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**MINUTES OF THE
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 10th MARCH 2016
AT THE SPORTS PAVILION**

PRESENT: Cllrs Henly (Chairman), Court, Hare, Queded & Lawson.

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

The meeting opened at 8.06pm

Before the meeting commenced, the Assistant Clerk advised that as Liz Wallace has resigned from the Parish Council, Cllr. Henly has offered to chair the next two meetings before a new Chairperson is approved at the Annual Meeting of the Council, if agreeable with the Committee. Members AGREED to this.

122. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Clarke.

123. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All members declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8, Nutbourne Common as the Council is the Trustee of the ground.

124. MINUTES

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th February 2016 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and the Chairman signed them.

Clerk's Report from meeting on 11th February 2016

Item 114 - Pocket Park

The list of works is progressing and the Assistant Clerk will add this item to a future R&OS agenda when the current works have been completed.

The cricket club are now disposing of their grass cutting by the side of the containers in the sports pavilion car park. The Assistant Clerk is obtaining a quotation to have fence panels erected in that area to contain the grass cuttings.

Update from meeting held on 14.1.16

Item 105 - Pulborough Bowling Club

The Bowling Club were advised that the Parish Council would appreciate seeing sight of their plans to upgrade their existing open covered veranda, the Bowling Club have replied to say:

"As I outlined in my initial approach the proposed work is to be undertaken by tradesmen members of the Club. There are no formal drawings, nor are there any plans to produce any, as this will only add to the cost. The Council can be assured that the work will be carried out professionally and will enhance the clubhouse visually and functionally".

125. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no public speakers.

126. STOOLBALL & CRICKET PITCHES

Members received a letter from the Stoolball Club regarding the cricket covers in response to the letter from the Parish Office and noted the discussion which took place at the earlier ReCad meeting and at that meeting the following was agreed:

- Jennifer (Stoolball) and Barrie (Cricket Club) will liaise with each other as near to the time of 5.30pm, on a Wednesday, as possible, if Stoolball have to cancel their match. On the odd occasion this may happen Stoolball will use the Python pitch as an alternative.
- It was commented that there are many accurate rainfall apps that can be utilized to ascertain the weather and it was suggested that the Stoolball Club use one of these to determine, themselves, if their game would have to be cancelled and or moved to the Pythons pitch.

Resolved: The Stoolball Club & Cricket Club will liaise with each other and an alternative pitch can be used if required.

127. TRIM TRAIL

Members received further revised plans as a result of updated safety requirements and test methods, which state that 'play' equipment (deemed suitable for 5+) must be kept a certain distance away from gym equipment as this helps children from thinking they are able to use the equipment. The revised plan shows that the distance from the gate, required for vehicular access, would be 12.58m, which the Groundsman has confirmed is acceptable.

The Assistant Clerk then went onto advise that after contacting ARD Playgrounds, who conduct the Parish Council's playground inspections, to ask if they would be able to inspect the trim trail also, they raised concerns and questions regarding our current proposal of equipment. In summary, the following was noted:

- The mixture of the two types of equipment, (trim trail-'play' equipment deemed suitable for 5+) and gym equipment is not recommended.
- Normally outdoor gym equipment is usually placed in grouping with items perhaps in a circle, so users can interact with each other.
- Historically, use of a Technix surface for outside gym equipment is not very successful as heavy wear occurs causing the tiles to sink into the mud. As there is no requirement for fall height for outside gym equipment, a more stable surface, such as tarmac or bound rubber mulch is recommended.
- If the outside gym equipment is grouped together the amount of surfacing required can be reduced.

- Questions need to be asked about warranty and if a strict regime of maintenance is required by the installation company.
- Questions need to be raised about the mixture of steel and wooden bases.

In light of these comments the Assistant Clerk's recommendations are as follows:

- Take away the 'play equipment'.
- Group the gym equipment as suggested.
- Change the surface for tarmac or bound rubber mulch.
- Put all of ARD's questions to Sovereign for them to answer.

After some discussion, Members AGREED to the Assistant Clerk's recommendations and instructed her to obtain a new quotation and ask the questions put forward by ARD, along with checking the durability between the tarmac and bound rubber mulch.

