

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION FIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Monday 2nd October 2023 at 7.30 pm
In the Village Hall, Middle Street, Shepton Beauchamp TA19 OLQ

Members present: Cllr Tim England (Chairman) Suzanne Brister
Ian Brister Lou Wrightson
Georgina Fitchett

In attendance: Stella Davies (Clerk)

Item

RFA/40 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Ed Wakely, Gareth McAveety, Terry Crocker and Alison Cox.

RFA/41 Declarations of interest – Members to declare any interest, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interest they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for dispensations that accord with the Localism Act s33 (b-e). (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

There were no declarations of interest

RFA/42 Approval of minutes

To approve the minutes from the committee meeting held on Monday 3rd July 2023

Resolved. That the minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 3rd July be signed as correct.

RFA/43 Finances

To update the committee on the current financial situation of the recreation field.

The Clerk reported that up to the end of September there was a deficit. A donation had been received from the pre-school, but this did not show in the income figure as it was earmarked to be spent on facilities for younger children and so is not part of the running costs. The projection was an overspend of around £5,000 by the end of the year.

Georgina said that in November she was going to prepare the final accounts for the old Recreation Field Committee and had estimated that about £1,000 might be transferred to the Parish Council. The meeting to disband the old Recreation Field Committee will be held once the accounts have been finalised.

It was thought that any fundraising and profit from the 100 Club should be used for specific improvements to the recreation field and not as part of the running costs and so it was decided that a separate income and expenditure account should be held for the committee.

Action – Parish Clerk

The committee would still need to be aware of the spend-v-budget that was in the Parish Council's accounts, so that they could monitor, for example, why electricity costs were increasing. The Clerk will produce a report showing this at each meeting.

Action – Parish Clerk

It was also mentioned that currently everything has to go back to the Parish Council for everything to be approved and so Cllr England suggested a discretionary fund be given to the committee that could be used without having to refer back to the council for small items of expenditure. The Clerk will investigate this to see if it is possible.

Action – Parish Clerk

RFA/44 Inspection of play equipment

To report on the recent visual inspections of the play equipment.

Cllr England reported that he and Gareth had been carrying out monthly checks. The formal inspection is in November. The problems we have are:

- Balance Beam is rotted and needs removing
- Multi Play – One of the beams is starting to rot, one of the beams is starting to rot and in one area the rust has developed into a hole has just been covered with tape
- MUGA – there are large areas of rust on the goal post, cross bar and cross bar joint

It was decided to remove the rotten balance beam at the same time as the bulb planting was carried out and to ask for the volunteers to help. **Action – Lou Wrightson**

It was thought that an external company might be needed to repair the Multi Play, but first Cllr England will ask Ken in the village if it something that he can do. **Action – Cllr England**

MUGA – it was thought that with the state it was in that it would need sand blasting and repainted. The Clerk will see who the manufacturer is and if they carry out repairs. She will also first ask South Petherton and Ilminster who they use for their MUGA repairs. **Action – Parish Clerk**

RFA/45 Recreation Field Gates

To update the committee on the Parish Council's decision concerning the recreation field gates

It was reported that the Parish Council had decided to leave the recreation field gates open as there did not appear to be any cars there late at night. Lou did mention that this was the time of year when this was happening and so said she would keep an eye on it. **Action – Lou Wrightson**

RFA/46 Grass cutting

To discuss the grass cutting currently being carried out and decide if there should be any alterations to the way it is being done

The football club said the grass was now being cut to an acceptable level, but it was mentioned that the contractor was not cutting the triangular area to the right of the pedestrian gate, behind the goal posts or the grass up to the edges of the field.

It was thought that perhaps a meeting with the contractor, the Parish Council Chairman and possibly Cllr England to discuss the grass cutting, which areas should be cut and if he felt his mower was up to the job, would be advisable. The Clerk will arrange a meeting, preferably early morning. **Action – Parish Clerk**

RFA/47 Recreation Field Survey

To update the committee on the Parish Council priorities for the recreation field following the results of the survey.

Cllr England reported that as a result of the survey a few volunteers had said they would be interested in helping around the recreation field.

The Parish Council had suggested that a fence be put around the site of the old shelter.

He also said the Parish Council had made the decision to ban dogs from the recreation field area and ask that they keep to the footpath running along the left-hand side. The committee discussed this and their recommendation was that dogs were only banned from the play area and the football pitch and that signs could be put up in these areas. Their reasoning for this was (a) how would this be policed and (b) the problem of dog mess would then be moved to another areas. It was thought if there were signs then people would be more likely to keep dogs off these areas, and dog walkers who abided by the signs would be more likely to approach anyone who was not. The Clerk is going to add this item to the October Parish Council agenda for further discussion. **Action – Parish Clerk**

The Parish Council also discussed planting native memorial trees in the area where the Leylandii had been taken down.

The committee discussed what improvements could be made to the pavilion short-term which would enhance the building, and also discussed more extensive alterations/refurbishment that could be carried out in the future, for which grant funding could be available.

Short term, Lou suggested that the metal benches need to be repaired and that this could be a quick fix. She is happy to look at doing this and finding out if the metal parts may need to be sand blasted. **Action – Lou Wrightson.**

Georgina said that the guttering at the front of the pavilion needs to be repaired, then the fascia and the posts could be repainted. The windows could be cleaned. This would be a quick fix. It was hoped that volunteers would be willing to help with this.

Ian suggested that we should try and get the MUGA used more by the villagers. MUGA - the cost of using the lights needs to be calculated. **Action - Cllr England/Parish Clerk**

RFA/48 Bonfire

To discuss the suggestions that the Parish Council have made concerning the bonfire and to ascertain which members of the committee are available to help on the day and evening of the bonfire

Cllr England outlined the two suggestions (which he had previously circulated to the committee) made by the Parish Council to the Events Team, and the outcome is still being negotiated. There would be some help available from the committee and helpers if needed.

RFA/49 Planting of daffodil bulbs

To update the committee with the cost of planting bulbs around the car park borders.

Lou said that the bulbs would cost in the region of £22 and that the area to the right of the pedestrian footpath would be a good spot to plant the bulbs. It was thought it would be nice if children in the village were encouraged to help with the bulb planting. Georgina mentioned that once they had flowered, they would need deadheading to encourage them to spread.

Cllr England said he would email the people who had offered to help and see if they were available. **Action – Cllr England**

Post meeting note: Lou suggested the weekend of 21st October to do the bulb planting.

RFA/50 Fundraising

Our Bingo night will hopefully be held in December. We will need to get raffle prizes and prizes for the raffle. It would be good to get an estate agent to sponsor the 'House' prize. If a business donates a prize, we should ensure this is on social media.

Next meeting: Monday 5th February 2024 at 7.30 pm