking for something more robust and were not really thinking of glass and ceramics, but they would like the resident's details kept on file should anything come up in the future.***

Community Youth Work

Quarterly report. Copied to Committee.

73. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

- None

74. ITEMS TO BE PUBLICISED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- Ideas for public art.
- Suggestions for replacement trees.

75. PAYMENTS RESOLVED:

Members approved the following payments and the cheques were signed.

PAYEE	AMOUNT/£
S Norman	59.36
West Sussex County Council	5944.34
Pulborough Social Centre	1382.75
D Blunden	90.00
Southern Water	177.02
Viking	4.28
Burgess & Randall Ltd	5.95
Christine Mortimer	6.30
S Norman	6.30
EDF Energy	219.67
HDC	504.00

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

.....**CHAIRMAN**

.....**DATE**