

NORTH HINKSEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE, HELD ON THURSDAY 21ST APRIL 2016, AT 7.00pm, IN THE SEACOURT HALL, BOTLEY.

Present: Councillors: The Chairman, Councillor C. Potter and Councillors J. Bolder, Mrs. V. Carr, D. Kay, Mrs. J. Hammett, L. Kunzemann, Ms. A. MacKeith, R. Mayne and A. Pritchard.

Others: E. Casely (LMPMC), J. Marriott and A. J. Stone (Parish Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology was received from Councillor L. Berrett.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mrs. V. Carr, Mrs. J. Hammett and A. Pritchard declared non-pecuniary interests as members of the North Hinksey Conservation Volunteers.

3. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a). Leisure Working Group

The Chairman, Councillor C. Potter introduced this item by summarising what work had been undertaken and agreed by the Leisure Working Group. She explained that since January the group had continued its work within two agreed areas: exploring the feasibility of new leisure provision for older children and teenagers within the parish, and identifying the leisure needs and potential barriers to access for elderly and mobility-impaired parishioners.

Since last reported the Leisure Working Group had met on 11th February and 14th April. The work during this period had focused on applying the previously agreed criteria to identified preferred options for youth provision (adventure playground, skatepark, youth club for ages 13+), and on initiating consultation with both elderly parishioners and youth, Councillor Potter then referred to the 13 criteria that had been identified in the working groups interim report of 28th January 2016, against which each of the identified youth options (Adventure Playground, Skatepark, Youth Club) were assessed and then briefly summarised the conclusions.

She then summarised the position in relation to the consultation on leisure needs for the elderly/mobility impaired and reported that 20 surveys had been received to date and the group were exploring ways to distribute the survey more widely through councillor's individual networks.

The consultation on youth leisure provision was aimed at a targeted youth consultation and at the meeting on 14th April 2016, it was agreed to pursue a three staged consultation, namely,

- 1). Consultation with youth (focused on assessing current levels of demand for each of the preferred options, and involving youth in their specific designs).
- 2). Consultation with targeted groups of parishioners who might be affected most by new leisure provision, e.g. neighbours near to proposed sites (focused on impacts to residents and what might be done to mitigate them).
- 3). Parish-wide consultation.

It had been agreed that it was important to hold a consultation with youth as a priority and the first Youth Forum had now been set for Sunday 15th May 2016, at 4.00pm in the Seacourt Hall, with the view of having some open ended feedback on potential demands for different types of youth leisure facilities, as well as being able to present and receive feedback on the three preferred youth options. The forum details will be advertised in 'The Sprout' magazine and on the parish council and community websites etc.

Councillor Mrs. J. Hammett made reference to previous leisure surveys which had not identified any great concerns about the need for further leisure provision, but the working group had already decided on three options. Councillor C. Potter explained that the two purposes of the proposed Youth Forum was to present the information already gathered and have an open discussion with the youth before putting forward firm options.

Councillor Hammett then expressed concerns that an article would be put in 'The Sprout' and asked what the group would do to ensure the editor of the magazine does not put her own personal slant in her editorial, and ensures that any article publicised is not a biased view.

Councillor Potter explained that the text used would be agreed by the working group. Councillor Hammett then asked if the criteria agreed had been met and put in the public domain for scrutiny and to allow openness and transparency. Councillor Potter explained that the criteria was being reported to the R & A Committee and with its agreement today will be put along with the report on the R & A Committee section of the council's web-site.

Councillor D. Kay reminded the meeting that the report being considered now by the R & A committee were just summary reports of previous meetings and will be publicised. The other documents referred to were internal documents of the working group.

Councillor A. Pritchard asked whether the summary report itself had been agreed by the Leisure Working Group. Councillor Potter clarified that most of the report text had been discussed and agreed at the previous Leisure Working Group meeting and that the report in its current form had been circulated in advance to all Working Group members for comment.

Councillor Kay wondered how Councillor Hammett was able to make comments on recent reports prepared specifically for consideration by the working group ((i.e. a report by the sub-group looking at the skatepark option) as she had e-mailed him with her views well in advance of this meeting.

He wondered how she had received a copy of the skatepark report as she was no longer a member of the working group. Councillor Hammett explained she had only seen the earlier version of the report which was sent to her when she was a member of the working group and believed she had the right to make comments on it, in advance, in relation to the environmental implications for wildlife corridors at both playing fields.

