



Winnersh Parish Council

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MINUTES OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.45 PM ON TUESDAY 6th OCTOBER 2009 IN THE JOHN GROBLER ROOM

PRESENT: Cllrs J Wakefield (Chairman), E Cooke, J Peffers, J Southgate.

In attendance: Clive Hudson (WPC Clerk).

1 APOLOGIES

1.1 Cllrs J Plant, J Wilkins

2 CLERK'S REPORT

Update on items since the meeting of 01.09.09

Play Area/Recreation Ground

The basketball backboard is now badly warped. The Clerk has an estimate for the cost of a new backboard. The Committee **RESOLVED** to purchase 2 new backboards at £150 each. Nick Robins is to fit these. The Clerk will also buy 2 pool cues for Lord Harris Court residents from the same supplier.

ACTION: Clerk

The goal posts on the adult football pitch have been bent. Nick Robins has re-laid the bases and set up the posts again. The Clerk has been in touch with WRFC regarding the annual costs and training schedule - we are awaiting WRFC's response. The Clerk will chase WRFC for a swift response. The caretaker hopes to complete the repair to a minor fault on the wooden bridge opposite Bearwood Primary School in the next few days. Park Leisure have attended to the screw covers on the ski-walker. We are still waiting for them to complete the signage. A draft sign has been sent to Cllr Southgate. The Committee considered the wording of this sign and authorised Cllr Southgate to draft a sign more suitable to WPC's needs.

ACTION: Cllr Southgate

Some screws have worked loose on the Devil's Island Swing in the Inclusive Play Area. The equipment has been closed to the public. Record RSS have repaired the faults free of charge. The repairs include putting a plastic cover over the screws on the main arch in order to make a permanent repair.

WBC have been out to give advice on dropped kerbs. The Committee considered the 3 options presented by WBC. The Committee decided to defer making a decision on whether to go ahead with the dropped kerbs and pathway extensions until it is clear whether Lord Harris Court residents will use the Adult Gym equipment. Cllr Wakefield was asked to contact the manager of Lord Harris Court to obtain more information. **ACTION: Cllr Wakefield**

WRFC set off the fire alarm in the pavilion on Saturday. The fire brigade responded. The Clerk has discussed further options with ADT regarding suppressing the sensors in the pavilion during WRFC matchdays. The Committee decided they did not wish to reduce the alarm options in the pavilion. The Clerk will write to WRFC explaining that a smoke sensor was activated. He will also express WPC's concern at calling out the fire brigade for a false alarm. Any repetition may result in WRFC being barred from cooking in the pavilion. **ACTION: Clerk**

Main Hall/Offices

We are still awaiting a breakdown of the repair costs following the fixed wiring tests. The Clerk was asked to chase up this quotation and to get another contractor in to give an alternative quote. **ACTION: Clerk**

The roof repairs are due to take place between 12 October and 20 November. The Clerk has informed all users that the hall will be closed between these dates. Nearly all the users have found alternative venues. The Caretaker has reported a slight leak in the skylight in the main hall kitchen. The Committee asked the Clerk to get Yardley's to make an investigation when they are on the flat roof next week. **ACTION: Clerk**

The Committee discussed a quotation received from Yardley Builders for additional insulation to be put in the main hall roof space. The Committee discussed the options for installation and decided to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that additional insulation should be installed as per Yardley's recommendations.

Allotments

Allotment renewals have been sent out. There are currently 4 full plots and 2 half-plots ready for re-allocation.

Pavilion House

The caretaker has reinforced the gates and fencing around the Pavilion House garden.

3 MATTERS ARISING

none

4 R & A BUDGET

4.1 To discuss the current budgetary position

The Committee discussed the current financial situation. The Clerk reported that the external decoration budget was overspent because of the extra work to replace rotten external timbers. The Committee decided to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the payments for the upgrade of the CCTV system and the costs of the Main Hall insulation (if approved) be taken from the R&A 'fence and gates' budget.

5 REFERRALS FROM COUNCIL AND OTHER COMMITTEES

5.1 none

6 ALLOTMENTS

6.1 The Committee read and discussed the letters regarding the renewal of plots 12 & 13. The Committee noted the unorthodox manner of tending these plots and Les Moody's expert comments. Although some crops are grown on these plots a large proportion is uncultivated and weeded. Concern was expressed that mares tail is being allowed to grow and go to seed. The Committee decided that allotment plots are primarily for growing crops and that allotment holders should have due consideration for other plot holders when tending their plots. The Committee observed that with a long waiting list of people wishing to use an allotment it is unfair to have plots being under-utilised. The Committee therefore confirmed that the plot holder would be permitted to keep one plot only provided that greater care is taken in the tending of the plot. The Committee noted the plotholder's comments about the difficulty of transferring crops between plots at short notice and agreed to let the plotholder keep both plots for a season in order to transfer crops. The Clerk will write to the plotholder concerned.

ACTION: Clerk

6.2 The Committee discussed the possibility of finding additional land on which to put allotments. It observed that there is a plot of land owned by WBC adjoining the Reading Road allotments. The Clerk will contact WBC to see whether there is any possibility of WPC using all or part of this land for allotments. **ACTION: Clerk**

7 CORRESPONDENCE (see Appendix 1)

7.1 Item 8;

The Committee noted the comments re the misuse of plots 66 & 67. The Clerk will put up a sign saying plots 66 & 67 are for green waste only. **ACTION: Clerk**

Item N4

The Committee discussed the Wokingham Green Care Farm Scheme. This scheme would give practical help to older people. The Committee agreed that a poster could be displayed at the allotments. **ACTION: Clerk**

8 ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

8.1 Christmas Lights:

An update on this year's event will be requested during the Chairman's Report at the next Full Council meeting.

9 TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9.1 The next meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee will be held on **Tuesday 3rd November 2009** at 7.45 p.m. in the John Grobler Room.

The meeting finished at 8.43p.m.

APPENDIX 1

Correspondence received prior to the issue of the agenda for the meeting of 6 October 2009

- 1 Landscape & Amenity magazine, August 2009
- 2 Rosehill Furniture brochure, summer 2009
- 3 Nick Robins, quote for basketball board replacements
- 4 Binfield Electricals; estimate for repair works to electrics
- 5 Litnow; lighting leaflet
- 6 ARD; change of contract manager
- 7 Timberline; brochure
- 8 Mr Skidmore; comments about the allotments, particularly plots 66 & 67
- 9 Biffa; Transfer Note Renewal form
- 10 Mrs Kitchener; comments regarding plots 12 & 13
- 11 Big Tidy Up first birthday clean up, thank you
- 12 Kompan; leaflet
- 13 ARD; Playground Inspection report, September 2009
- 14 Wicksteed; booklet
- 15 RecordRSS; confirmation of repair works to Devil's Island Swing

Correspondence received since the issue of the agenda for the meeting of 6 October 2009

- N1 RecordRSS; confirmation of completion of repairs to Devil's Island Swing
- N2 Land Based Training; course details
- N3 Les Moody's comments on plots 12 & 13
- N4 Wokingham Green Care Farm Scheme; request for volunteers and to display poster