

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Leisure Areas Committee** held on 23rd March 2015 at the Parish Centre.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs M P Bucknell, Chairman

Councillors Mrs J M Cole, Ms L A Gifford, Mrs M H Harlock, J A Parker, P S Potts, J C Price and Mrs A R Wyatt.

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor D W England

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors R A Payne, Mrs J E Tavener and G C M Willis.

09/14 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27th October 2014 were signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

10/14 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were raised by Members in respect of items appearing on the agenda for the meeting.

11/14 MATTERS ARISING

The Committee considered the following matters arising from their meeting held on 27th October 2014:-

(a) Adams Lyons Playground

Further to Minute Nos. 05/14(b) and 06/14(a), the Clerk reported that the installation of safety surfacing on the slide mound at Adams Lyons playground had been completed in the week prior to the meeting.

With regard to the condition of the wild flowers planted near the boundary with The Paddocks, the Clerk indicated that he would inspect the area in the company of Councillor Mrs Tavener now that the spring growth was taking place.

(b) Orchard Close Playground

Arising from Minute No. 05/14(d) and 06/14(d), the Clerk reported that the new play equipment and replacement safety surfacing had been installed earlier in the month.

(c) The Weir

Arising from Minute No. 06/14(b), Councillor Mrs Cole reported that as Mr J Stokes had been unwell, a Member of the Council had presented the awards to young people for fishing at The Weir. The awards had not been mentioned in the local media to avoid publicising the amount of fish in the pond.

(d) Pathfinder Way Open Spaces

Further to Minute No. 06/14(e), the Clerk reported that Persimmon Homes were still ignoring requests to transfer the open space at Pathfinder Way to public ownership.

(e) Notice Boards

Further to Minute No. 06/14(i), the Clerk confirmed that Councillor Willis had provided details of a company that supplied notice boards with a view to the replacement of the ones in High Street and Humberdale Way.

Members were asked whether an open notice board was preferred as at present which would enable anyone to post public notices. Alternatively notice boards with a lockable glass or perspex cover could be obtained but this would require all notices to be supplied to the Clerk for display.

Members were of the opinion that it would be preferable to retain open notice boards, both to avoid the risk of potential vandalism to the glass/perspex cover and to save additional work for the Clerk. The Clerk indicated that he would consult with the Chairman and report back to the Council on a suitable design before an order was placed.

(f) New Equipment

Further to Minute No. 8/14, the Clerk confirmed that a new mower and replacement van had been purchased and were in use by the Handymen.

12/14 OUTDOOR TABLE TENNIS TABLES

The Clerk reported that he had been advised that a table tennis club had been established in the village which would be meeting at the Sports and Social Club. In addition, the club organiser had offered to apply for grant for the installation of outdoor table tennis tables in Adams Lyons Playground.

Councillors Parker and Mrs Wyatt mentioned that they had seen tables in parks in Cambridge and St Ives respectively, although the ones at St Ives were not being used for

the purpose for which they were intended when they had been seen. The Chairman drew attention to the need to find a suitable location in the playground that was visible, level and sheltered from the wind. Members also referred to the need for a suitable ground covering to avoid the grass around the tables being eroded away. Subject to no problems arising from the type of materials used in the tables in a public park, Members were of the opinion that the offer should be welcomed to help provide further play opportunities for the community.

RESOLVED

that, subject to agreement on the siting of the tables and no concerns being raised by the company that carried out the annual safety inspection of the playground, the club organiser be thanked for the offer and asked to proceed with a grant application

13/14 FITNESS EQUIPMENT

The Clerk informed Members that a small balance remained in the Woodford Community and Environmental Fund from which a grant had been obtained recently to install play equipment at Orchard Close playground. Subject to sufficient grant being available, Members were asked to consider the possible installation of adult fitness equipment at Adams Lyons Playground.

Several Members commented on the current number of runners and joggers in Warboys and had seen similar equipment installed elsewhere. It was also suggested that if more adults were using the playground, this might help to deter the anti-social behaviour and petty vandalism that occurred from time to time.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

that the Clerk be authorised to enquire as to the possibility of grant from Woodford Community and Environmental Fund for the provision of adult fitness equipment at Adams Lyons Playground and to invite designs and quotations from three suppliers.

14/14 MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Committee was informed that Wicksteed Leisure Ltd had been asked to carry out the annual safety inspections at the Adams Lyons, Jubilee Park and Orchard Close playgrounds but these had been deferred while the installation of new equipment and safety surfacing at Adams Lyons and Orchard Close was taking place earlier in the month. As a result the inspections now would be taking place later in the week and the Clerk reported that he would submit the reports to a future meeting of the Council when they had been received.

With regard to other matters, Councillor Mrs Cole drew attention to the proliferation of litter on the roadsides of the A141 and B1040 and the Clerk reported that he would ask the District Council if they could arrange for litter picking to take place.

Councillor Mrs Cole also reported on the work undertaken by Essential Ponds to spread Siltex at The Weir and the subsequent placing of bags of barley straw in the water by the Handymen as part of the treatment. Members were informed that replacement bags of straw would be placed in the pond in the summer to replace the existing ones as they started to decompose and that a further application of Siltex would take place in the autumn.

The Chairmen referred to the extensive vandalism that had taken place to the fence adjoining the footpath from School Road to Woodlands and reported that a replacement metal fence was to be installed by de Ramsey Court.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed.

Chairman.