

PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee was held at the Sports Pavillion on Thursday, 31st May 2007 at 8.10 pm.

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Botting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the 12th April 2007 were received and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Various Odd Jobs in Village

The Clerk reported that Mr Dudman had been unable to mend the stile at Rivermead, repair the hole in the fence on the Recreation Ground or fix the bolt-hole to the gate at the play area. Mr Denison stated he would advise the Clerk of the details of other contractors who may be able to help.

4.2 Fencing Quotations

The Clerk reported that only one quotation, from Shane Keen, had been received, despite contacting other suppliers on numerous occasions. As Mr Keen had worked for the Council before and the Council had been pleased with his work, it was agreed to recommend accepting his quote to full Council.

4.3 Meeting with Lyndon Johnson, HDC

Mrs Barnett reported she had met Mr Johnson to discuss installing a litterbin at the end of the footpath by The Moat. Mr Johnson had declined the request as he stated the siting of the bin was too near No. 11 and there was a risk of it being set on fire. Mrs Barnett agreed this was the case but advised the Committee that it appeared the litter-picker was now including this footpath on his rounds.

4.4 Potholes in Stream Lane, Nutbourne

Mrs Lawson reported the repairs to potholes between Redfold Farm and Woodleigh had not been done and Woodleigh Hill needed to be added to the list.

5. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

6. RUGBY CLUB LEASE

The Committee were aware that the Rugby Club wished to extend their lease beyond the end of the 2007 season. It was agreed that the lease should be extended by one year at a time, with the proviso the Parish Council could terminate the agreement with two month's notice. This was to allow for the building of the new Sports Centre. The Clerk reported on the amounts that

other Parish Councils charge their teams for an annual lease. It was agreed to increase the annual fees by the same % as for the other Clubs. This was to be discussed by full Council.

7. BRIDGE IN POCKET PARK

Mr Denison reported on a meeting between himself, Mr Garrett of the Pocket Park Association and Mark Whitwell of WSCC, Highways Department, which took place in Pocket Park. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk were in attendance.

The Clerk was instructed to contact Mark Whitwell to remind him he had offered the services of the Highway Rangers to fill in the hole on the bridge and to clear the culvert on a regular attendance. The Clerk was also to ask Mr Whitwell for a quotation to replace the existing bridge for one without a culvert. It was hoped Tesco would wish to sponsor a new bridge, as it was mainly their customers who used Pocket Park as they walked to and from the store.

The Assistant Clerk was reported to be in contact with Mr Simpson of HDC, Car Parks Department, who was investigating the costs of railings for the bridge.

The Clerk was instructed to contact one of the contractors from the list Mr Denison was to supply, to arrange for the small wooden bridge to be repaired.

8. FOOTPATH 2432 NUTBOURNE COMMON

The Committee received correspondence from the owner of the footpath, the 6th Earl of Abergavenny and the owners of Carpe Diem and Bramfold Court, concerning the signage along the path. Both the Nevill Estate, on behalf of the Earl, and the owners of Bramfold Court stated they wished for just one sign but the owner of Carpe Diem wanted things left as they were. The Clerk was instructed to write to Bramfold Court to see whether the owners would like their nameplate attached to the Parish Council's sign and to write to the Nevill Estate requesting he contact Carpe Diem direct.

The Clerk informed members an old map of Nutbourne had been found in the Parish Office and it appeared the map had been supplied by Stella Ellis. The Assistant Clerk was instructed to contact Mrs Ellis to see whether she had any further information concerning the Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground.

9. AGE LIMIT IN THE PLAY AREA, RECREATION GROUND

The Committee discussed a suggestion from the police that a sign be erected stating an upper age limit for children allowed to use the play equipment. The Clerk was instructed to contact ARD to ascertain the age limit suggested for the equipment already in situ.

10. FUNDING FOR NEW FOOTPATH ON SCHOOL SITE

Members were advised that Mr Kiverstein, the Responsible Finance Officer had stated the only way the Parish Council could contribute to a new footpath on School grounds was by way of a grant, for which the School would have to apply. Mr Denison agreed to obtain a quotation for the work to be done from the headteacher.

11. ESTIMATES FOR PLAY EQUIPMENT, PLAY AREA, RECREATION GROUND

The Committee received quotations and plans from Kompan and agreed both designs were excellent. The Clerk was instructed to contact Chris Dixon at Kompan to ascertain where the nearest examples of the play equipment had been erected, so they could check the quality and construction. SMP Playgrounds had supplied a quotation and they would also be asked to provide details of their nearest equipment.

12. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR THE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

12.1 Inspection Reports from ARD and the Assistant Clerk on Playgrounds in the Area

Members received the reports and RESOLVED that the work considered to be Priority 1 should be done as a matter of urgency. Members also felt it should be suggested to full Council that a regular amount be put aside for repairing and replacing play equipment.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

13.1 Charity Commission – Charity Commission News.

The Committee noted receipt of the Charity Commission News.

13.2 Letter from Saxon Weald – Lighting in the footpath

The letter from Margaret Halliwell, Saxon Weald advised that the tenant of a bungalow in Dennis Court had installed a light on the side of her house, which was also lighting the footpath. Members felt strongly against a member of the public having to provide lighting. The Clerk was instructed to contact EDF Energy for a quotation for installing a lamppost in the footpath. The letter had been copied to the Committee.

13.3 Action in Rural Sussex – Annual Review 2006/07

The Committee noted receipt of the Annual Review.

13.4 HDC Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2012

Mrs Barnett took the document to read through. Members noted comments on the document were required by 9th July 2007.

13.5 Letter from Chanctonbury Leisure Centre, Storrington

The Committee noted the contents of the letter.

13.6 Email from Rob Free

Members noted the contents of an email from Rob Free, which was copied to the Committee.

13.7 Public Rights of Way Routine Maintenance

The Committee noted that Ben Rainbow, the Access Ranger would be visiting Pulborough in approximately 3 weeks.

14. URGENT MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

Mrs Lawson stated she was not happy that a chain and padlock had been put on the gate at Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground, as it was meant to be an open space. Mrs Barnett informed her that notification had been received

that travellers were on the move and it was felt to be a necessary precaution. The public could still gain access through the side gate.

Mrs Lawson also advised members the new road signs were in place in Nutbourne. Many signs had been removed and some amalgamated in more sensible places. It appeared residents were taking notice of the new signs. The Clerk was instructed to write to Roger Harper, thanking him for doing such a good job.

It was reported the site of the old skateboard ramp needed more topsoil to be followed in six months with turfing. The Clerk was instructed to arrange this.

Mrs Barnett requested the Clerk should contact Highways Department to ascertain who erected the yellow signs advertising new housing developments and to find out why they took years to remove. It was suggested it be made a planning condition to take them down on completion of any development. It was also noted the road closure signs etc. were also still in place by Dyke Farm, although the roadworks had been completed.

15. PAYMENTS

No payments were made, as only one signatory was present.

The Meeting Closed at 9.40 p.m.

..... Chairman

..... Date