The Chairman, Councillor Potter explained that her circulated summary embraced the issues discussed at previous meeting of the working group. The report was accepted by the R & A Committee as an accurate reflection of the Leisure Working Group's current position.

b). Environmental Assessment of the Copse and Playing Field

The Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee, Councillor C. Potter explained that the committee's budget for 2016/2017 included a sum of £1,000 for an updated Ecology Survey of the Copse and Fenland as the last survey was undertaken in 2012, when a management plan was agreed, and a further budget of £1,000 for the identification of floodlighting issues at the LM 'Upper' playing field. The position in relation to the copse, fenland and playing fields now needs updating by a recognised professional input to reflect the current position, enable the management plan to be updated and to act as information that can be considered as part of the Leisure Working Group's potential consultation and reporting on possible new facilities.

Councillor Mrs. J. Hammett reminded the meeting that the copse, fenland and edges of both playing fields were local wildlife sites and that every five years the council were entitled to a free survey, undertaken by ecologists and paid for by the District Council. She believed the survey could also include the top field and the council should use the free survey provided by Graham Hawker of the the TVERC who could provide a wildlife impact statement regarding any proposed construction on the fields.

Councillor C. Potter explained that the issue of the unused floodlights had been raised by the North Hinksey Youth Club, as no lighting restricted their and other local children's use of the MUGA.

The Chairman of the LM Pavilion Management Committee, E. Casely supported the re-introduction of the existing lighting (time controlled) at the 'Upper' playing field to allow the field and the MUGA to be used for longer periods to accommodate street hockey, the youth club, football practice and other events run by the 'Sports for Streets' initiative. Councillor D. Kay reminded the meeting that any significant delay in undertaking the budgeted surveys could threaten the council's ability to use the £30,000 Section 106 money for further recreational/play equipment and if that was lost then local residents would not be very happy. Councillor A. Pritchard suggested that the survey on lighting should involve S. McCarroll from the Brookes Sports Complex as he had already installed lighting at their MUGA.

Councillor D. Kay proposed and Councillor Ms. A. MacKeith seconded the motion 'that to avoid any possibility of the council not being able to use the £30,000 Section 106 money, and the fact that the council had budgeted for the surveys in the current financial., the council goes ahead with both assessments immediately and in doing so explores the free survey option'.

Councillor A. Pritchard supported by Councillor Mrs J. Hammett proposed the following amendment to the motion. 'That council looks into the provision of a free survey to be completed by March 2017, but does not commit itself to spending any money before the results of the free survey have been determined'.

The amendment was LOST by 4 votes (Councillors J. Bolder, D. Kay, L. Kunzemann and Ms. A. MacKeith) to 3 votes (Councillors Mrs. V. Carr, Mrs. J. Hammett and A. Pritchard). Councillors R. Mayne and C. Potter abstained from voting.

Councillors then considered the original motion from Councillors D. Kay and Ms. A. MacKeith, **‘That to avoid any possibility of the council not being able to use the £30,000 Section 106 money, and the fact that the council had budgeted for the surveys in the current financial., the council goes ahead with both assessments immediately and in doing so explores the free survey option’, which was SUPPORTED by 6 votes (Councillors J. Bolder, D. Kay, L. Kunzemann, Ms. A. MacKeith, R. Mayne and C. Potter) to 3 votes (Councillors Mrs. V. Carr, Mrs. J. Hammett and A. Pritchard).**

c). Meeting with Persimmon Homes – Additional ‘Open Space’ Land off Tilbury Lane

The Chairman, Councillor C. Potter gave a brief update on this matter and explained that until Persimmon Homes had created a management company for the development no further negotiations could take place regarding the additional Open Space land.

d). Oxfordshire Sports and Physical Activity’s – Grant Support

This item to be discussed on the Parish Council agenda for April 2016.

e). Louie Memorial Pavilion – Maintenance Works

The Chairman of the pavilion, E. Casely explained that the Pavilion’s Management Committee had undertaken a survey of the pavilion and in doing so had identified some areas which were now in need of repair or full replacement. He had met with G. Sillman to discuss issues in relation to the double doors and had asked him to do two separate quotes for their repair or for their replacement. He had hoped to bring the quotes to the meeting but G. Sillman was still waiting for some information from his suppliers

Action: The Parish Clerk to arrange for this item to be placed on the next Parish Council agenda.

f). Louie Memorial Pavilion Management Team

This item was not discussed due to the limited time available before the start of the next meeting.

g). North Hinksey Conservation Volunteers

The Chairman, Councillor C. Potter thanked Councillor Mrs. V. Carr for the informative paper she had circulated prior to the meeting which highlighted the work undertaken by the volunteers and their proposed work programme.

h). Youth Club ‘Camp Out’ Event – Councillor J. Bolder

This item was not discussed due to the limited time available before the start of the next meeting.

5. ANY OTHER MATTERS/INFORMATION

No items were discussed under this heading due to the limited time available before the start of the Planning Committee meeting.

6. DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

8th September 2016

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.