

PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground Sub-Committee was held at the Sports Pavillion on Thursday, 25th January 2007 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Mrs C Barnett (Chairman)
Mr J Denison
Mrs A Lawson
Mr F Riddle

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Riddle to the meeting and explained he had been asked to join the sub-Committee as a matter of courtesy to the residents of Nutbourne. She told members the sub-Committee would run on the same lines as any other Committee. No member was to act on their own and everything was to go through the Clerk of the Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.01pm for public speaking.

The Chairman invited Mrs Rose to speak for three minutes as she was speaking on behalf of others.

The meeting was reconvened at 7.03pm.

Mrs Barnett suggested she should state what she would like to see happen at Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground and then all members of the sub-Committee should put their point of view. The sub-Committee agreed to this.

Mrs Barnett said she saw the clearing and tidying of the Recreation Ground as a long term project. She felt there were too many rabbits for a greensward but by clearing the centre, it had given an open feeling to the place. She had known from experience that a tree surgeon could almost "bring back to life" a seemingly dead oak tree. She would also like to see some form of fencing enclosing the whole of the Common as dogs may run through the holly onto the road and a fast car could be passing, which could cause an accident. Mr Riddle interjected that cars did not travel fast along that stretch of road. Mrs Barnett said it would be safer for both dogs and young children if it was fenced. She also stated she had seen large dogs in the adjacent field and would not like to see them coming into the Recreation Ground, scrapping with other dogs.

Mrs Barnett said the south side was not so bad but there was a stile with huge gaps on either side. She suggested installing a dog gate, as she knew how aggravating it was to try to lift a large dog over a stile.

Mrs Lawson was then invited to add her comments. She stated most of her views had been covered but was concerned rabbits would damage the hedge but was told they are now under control. She was also worried about what would happen if the original footpath was cleared. Mr Denison advised

members Mr Cleaver, the tree surgeon would be clearing deadwood by either footpath as they were the same trees. Mr Riddle stated deadwood should be left for insects but Mrs Barnett informed him it was the Council's responsibility to ensure the trees were safe and the large dead branches would have to be removed.

Mr Riddle wanted to know if they were going to sow heather as that was what Rob Free wanted. Mrs Barnett said it would be better to see what grew when the wood came down, as there were many plants lying dormant. If it was felt heather should be sown, the Clerk would be instructed to speak to Rob Free.

Mr Denison stated he did not want to see a greensward, or football and cricket being played and Mrs Barnett agreed, as there would be no way to mow it.

Mr Riddle said Rob Free should be given carte blanche to do as he saw fit. Mrs Barnett stated there may have to be some compromise. Mr Riddle then said there was a worry that travellers would come onto the Recreation Ground. He had put a chained temporary gate up. The Clerk advised members the gates were ready but would not be delivered before payment had been made. Mr Keen was standing by ready to erect them, so they should be in place in 2-3 weeks.

Mr Riddle then went on to say he would like to see wire fence and hedging. Mrs Lawson suggested sheep netting and members agreed with this suggestion. Mr Denison wanted to include the north side of the Common in next year's budget, as he felt there was room for more thinning to expose the beautiful Tree Preservation Order trees. But it would not happen until the autumn because of nesting birds.

Mr Riddle was then asked to speak. He stated he had confronted Rob Free, who had told him his brief was to make the clearing as large as possible. He said previous Minutes had not made good reading and was upset the residents had not been consulted. They wanted to keep it as it was for wildlife.

Mrs Barnett said the Council had to provide recreation facilities for people as well as wildlife. Her vision was to see young families coming to the Common to enjoy walking in safety and to have picnics. Mr Riddle said a Health and Safety issue was the adders and what would happen if a child was bitten by an adder? Mrs Barnett thought they were more likely to be bitten by a dog but the Council would try to make it pleasant and safe for all Pulborough residents.

Mr Riddle was also worried that removing the thickets would endanger some wildlife. Mrs Lawson said Rob Free had advised her that by opening up the Common, it would attract more wildlife.

Mrs Barnett then closed the meeting. It was agreed to discuss hedging at the next meeting, the date of which is to be arranged.

The Meeting Closed at 7.32 p.m.

..... Chairman
..... Date