

WATERBEACH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Recreation Users' Group** held on Wednesday the 26th of October 2022, held at the Sports Pavilion.

22/13 **THOSE PRESENT / APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Present: Chair – Cllr. David Smart (DS); Cllr Brian Williams (BW); Cllr Martin Howlett; Cllr Mick Bavester (MB); Colts – Elly Ruston (ER); Janet Cornwell (JC); Linda Strange (LS); David Black (DB)

Apologies: Cllr Kate Grant (KG); Skatepark representative - Saimon Clark (SK)

Also Present: Assistant Clerk – Victoria Fowler (VF)

22/14 **OPEN FORUM**

JC raised the outstanding issue of Chittering play park, noting that the application for the funding has still not gone it and a reference number needed was not obtained. The next application deadline is the 1st November, which would further delay the project. JC proposed that the remaining shortfall of £10,000 is paid for by the Parish Council and that this is put forward to the next full council meeting in December. All agreed. **Action** JC to put forward a proposal, VF to send to full council in December.

Funding for the barriers was raised, VF stated that she had looked into this and would forward on the email **action** VF forward email. JC stated that at a previous Parish Council meeting it was noted that there is Highway funding available which could be used.

Concern was raised in terms of the location of the zip wire, currently it is proposed to place the zip wire over the mounds (BMX track) at the back of the field. JC commented that it should be closer to the rest of the park, so that families can stay together, adding that the police have previously advised against placing the skatepark in that area, due to lack of lighting and possible anti-social behavior. It was further noted that footballs could hit the users of the zip wire. Cllrs MB and BW noted that there are also footballs used at the other end of the field. JC noted that the gym equipment does not get as much use as had hoped, as it is too far out. Cllr MH noted that there will always be potential issues wherever the zip wire is placed, as it will still be near the football pitch, or other park users. JC stated that there is a large space between the tennis courts and the next football pitch where it could be placed. LS agreed that there is a safety issue with the zip wire being placed at the back of the field. VF noted that she had contacted Wickstead, who informed her that there are no rules or regulations in terms of how close to a football pitch the zip wire can be placed, as long as sensible judgement has been made. Cllr DS stated that he was concerned that the zip wire had not been previously discussed by the Rec Users, adding that the line of the football pitch to the hedge is approx. 14m, which could cause issues when the hedges need to be cut, as 6m is needed for a machine to cut the hedge, meaning the zip wire would be quite close to the football pitch. A player could run and not see the zip wire and collide with it, or a ball could hit someone. It was further noted that the proposed location is only 75m from the

corner of the cricket wicket. Cllr DS stated that there have been a lot of problems with anti-social behavior in the proposed area, as such it needs to be reviewed and taken back to full council. ER asked that they are liaised with before it is placed, however did not think that it would be a big issue being located over the humps when a football match is being played. Cllr MH stated that he would take photos of Foxton, where there are zip wires and pitches, where low fencing has been used. Cllr BW stated that wherever it is placed, there could be issues, as there is also the adult pitch on the other side of the tennis court. Cllr DS suggested locating it between the skateboard park and the path or tennis fence and the office, he also stated that loose dogs at the back of the field could be an issue. In addition, we only have half the amount of outdoor space that we should have. Cllr BW stated that if there is no safe space, then we wouldn't be able to have one. LS questioned whether the space behind the basketball court could be used, as it is a large space, just overgrown. Cllr DS also stated that there is a water main that runs along near the BMX humps. VF added that zipwire specifications and designs have already been issued, and were taken to the last full Parish Council meeting, where a design was agreed, so should have already been seen by all councilors. DB stated that if there is a fence around the zip wire, balls should not go in, and people would not have accidents by running into the area. JC asked if the police could be contacted for their advice about where it is placed **action VF. Action Cllr MH** take photos of other examples, **action rec users** to provide suggestions to VF of where they believe the zipwire should be placed, so that a recommendation can be taken to the full Parish Council meeting in December. **Action VF** ensure the zip wire location is taken to the December meeting.

