



Redenhall with Harleston Town Council

Clerk: Mrs. L. Ling
Chairman: Mr B. Woods

Minutes

**of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on
Wednesday 7th June 2017 at 7.30pm in the Council Offices at the Memorial
Leisure Centre, Harleston**

Present: Councillors; Frances Bickley (Chair), Mark Betts, Martin Roberts, Ian Broughton, Barry Woods and Greg Rose

Also present: Nine members of the public, including representations from the Tennis & Squash Club, Skate park group, and football club, Lynda Ling (Town Clerk) and Tina Page.

1. **a) To elect a Chairman** – It was agreed that Councillor Bickley should continue as Chair. Proposed by Councillor Broughton and seconded by Councillor Rose
ALL AGREED
- b) To elect a Vice-Chairman** – It was agreed that Councillor Betts should continue as Vice-Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Rose and seconded by Councillor Broughton.
ALL AGREED
2. **Welcome** – The chairman informed those present that recording equipment will be used this evening.
3. **To receive and accept apologies from members unable to attend** – None.
4. **To receive any declarations of pecuniary or any other interests in particular matters to be raised at this meeting** – Councillor Broughton declared his interest in Item 11
5. **Approval of minutes of a meeting of the Recreation Committee held on Wednesday 10th May 2017** – Agreement proposed by Councillor Rose and seconded by Councillor Betts
ALL AGREED

At the start of the public participation session, it was agreed by councillors that due to the nature of the items under discussion on this agenda, members of the public can speak on each agenda item as it comes up which will encourage free discussion

6. **Matters arising** – None
7. **Chairman's Report** – There was no Chairman's report
8. **To receive reports from regarding the gym, any club reports and agree any action** – none
9. **To receive a maintenance report for the recreation grounds and to agree new fencing for the maintenance compound (previously agreed April 2016) and agree any action** –

- **Going Green** – This year the maintenance team are looking towards caring for the environment. This will include looking into the purchase of battery operated trimmers, hedge cutters and blowers. Our existing equipment will be upgraded to take a new type of 2 stroke fuel, which is environmentally friendly and called Aspen 2. This is petrol is virtually free from sulphur, benzene and solvents. It is ethanol free, chemically inert and low odour, so you are breathing much cleaner air. We will also be looking at the possibility of using solar panels to charge the batteries.
- **Conservation** – We have now put up ten bat boxes on the football pitch side of the recreation pitch side of the recreation ground. This now bring the total of thirty bat and bird boxes, with plans to make around three Owl nesting boxes over the winter months.
- **Trees** – We have lost a lime tree at the entrance to the main car park. This was removed as an emergency matter. We had a vehicle hit a smaller tree near to the new footpath. This has been reported by the police. Danarbour visited the site to advise on damage. Although it was only a large piece of bark was removed, it was suggested that the tree will not survive and will need to be felled within the next few weeks.
- **Maintenance area** – To erect security gates to the height of 3m x 3m wide, to put a roof between both containers as a car port for the works van and trailer.

It was noted that there was no permission granted previously for the roof between the containers and it was agreed that this should be discussed at July's meeting. It was suggested that quotes be obtained for additional short fencing to be put on top of the container to deter climbers. Proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Broughton.

ALL AGREED

- 10. To discuss a recent meeting with the football club and skate park group and agree any action.** – A meeting was held with the football club to discuss the future plans and proposals that the football club have, and to discuss what is possible and what isn't on the recreation grounds. Neil Shannon from the football club, stated that all the football club want is an agreement for the flood lights. NS to get a quote on the installation of the floodlights. Councillor Bickley is currently writing a report on her findings and this agenda item is just to formalise discussion at the informal meeting.

The Skate Park: The Town Council's previous decision was made on the evidence of one quote, its measurements and the request for a further few metres, however the other two quotes were not considered due to mis-communication of all parties. A member of the public mentioned that the noise factor would come from the surface of the skate park and another issue is the users creating the noise. Councillor Rose deemed that the place originally suggested is unsuitable. As there is now more than one quote for discussion and the requested larger area was not the only option for consideration, it was agreed that to re-open this request for consideration based on new evidence. Agreement was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Betts. **ALL AGREED**

- 11. To receive an update on the squash court lighting and associated costs and agree any action.** – A quote has been received from the council's preferred supplier to replace the squash court lights. The first quote was £355 + VAT (replacement of similar bulbs) and the second quote was for LED light replacements £1,354 + VAT. LEDs will be less costly to operate, however a member of public asked if the LED lights will be compatible with the token meter. It was agreed to check this. After a brief discussion it was agreed to go ahead with LED option. Agreement was proposed by Councillor Rose and seconded by Councillor Betts. **ALL AGREED**

- 12. To consider costs for multi-lining on the tennis courts and report from tennis club on projected use/income and agree any action** – No quotes for the multi-line courts had been received to date. Councillor Betts thanked Jenny Barton for the report which gave a

breakdown of projected income should the tennis courts be refurbished. The Committee agreed to put this on the agenda for the Finance Committee for further discussion and then Town Council for final agreement. Agreement proposed by Councillor Broughton and seconded by Councillor Betts. **ALL AGREED**

13. To consider items relating to the recreation grounds and agree any action. – None.

14. To discuss any health and safety items. – There will a meeting with Lin, Natasha and Ross to have a walk around the building, checking the health and safety, and it is envisaged that due to the changes to the building in recent months, that it may be necessary to employ the services of a company experienced in risk assessments for advice.

15. To receive reports for committee members (for information only) – None

16. To receive a clerk’s report (for information only) –

- **Vandalism** – Steve has reported more vandalism in the children’s play area, in particular to the small children’s slide and play house. The plastic dome which was replaced last year (due to vandalism) has been broken again and is a health and safety issue. In addition, a hole has been made in the floor of the Wendy house, which will be repaired soon.
- **Littering** – The littering hasn’t improved on the recreation grounds, with Chris picking up four bin bags full of litter one day.
- **Incident in the gym reception** – An incident in the gym reception area occurred recently which involved youngsters creating trouble with gym staff and equipment. Staff have been instructed to press the panic button if they feel threatened by a situation (particularly if a member of staff is working alone) which will alert the security company and the police.
- **Dog excrement near the bike track** – An email has been received from a nearby resident to inform the council that her granddaughter fell over an as covered in dog excrement down one side of her body. This caused the little girl great distress. The resident has written a letter to the Grapevine voicing strong words to people who allow their dogs to foul in this way and not clear up afterwards. It is particularly annoying as dogs are not allowed in any of the children’s play areas.

17. Approval of items of expenditure – Payments already made since last meeting £11,297.52, Cheques £250.20 and BACS £9,341.31 and TC £4,356.79. Proposed by Councillor Rose and seconded by Councillor Betts **ALL AGREED**

18. To be informed of significant correspondence and agree any necessary action – There is only one and this is about the free event from Norfolk Playing Fields Association on 17th June.

Meeting was adjourned for public participation at 8.13 and reconvened at 8.25 pm -

A member of the public asked if the CCTV on the recreation ground was working. Councillor Woods replied and commented that the CCTV on the back of the building scopes the area and it can see by direct line of sight. The camera sweeps the side of the MUGA. There was a general discussion on the effectiveness of the CCTV and how to go forward in the future.

19. Date of the next meeting – Wednesday 5th July 2017 at 7.30pm in the Social Room, Harleston Leisure Centre

Meeting ended at 8.27pm

Signed

Date