

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Leisure Areas Committee** held on 24th June 2019 at the Parish Centre.

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs J M Cole, R J Dykstra, Ms L A Gifford, S J Green, Mrs M H Harlock, J A Parker, R A Payne. P S Potts, Mrs J A Tavener, G C M Willis, Dr S C Withams and Mrs A R Wyatt.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs C Evans and Mrs S J Wilcox.

01/19 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Upon being moved by Councillor Ms Gifford and seconded by Councillor Mrs Cole, it was

RESOLVED

that Councillor G C M Willis be elected Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

Councillor Willis in the Chair.

02/19 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Upon being moved by Councillor Mrs Harlock and seconded by Councillor Dr Withams, it was

RESOLVED

that Councillor S J Green be appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

03/19 MINUTES

Upon being moved by Councillor Payne and seconded by Councillor Dr Withams, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29th October 2018 were confirmed as a correct record.

04/19 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared by Members in respect of items appearing on the agenda.

05/19 MATTERS ARISING

The Committee noted the following matter arising from its meeting held on 29th October 2018:-

Feast Week

Further to Minute No. 10/18, the Clerk confirmed that the band had been booked for the Feast Week band concert to be held on 28th July.

06/19 MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Committee reviewed the maintenance requirements of the various areas within its remit with the benefit of reports of safety inspections carried out by Playsafety Ltd. of the play equipment at Adams Lyons, Jubilee Park and Orchard Close.

The Chairman suggested that the few issues of significance raised in the reports had been the benefit of the investment by the Council in recent years in new equipment and the maintenance undertaken by the Handymen. Councillor Mrs Cole also commented on the popularity of the playground at Adams Lyons which regularly attracted families from outside the village.

The Clerk confirmed that most of the repairs that could be dealt with by the Handymen already had been attended to.

(a) Adams Lyons Playground

The following issues arose from the inspection report and in the ensuing discussion.

Councillor Dykstra reported that a number of people had mentioned to him that the roof of the timber shelter leaked when it rained, arising from which the Clerk indicated that he would arrange for the problem to be investigated.

(Councillor Mrs Tavener arrived in the meeting at this point in the proceedings.)

It was suggested that silicon be used to try to prevent screw caps from being removed so regularly and that preservative be applied where strimmer damage had occurred to wooden posts to prolong their life.

A number of issues had been raised in the inspection report about equipment supplied by Caloo which the Committee agreed should be referred to the company for their attention. These included the inspection of the supporting components on the swing basket, a cracked plastic cover on the foot of the rocker stand-on, potential repair to corrosion on the multi-unit climber, the possible replacement of the timber traverse wall where timbers were starting to rot, tightening of the fitness dips (even though repairs had been undertaken in the previous year) and issues raised with the cableway (even though the traveller unit had been replaced just prior to the inspection).

The Clerk was requested to investigate the possibility of replacing timber panels which were starting to rot on various pieces of equipment with recycled plastic panels.

The Clerk also mentioned that someone had lit a barbeque on one of the picnic tables recently which had melted several of the plastic slats. Replacement slats had been ordered from the supplier.

RESOLVED

that the Clerk be requested to investigate the issues raised and report back where necessary.

(b) Jubilee Park

The following issues arose from the inspection report and in the ensuing discussion.

Members were informed that wooden fencing adjoining the main entrance gate had been removed recently by persons unknown, possibly as a prelude to trying to gain access with motor cycles. The fencing had been replaced by the Handymen but had been removed again. As a result the Clerk indicated that he would order some metal posts to be installed by the Handymen to try to prevent access by wheeled vehicles.

Members noted that the inspection report had again drawn attention to cracking in the tarmac roadway leading to the park from Farriers Way which the inspector had advised had resulted in an uneven surface that could turn ankles. Although Members acknowledged that many stretches of the public highway in the village were in a worse condition, the Clerk was requested to obtain quotations for the repair of the roadway.

As the inspection report had recommended the removal of chain covers on the basket swing to inspect the chain links, Members requested that this be referred to the supplier of the equipment, Sutcliffe Play. The Clerk also indicated that he would order a replacement cap cover for the pick-up sticks climber.

RESOLVED

that the Clerk be requested to investigate the issues raised and report back where necessary.

(c) Orchard Close Playground

The Chairman reported that only one minor issue had been raised in the safety inspection report and this had already been dealt with by the Handymen.

(d) Heath Pond and Sheepwash

Members were aware that the potential dredging of the pond and renovation of the Sheepwash had been discussed at recent Council meetings. The Clerk reported

that Froglife had submitted a bid for funding and would report back to the Council when they knew the outcome of their application.

(e) Pathfinder Way Open Spaces

It was noted that no action was required with regard to the land owned and maintained by the Council. However Councillor Dr Withams reported that the grassed area adjoining the footpath to Lea Brooks Close which remained in private ownership had not been cut for some time. Members were reminded that Persimmons had failed to convey the land to the Council as required by a section 106 agreement following completion of the development and failed to respond to any communications from the Council.

(f) The Weir

Councillor Mrs Cole advised that she had requested the Clerk to supply additional notices for display at The Weir pointing out that fishing was permitted for juniors only.

It was noted that the proposed dredging of The Weir was being considered at meetings of the Council.

(g) School Road and High Street/Woodlands footpath

As the path between Woodlands and the High Street was becoming difficult to walk along because of overhanging branches, the Clerk advised that the Handymen would cut back the vegetation that they could reach with the equipment available and that he would ask the Minister of the Grace Baptists Church if he could arrange for the taller branches to be cut back as the trees were situated on land in the church's ownership.

(h) War Memorial

Members noted that no action was required.

(i) David Wilson Homes Development

The Committee was reminded that a substantial area of open space was being created on the David Wilson Homes developments off Station Road with an equipped play area to be provided as part of phase II. The Clerk reported that he had made enquiries with the company about their future intentions with regard to ownership and maintenance as the section 106 agreements required the land to be offered to the Parish Council. A report on the implications would be submitted to a future meeting.

Arising from a comment by Councillor Green about construction traffic driving over the triangular island at the junction of Station Road and Heath Road and damaging a Give Way sign, the Clerk advised that he had reported the damage to the sign to the County Council but that without evidence of which vehicles were traversing the island, it was difficult to take action.

(j) Bellway Development

The Chairman mentioned that construction traffic accessing the Bellway Homes development to the south of Farriers Way had dislodged cobbles in the carriageway in Farriers Way itself which the Clerk indicated he would draw to the attention of the County Council.

(k) White Hart Bowling Green

The Committee was made aware that the bowling green at the White Hart was no longer suitable for play and that members of the Bowling Club were now using the green at Ramsey Bowls Club. The Chairman reported that considerable expenditure had been incurred on the bowling green at the White Hart in the previous year but that the club no longer had any members with the expertise and time to continue to maintain the green to match standards.

The Committee was reminded that the bowling green had been registered as an asset of community value which meant that it would have to be offered for sale to the community first if the owners of the public house decided to dispose of it.

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

Chairman.