22/15

REPORTS FROM USERS OF THE RECREATION GROUND

ER noted that the football club had a good start with growing teams, stating that it would be great to get more volunteers to help. It was also reported that the Colts will be purchasing new wheeled goals. The under 6's have started, with over 25 members. Winter training pitches are being looked into due to the lack of lighting at Waterbeach. ER added that they do have portable lights, but they are not as bright as they would like. It was reported that the beer festival was a success and helped to raise more money for the club, but the wheeled goals are expensive, so a grant might be explored from Waterbeach Parish Council. Cllr BW questioned whether there was concern from the children's teams in terms of paying their fees. ER explained that they have robust finances and can offer a low rate to families. If people struggle to meet payments, they can pay in installments. Younger players pay £65 per year, the adult players pay £75 per year. Money from fees is spent on training, safeguarding etc., the fund-raising money pays for winter training costs and bigger costs. Cllr DS stated that it will be budgeting time soon, therefore ER should bear this in mind if the Colts wish to apply for extra funding.

Cllr BW asked whether the Colts have been in contact with U&C to ask about football facilities in the new town. ER noted that she has communicated with U&C due to the lack of winter facilities (lighting) within Waterbeach, but added that the Colts do not want to cause any upset. ER added that U&C do have a piece of land that could potentially be used.

Cllr BW noted that more land is needed in Waterbeach for recreation purposes. Cllr DS added that proposals were made to obtain more land a while ago, which got knocked back.

VF stated that Skatepark representative SC, emailed to say;

I would like it to be noted that users and myself appreciate the lights getting switched back on especially with the clocks changing soon. I would like to highlight a regular skateboarder at the park - Joe Hinson, he relies on this particular park because other parks in the area aren't lit and it allows him to practice in the winter evenings in preparation for competitions and Olympic qualifying events.

22/16 CHITTERING PLAY PARK

See update under agenda item 22/14. JC added that if the proposal for funding is approved, the area will need to be cleared as it is currently very overgrown.

22/17 PLAYPARK ON CODY ROAD

VF reported that her understanding of this item is that it was no longer going ahead, due to the fact that it was deemed too complicated in terms of the involvement with the management company, as discussed in previous meetings. Cllr DS stated that there is going to be an AGM with the management committee, 24TH November at 6.30pm in the Baptist Chapel, and they are all for a play park, as such, Cody Road play area does need to be re-started as it is still wanted. Cllr DS added that there is another area that could be used for the play area. He further noted that there is still S106 money to be used, if it is not used, it will go back to the land owner. **Action Cllr DS** to see whether any Waterbeach Parish Councilors wish to attend the AGM for the Cody Road play park in order to provide further updates, to be fed back at the next relevant Rec Users meeting.

22/18 CHILDRENS PLAY AREA

- i. VF issued four design ideas for the toddler play area to replace the old half pipe. It was agreed that these should be sent to the local play groups (Herons Play Group, Community Play Group, Roses, Little Stars) and school, and added to the WPC Facebook page, in order to get a view of what the local residents would like to see added - **action VF**. Cllr DS noted that the grass area in front of the proposed toddler play area could maybe be incorporated, adding that we have S106 money to use on the project. Once feedback has been received, this item will be added to the next Rec Users agenda - **action VF**.
- ii. Covered under agenda item 22/14.
- iii. Cllr DS reported that the MUGA (basketball court) has been re-lined, but not in yellow, blue and white paint, just white paint. VF noted that no complaints have been received. It was agreed to do nothing unless complaints are received.

22/19 PAVILION

It was agreed that the list of items that need to be addressed at the Sports Pavilion be added to the November Full Parish Council, in order to get agreement for the work that needs to be done. **Action VF** – add list of Sport Pavilion improvements to Novembers' Full Parish Council meeting agenda.

22/20

BOWLS PAVILION

DB noted that an AGM had been held, with most members being pleased with the 20% reduction in payment to WPC. More members have joined this year and the first year of mixed bowling was a success and should be continued in 2023. DB noted that an expression of interest was sent to Amey for an application for funding, which was accepted, so a second part now needs to be submitted, which DB is in the process of completing. The secretary of the Bowls club will be requesting confirmation in writing from WPC, the amount of S106 money that has already been confirmed, in order to pass that information onto Amey, as this is a part of the final draft required, also that WPC will use the correct procedure for purchasing and tendering, which is a request from Amey. DB stated that it would be nice if the rec users also put something forward to WPC on behalf of the bowls club. DB noted that the grant amount requested from Amey is £30k. This will allow the bowls club to make a contribution via Amey. If there is any controversy, then this should bridge the gap, as they the bowls club are also contributing to the financing of the new pavilion. DB noted that this is a considerable contribution. Cllr DS stated that there is a fair amount of un-allocated S106 money, DB stated that he did not think it would be needed as there is £170k of sports money available, along with the £30k from Amey, which should cover the type of environmental building that is wanted.

