



PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL
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**MINUTES OF THE
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD VIRTUALLY USING MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY, 8th April 2021**

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings (England and Wales) regulations 2020 (“the Regulations”) came into force on 4th April 2020. The Regulations enable local councils to hold remote meetings (including by video and telephone conferencing) for a specified period until May 2021.

PRESENT: Cllrs Henly (Chairman), Clarke (during min no 185), Harvey, Hunt, Lawson & Riddle

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs L Underwood (Deputy Clerk)

The meeting opened at 7.33pm

183. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs. Court & Hare.

184. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & CHANGES TO REGISTER OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

There were no changes to Register of Interests.

185. MINUTES

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th March 2021 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and the Chairman of the meeting agreed to sign them outside of the virtual meeting.

Clerk’s Report

From the meeting held on 11.03.21

Min No. 178.1 – Rivermead Nature Reserve (RNR)

The Deputy Clerk emailed the Sussex Wildlife Trust (SWLT) and the SWLT regional group as requested at the last meeting and has received a reply from the regional group who advised that the regional group is in the very early weeks of forming and

are currently hoping to be functioning from September onwards with events and volunteering. They went on to advise that they will be primarily working on trust projects, but they will also be tackling some local, non-trust activities. Some of the members have said that they would like to physically volunteer, so that might be a good fit going forwards. They will talk to the SWLT Community Engagement Manager, who is helping to get them started and to the SWLT to see how this could fit together. They advised this may take a few weeks, given that the SWLT contact is on holiday and their staff are currently on furlough.

The Deputy Clerk is yet to talk to the Groundsman about the black horizontal boards and ditch.

Min No. 178.3 - Rivermead Nature Reserve (RNR)

The Deputy Clerk reported the possible sewage foul water issue on 26th March to Southern Water and it is believed that they have been to site to have a look, but no response has been received from them to date.

Cllr. Riddle mentioned a newly installed outbuilding at the back of one of the properties on the perimeter of RNR, which he thinks encroaches on to Parish Council land. The Deputy Clerk will have a look with the Groundsman after her return from annual leave.

Additional Update re Rivermead Access

The Deputy Clerk and the Housing Manager from Saxon Weald met with the residents who had altered their fencing, blocking access to RNR and the residents had agreed to put the fencing back, however, although they have altered the fencing again, they have not put the fencing back as it was and have still extended their garden, still blocking access. Saxon Weald will now have to seek an injunction via the County Council to make the resident put the fence back on the boundary line. Saxon Weald will hand deliver an injunction warning letter next week and if the fence is not put back by 18.04.21 the matter will be taken to court.

Additional Update re Tesco Bags of Help Funding for Pocket Park

The Parish Council has been awarded £1000.00 towards the Forest School project in Pocket Park. This amount will mean that the original wish list of items will have to be reduced. The Deputy Clerk has been in touch with the school who are still interested in using the area, but with all the Covid regulations in place, they will not be able to look at this project until September 2021. The funding has to be spent within 12 months, so this still gives plenty of time, the Deputy Clerk will work with the school to agree the reduced wish list later this year.

186. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no public speakers.

187. RECREATION CLUB REPORTS

SCYP had sent in termly reports, which were circulated under 'Correspondence' and two reports were sent over, which were read out by the Deputy Clerk, as follows:

Bowling Club

The situation is much the same as reported during the last meeting. We have been able to play since the 29th March, but we will start on the 17th of April, and continue as per our fixture list, as the ground will not be ready before then.

Currently some restrictions apply, namely we need to book rinks in advance, we are not allowed spectators. All rinks can be used for singles and pairs, but triples and fours must be on alternate rinks. All equipment must be sanitised, no changing rooms are available and we cannot use the kitchen, we are checking with Bowls England concerning drinks.

It seems that reviews will take place in the coming months and things can alter. Expected alteration dates are from the 12th April, 17th of May and the 21st of June, or later as things progress. There are nine pages of advice from Bowls England, but the above, I hope gives you the main outlines as we currently understand them, please let me know if you require further details.

