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**MINUTES OF THE  
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 12TH OCTOBER 2017  
AT THE SPORTS PAVILION**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Henly (Chairman), Hare, Lawson & Quested

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs H Knight (Clerk) and one Parish Councillor

***The meeting opened at 7.51pm***

**33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Clarke, due to a District Council meeting.

**34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & CHANGES TO REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

All members declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 5, Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground, as the Council is the Trustee of the ground.

There were no changes to Register of Interests.

**35. MINUTES**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th September 2017 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and the Chairman signed them.

There was no Clerk's report.

**36. PUBLIC SPEAKING**

There were no public speakers.

**37. NUTBOURNE COMMON RECREATION GROUND (NCRG)**

Members received a list of proposed plants, trees & shrubs to be planted at NCRG. It was **AGREED** to delete from the list: hazel, holly, hawthorn, gorse (large), common purging buckthorn, sea buckthorn, blackthorn, Scots pine, elder, wild pear and guelder rose, either due to being the wrong habitat, invasive or already in existence. Following discussion the list attached as Appendix 1 was **AGREED**, with the various items being sourced by Mr Riddle and Cllr Lawson. It was anticipated that there would not be any costs associated with supplying these but this was to be confirmed. The second section of the list comprising suggestions by Cllr Lawson would now be forwarded to Bruce Middleton (SDNP) for comment, and the whole list would be forwarded to Mr F Riddle and Mr B White as previously agreed.

It was **RESOLVED** that a covering letter would be sent to Mr Middleton with the list to explain the Council's objective, and that Cllr Lawson would liaise with the Deputy Clerk regarding the content, eg that the intention is to replace some lost /storm damaged trees, using low maintenance planting, encourage visitors/enjoyment of the area etc.

It was expected that planting would need to take place in late autumn, probably at the end of November, using a volunteer team and this would be finalised at the November Committee meeting.

### 38. **TREE ON MAIN RECREATION GROUND**

Members received advice and a recommendation regarding the red oak tree on the main recreation ground from George Potbury Ltd, as requested at the last meeting, stating the following:

*The tree is showing severe signs of die back and has been for the last couple of years, We have removed deadwood before within the last 18 months, so I can clearly see that this tree is in decline, There is evidence of fruiting bodies of fungus all around the base, it is hard to tell the type because they have been regularly cut/ran over by the lawnmowers.*

*Any reduction or deadwood removal would have to be up to 50% of main crown and in my view just avoiding the inevitable.*

*I recommend taking down removing stump and replanting in fresh ground.*

Three quotations had been sought and two received for the recommended work. Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the quotation from Andrew Gale Tree Surgery Ltd, subject to clarification of some aspects of the pricing and confirmation that the work would be completed before Christmas. The resident raising this issue will be advised accordingly.

**Resolved: Proceed with quotation of £950.00 + vat, subject to clarification of the above points.**

The Clerk asked Members about replacing this tree with two new trees, as originally requested by the resident. Members did not wish to do so at the present time as there was no budget to do so. It was **AGREED** that an increase in the allocation for trees would be prudent when setting the 2018/19 budget.

### 39. **PLAYGROUND WORKS**

**39.1** Members received email correspondence from a resident regarding Masons Way play park and a request to install a new sign in the play area. Following consideration, it was not felt necessary to install a sign at the present time, as playground repair/maintenance would take priority with any funds available, and the resident would be advised accordingly.

**39.2** Members received quotations of £2320.00 + vat for cutting back the EPDM edges and replace with new EPDM wet pour rubber at Masons Way play park and £770.00 + vat for re-painting the modular unit at Masons Way play park from ARD Playgrounds, following the 6 monthly playground inspections. These items were priority 2 (medium risk) but had also been raised by the same resident. Following lengthy discussion, Members did not feel the amount of work and cost involved for non-urgent work necessarily warranted immediate action. Instead, Cllr Quested and possibly also Cllr Henly would liaise with the Deputy Clerk to meet the resident on site and discuss the issues. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to defer this item to the next meeting for further consideration.

- 39.3** Members noted the recommendation of replacing the broken timber gate and post in the main recreation play park, noted as Priority 2. The Clerk asked if Members would like quotations obtained for this work and Members **AGREED** this action.

- 39.4** The Clerk highlighted the recommendation of installing a tarmac path network as per the August 2017 report and commented that the inclusion of this cost is within the current financial year's budget. The Clerk asked if Members wish to proceed with these works, bearing in mind the aforementioned quotations. Some discussion took place regarding this area and the basketball tarmac pad, currently included in the Council's Projected Planning list. Members asked for clarification that these were two separate items and it was therefore **RESOLVED** to defer the matter of the DDA tarmac path network to the next meeting.

**40. RESIDENT REQUEST**

Members received a resident request to install a bench in Cousins Way Recreation Ground. It was noted that a seat had satisfactorily been made by the Groundsman at a cost of approximately £100 on a previous occasion. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to approve this request and that the Groundsman would purchase timber, make and install a bench to a similar cost, for location at the allotment end of the recreation ground, subject to liaison with the resident if possible.

**41. BOILER AND WATER HEATER SERVICE**

Members considered three quotations for the annual boiler and water heater service. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the quotation from Saunders Specialised Services Ltd for £80.00 + vat per service, totalling £240.00 + vat.

**Resolved: Proceed with quotation from Saunders Specialised Services Ltd totalling £240.00.**

**42. CORRESPONDENCE**

**Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground (NCRG)**

Email correspondence from Mr F Riddle regarding NCRG and a proposed plant list, along with comments from Bruce Middleton. (Copied to Committee).

**Community Youth Worker**

Quarterly report dated 20.09.17. Copied to Committee.

**Pulborough Sports & Social Club**

Minutes from the meeting held on 22.08.17 & profit & loss figures from April through to August 17, which shows a huge increase in profit compared to last year.

**Pulborough Football Club (PFC)**

Email correspondence regarding the annual rental for PFC. Copied to Committee.

**Sussex Pathwatch**

Minutes of meeting held on 06.09.17 and notification of next meeting at the South Downs Centre on Tuesday 13 February 2018 from 10.30am to 12pm.

**43. PAYMENTS RESOLVED:**

Members approved the following payments, and the cheques/direct debits were duly signed:-

Viking	125.67
Horsham Matters Ltd	3586.21
Wesley's Window Cleaning	144.00
Banham	493.20
Pulborough Social Centre	67.20
National Westminster Bank	12.95

A Member queried the cost of the Banham payment and felt this could be obtained for less cost. The Clerk advised that as this was an annual service agreement contract for the tractor shed alarm, it was unlikely that the Council could withdraw from the agreement at this point but comparable quotations could be sought for the following year.

***The meeting closed at 9.20pm***

.....CHAIRMAN

.....DATE

Appendix 1PLANTS AGREED BY PPC FOR NUTBOURNE COMMONFrom F Riddle list

Bilberry/Hurts; <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	x8 (2x clusters)
Broom: <i>Cystisus scoparius</i>	x8 (2x clusters)
Field Rose: <i>Rosa arvensis</i> and Briar Sweet: <i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	x2 of each
<i>larger plants:-</i>	
Rowan: <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	x3 or 4
Wild Cherry: <i>Prunus avium</i>	x 4

From Cllr Lawson list

Dwarf Gorse: <i>Ulex minor</i>	(transplant existing seedlings in heather clearing)
Bird Cherry: <i>Prunus padus</i>	x1
Crab Apple: <i>Malus sylvestris</i>	x4
Spindle: <i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	x6
Alder Buckthorn: <i>Rhamnus frangula</i>	x4
Wild Service (Checkers): <i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	x1