The election of a new working party has been added to the November Full Parish Council meeting, following requests for this to be an agenda item previously. DB stated that once a working party has been formed, he would be happy to extend the invite to discuss the new bowls pavilion to as many people as possible. DB noted that he has a meeting with U&C to see if they can provide any help.

Cllr BW noted that he has a list of S106 suggestions that was gathered in 2018. One of the suggestions was a community café, which could help raise money for funding. This could be an opportunity for raising funds. Cllr DS stated that you couldn't have children on the bowls green. DB noted that this would be a matter for the working party.

22/21

SITE INSPECTION

VF confirmed that this item is on the Full PC agenda in November, to agree an inspection date for all recreation areas. Cllr DS stated that there is a list of jobs, which could be worked through until we are able to have an inspection when the evenings are lighter in the Spring time.

22/22

SKATE PARK USERS

VF reported that feedback from the Skatepark users, is that they would like a water fountain to be installed, adding that a paper with example prices/fountains was circulated ahead of this meeting. Cllr BW stated that it would need to be robust and that a bottle filler would be more hygienic. Cllr DS stated that Cllr KG suggested two

are installed, one near the sports pavilion and one near the skatepark. Cllr MB stated that an outside push tap could be installed against the wall of the Pavilion. ER added that her members bring their own water bottles and that they can always fill up inside the sports pavilion, as such it was not felt to be a big need. Cllr BW stated that people may be reluctant to use one that is external. ER questioned who raised the need for this, Cllr DS noted that this has been ongoing for years. VF added that Cllr KG requested at the last meeting that this was looked into. Cllr DS noted that if we are providing water, then toilets should be available. VF noted that the toilets have been cleaned and could be opened up, but it would only be open during the week within office hours, not at weekends. **Action VF** to raise the question as to whether we install a bottle filler (not a water fountain due to hygiene reasons) on the WPC Facebook page. Cllr DS added that there was no hurry for this item.

Cllr MH questioned what was happening with the cracks in the skatepark. It was noted that the ROSPA report is on the November full PC meeting, and this will be discussed there.

22/23

PRICES FOR USE OF RECREATION FIELD

ER stated that adult users would query any cost increase (currently set at £55/year), as the club buys the line paint and paint the lines themselves, and fix the pitch marker, replacing any parts as and when required. Histon currently charges £45 and this includes everything being marked out for them. ER praised the Groundsman's efforts for the work that he does, adding that he does not have spare time to mark the football pitches. Sometimes the goal areas need maintenance, which the Groundsman helps out with. Cllr MH added that the field may need re-seeding following a hot summer. ER noted that in the past, external users paid more. DB stated that you cannot underestimate the amount of time that volunteers put in. ER added that pitch paint costs approximately £1000/year. Cllr DS questioned whether the Colts have thought about WPC paying towards the paint costs, ER noted that they would still want to order it, to ensure it is the right type, and that it arrives when needed. ER added that they could put a proposal forward. Cllr DS noted that it would be good to know what costs are paid out by the Colts. VF stated that the office is putting together a fixtures list. ER added that it costs £55 for a fixture, but the cost of a referee is around £30-£45 per fixture.

22/24

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Emergency access was raised as an issue. Keys are required for the bollards and the overhead barrier in case of emergencies. ER stated that they could be placed in a key safe and the code would be given to a limited number of individuals. Cllr MH stated that the number of people who have access needs to be kept low, as the alarm could be set off. VF added that this is currently being looked into, in terms of a contract for those that intend to have access to the keys, as the safe is within the sports end of the shed, there is not an 'off the shelf' contract that can be used, instead, a new contract will have to be drawn up by a solicitor, to ensure everything is properly covered.

Action - copies of keys to be approved at Full PC meeting in case of emergencies and location of key safe to be agreed.

ER questioned who was responsible for the defibrillator. VF noted that a new battery has been ordered and will be fitted by the Groundsman. ER has previously talked about getting another for the football teams, however as there is already one in the area, that is not an option. Cllr MB stated that you can buy portable defibrillators for approximately £900. **Action VF** to find out who is responsible for the maintenance of the defibrillator, and whether it could be checked weekly/monthly.

22/25

ACTIONS

VF ran through the list of actions, and added that they will be updated and issued with the minutes.

Meeting closed at 21:10.