We are currently out to tender for the repairs and any changes required to be made to the machine shed. It will be relocated parallel to the listed wall and 1 metre away from it, as agreed with your good selves prior to Christmas.

Cricket Club

Providing there are no further changes to the road map out of coronavirus we are hopeful that cricket will commence in May/June. Training will be permitted in groups of six outside immediately.

Our only concern is that certain facilities will not be made available in the changing rooms.

We would have to have toilet and hand washing facilities as a minimum and use of two changing rooms to secure the players equipment during matches, one for the home team, one for the away team.

Could the Council confirm if this is a possibility? *The Deputy Clerk has advised that toilet and handwashing facilities will be available, along with the use of 2 changing rooms for kit storage during their matches, which the Caretaker will leave unlocked for their use on the days they have advised the Parish Council of.*

188. TREE WORKS

Allotments

188.1 Members received feedback from 2 Tree Surgeons and the Tree Warden regarding tree tagged 13, sycamore tree, on the recommendation to have the tree felled as it was in a poor location. After some discussion, Members **RESOLVED** that the sycamore tree should be felled.

188.2 Members also received two quotations for other tree works required in the allotments, including works mentioned in min no. 188.1. One of the recommendations from the tree inspection report (included in the quotation) for tree tagged no. 11, ash tree, was to carry out an aerial inspection as there is minor to moderate dieback visible throughout and minor deadwood. After some discussion, Members felt that this ash tree should be felled, given ash dieback was visible, so would like to obtain a requote to include the felling of this tree. The Deputy Clerk will bring this item back to the next available meeting when the quotations have been received.

Memorial Garden

188.3 Members received two quotations for tree works previously discussed at the R&OS meeting on 14.01.21, min no. 159.1. Members **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the quotation from George Potbury at a total of £120.00 + vat.

188.4 HDC sent a recommendation regarding the base of the oak tree in the memorial garden of removing the small pavers around the base of the tree and replacing with bark as it appears these are being dislodged by the tree roots. Members **AGREED** to removing the pavers, but suggested planting around the tree base, rather than using bark. Cllr. Hunt, as a memorial garden volunteer, will arrange this and keep the pavers should they be needed in the future.

189. PLAYGROUND INSPECTION

Members received the March 2021 playground inspection report and two quotations for the recommended priority 1, 2 & 3 works. After much discussion, Members **AGREED** that further consultation should be taken to Full Council, but would suggest that priority 1 & 2's are looked at.

It was also suggested that further quotations be obtained. The Deputy Clerk advised that 4 contractors were approached for quotations, but only 2 were received; under the current Covid restrictions, some contractors will not send their staff too far out of their area and have less staff currently employed. Cllr. Hunt offered to obtain further quotations and if they are received in time, will send them to the Clerk for consideration at the Full Council meeting on 15th April.

190. RESIDENT REQUEST

Members received a resident request to install a gate in the resident's fence to gain easier access to Pocket Park and the recreation ground. After some discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** this request, but would like to advise the resident that no rubbish/debris should be put at the back of the gate into Pocket Park.

191. FIRE EQUIPMENT AT THE PAVILION

Members received a quotation from Fire Risk UK for 3 x replacement emergency lights, at a total cost of £140.29 + vat. Members **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** this quotation.

192. CORRESPONDENCE

Recreation Reports

Termly reports from SCYP. Copied to Committee.

Wild Pulborough/SWLT

- Email from the Neighbourhood Wardens asking if anyone is interested in sitting on a committee with the Sussex Wildlife Trust incorporating the newly formed Wild Pulborough, the new group is called New Sussex Wildlife Trust Regional Group – Storrington & Arun Valley. Contact Carol Boniface for more details.
- Email correspondence regarding the first Wild Pulborough project. Copied to Committee.

Publications

- SDNPA March newsletter.
- Wey & Arun March e-newsletter & quarterly magazine.

193. PAYMENTS RESOLVED

Members approved the following payments and will be signed by two authorised signatories outside of the virtual meeting.

CGS Civils Ltd	£1380.00

The meeting closed at 8.54pm

.....CHAIRMAN

.....DATE