It was questioned whether this matter would need to be ratified again by Full Council, once a proposal is finalised. The Clerk has advised that unless the budget is over what has already been agreed, it does not need to go back to Full Council for ratification.

Members also received an A4 mock-up of the notice board poster, but the Assistant Clerk commented that she would ask Sovereign to produce an A4 size poster for each piece of equipment, to also include a diagram of how the equipment should be used.

Please note, from this point on, this subject will be titled 'Outside Gym Equipment', rather than 'Trim Trail'.

128. WEED SPRAYING

Members received a quotation of £635.00 from PWS Ltd for weed spraying on the main recreation ground, to which Members AGREED to and instructed the Assistant Clerk to arrange for the work to be carried out.

Resolved: Proceed with quotation of £635.00 from PWS Ltd.

129. NUTBOURNE COMMON RECREATION GROUND (NCRG)

Firstly, Cllr. Lawson would like to thank all the volunteers that helped with the five volunteer sessions. Neighbours also loaned a leaf blower to remove the leaves, which was extremely helpful. Members instructed the Assistant Clerk to send a letter of thanks to the residents who loaned the leaf blower. Cllr. Quested will forward the contact details or ask Frank Riddle for them.

Cllr. Lawson commented that due to storms in 2014 & 2015 NCRG lost a few trees and there is an area where a silver birch tree came down that would be ideal for 3 replacement trees. Cllr. Lawson asked if the Committee would agree to purchasing 3 replacement trees, perhaps Alder Buckthorn and a Rowan, to be planted in September. Members AGREED to this request and instructed the Assistant Clerk to obtain quotations from Millfarm Plants. The trees need to be container grown, 5ft high, have a mesh guard and quotation should include soil.

130. ALLOTMENTS

Members received a request from a plot holder to take children from Pulborough Village Preschool on a visit to their allotment plot. Cllr. Quested commented that permission was not required from the Parish Council, to which Members AGREED. The Assistant Clerk was instructed to advise the plot holder of this, and to comment that the children will be their responsibility whilst on site.

131. PARKING SIGNS IN RECTORY CLOSE

Members received a request from Mr C Esdaile to have the existing parking signs, telling drivers to use the recreation ground car park, renewed with clearer instructions as drivers are not using the car park, causing problems for residents, one partially disabled, in Rectory Close. After some discussion, Members instructed the Assistant Clerk to obtain quotations for 2 bigger signs saying 'Please park on the recreation ground car park' to include wooden and steel posts, as a comparison.

Cllr. Court advised that the partially disabled resident could get a disabled parking space outside of their property if they are a blue badge holder. The Assistant Clerk will advise Mr C Esdaile of this.

132. CORRESPONDENCE

Sports & Social Club

Minutes of meeting held on 10th January 2016 and profit and loss figures from April to January 2016. Copied to Committee.

Horsham District Council (HDC)

Email correspondence regarding a draft sport and physical activity strategy and a request for comments by 1st April 2016. Copied to Committee.

Pocket Park

Note from the Litter Picker regarding rubbish in Pocket Park. Copied to Committee.

Saxon Weald

Email from Saxon Weald regarding the drainage work in Carpenters Meadow. Copied to Committee.

133. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

- **Request for a seat on Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground (RQ)**
- **Memorial Garden –planting of crocus bulbs & woodland daffodils (AL)**

Cllr. Hare did not want this as an agenda item for the next meeting, but he gave an update to the Committee on the Motte & Bailey. Historic England have not heard back from Natural England, they are behind with issuing Countryside Stewardship Grants, and they don't know whether they will get a report but they have suggested it is discussed with the owner. Cllr. Hare will make contact with the owner in an unofficial capacity, to which Members AGREED.

134. ITEMS TO BE PUBLICISED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- None

135. PAYMENTS RESOLVED:

Members approved the following payments and the cheques were signed.

PAYEE	AMOUNT/£
Pulborough Social Centre	65.80
A Tilbrook	6.60
Burgess & Randall Ltd	980.22
Southern Water	614.37
Southern Water	63.75
Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd	133.20
Nat West	19.75

The Assistant Clerk commented that safety signs would be purchased now that the Groundsman had his chainsaw equipment.

The meeting closed at 9.06pm

.....**CHAIRMAN**

.....**DATE**