

CODICOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the RECREATION COMMITTEE held on Tuesday 21st July 2015 in the Parish Council Offices, 107a High Street which commenced at 7:00pm

PRESENT: Chairman, Councillor C Mackrill with Councillors H Gregory, M Ireland, B Knapper and C Tinner

IN ATTENDANCE: Lorraine Ellis (Clerk), Colin Argent, Charlie Unwin (Skyfiller Fireworks Ltd) and 5 members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**
Councillors D Connold (holiday), F Moody (other commitments) and J Warwick (holiday)
2. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT:**
None.
3. **TO MEET WITH COLIN ARGENT AND CHARLIE UNWIN – SKYFILLER FIREWORKS LTD:**
The Chairman welcomed Colin and Charlie to the meeting.

Colin thanked the Committee for the opportunity to meet with them to discuss the possibility of his Company being asked to provide the 2015 firework display. As a Codicote based company they would be proud to offer a professional, fully managed display at cost price for the village.

All fireworks would be securely rigged in advance of the show with no rocket sticks falling to the ground. Staff are fully insured and trained to the highest level. With a computerised electronic firing system larger calibre fireworks are used.

Skyfiller Fireworks would also be able to provide a funfair and hot fast food at the event.

Colin agreed to provide the Clerk with a video download of a previous firework display they have produced. He also agreed that if the Committee decided to use his Company that it would be possible for George Howe to 'press the button' to set off the display.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact George Howe and obtain his view, the Clerk to report back to the Committee.

Councillor Ireland arrived at this juncture and Colin and Charlie left the meeting (7:22pm).
4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23rd JUNE 2015:**
The minutes of the above meeting were taken as read and duly noted.

5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

Codicote Playground Support Group project:

The Chairman reported that two consultation sessions had been held where Committee members were able to meet with the public and local residents. The residents were not against the project but were concerned at anti-social behaviour problems and the siting of some pieces of the equipment.

A site visit was recently undertaken by Committee members followed by a meeting to discuss possible options. Members agreed that the equipment for older children should be moved to the basketball court area which would continue to be used by removing one of the nets.

Councillor Gregory reported that we were approached by the Codicote Playground Support Group and the Recreation Committee had followed a set, planned pattern which had not been deviated from. All views and comments were listened to. The whole area has holistically been considered, it is possible that more planning and time be necessary. This cannot be rushed, it is a recreation ground and not a playground and we need to get the balance right.

Consideration was also given to the wooded area where anti-social issues occur. A buffer to the housing would remain but it could be opened up sufficiently to ensure children can be in sight.

It was agreed that the Clerk should set up a meeting with Committee members and Playground Support Group members to take the project forward.

The Clerk reported that work should not be undertaken in the winter, it will need to be in the dry season (late Spring/Summer) as access can only be from the St Albans Road entrance using transit vehicles.

The public left the meeting at this juncture (7:38pm)

Councillor Gregory reported that she had not advised the CPSG to provide Committee members with the Biffa application and general data.

New sports hall & community centre:

- i) **Septic tank issues:** The Clerk reported that the work on the septic tank has been completed however the ladies toilets in the new building are blocked. Honeywagon have been asked to empty it as quickly as possible. The Committee agreed that the situation would need to be monitored.
- ii) **Missing gas cylinders:** It was reported that Jim Park has been successful with his discussions with Air Liquide and all Edwards Holmes invoices have been cancelled.
- iii) **Utilities – connection & supply:** The Clerk reported that Councillor Warwick had met with a local electrician who agreed that the situation we have is not the best option. The building should have had its' own power. If the new building's power had come off the power in the pavilion a junction could have been formed and a meter could have been installed, as the power to the new building was junctioned underground between the tennis courts and the new building there is no way of putting in a junction.

The Clerk reported that during the build process the power supply to the garages had been cut. It was agreed that it was the responsibility of The Trust to rectify the situation. It was agreed that Councillor Ireland would meet with Jim Park to discuss possible options.

- iv) **Camera removal & repairs:** Councillor Ireland reported that the remedial work had been completed satisfactorily.

R010 Bury Lane sports field tree works: The Chairman reported that the Tennis Club remain concerned about the short terms risks in relation to damage to the floodlights as the trees are touching the lights in places which is a potential hazard. A local contractor has provided a quotation for £90 to remove the relevant branches.

Councillor Tinner was concerned that birds may still be nesting in the trees and that any work undertaken should be minimal.

The Clerk to raise a purchase order for the work to be undertaken as soon as possible.

R011 Codicote Football Club:

- i) **Draft lease:** The Committee considered the draft lease produced by the Clerk. It was agreed that the sports field is a village play space in the countryside. The lease document to be amended as discussed and re-issued to the Committee prior to it being forwarded to Codicote Football Club for their comments. It will also be necessary to clarify with the Football Association what their requirements are for the CFC first team to play in Codicote.
- ii) **Cranfield University sports field survey:** The Committee reviewed the scope of works for improving the drainage condition of the Bury Lane sports field and agreed that the Clerk should produce costings for consideration by the Committee. It was noted that it doesn't appear as if the work required would put the ground out of action for more than one week. Part of the programme will be to verti-drain.

It was agreed that the Clerk should forward a copy of the report to all sports clubs and to advise CFC that we cannot meet the FA deadlines for a grant application.

6. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO PROVIDE A CONCRETE PATHWAY AT THE BURY LANE SPORTS FIELD:

- R013** It was noted that a request had been received from The John Clements Sports & Community Trust for a financial contribution to provide a concrete pathway across the gravel roadway and the sports field.

The Clerk reported that a number of large vehicles use the gravel roadway and the area between the garages, new building and pavilion needs gravelling, this should have been carried out by The Trust during the build process.

The Council has responsibilities to adhere to under the NHDC planning consent and therefore the whole area needs to be reviewed and assessed and soft landscaping carried out. It was agreed that a small working party (CM/HG/CT/JW) would be formed to undertake the review in the Autumn.

The Clerk to contact Jim Park to explain that the Council has unknown expenditure costs to consider and that the work he has proposed to undertake will need to be deferred.

7. TO CONSIDER THE 2015 XMAS DISPLAYS:

R014 It was agreed that the Clerk should ascertain whether it would be possible to purchase a tree from the company previously used. Further discussion on the displays are to be deferred to the September meeting.

Councillor Gregory left the meeting at this juncture (8:30pm)

8. TO DISCUSS THE EXTERNAL CONDITION OF THE PAVILION:

R015 The Chairman reported that he had met on site with Councillor Warwick to review the condition of the pavilion:-

- Roof - approximately 20 tiles are broken or missing
- Roof - lead flashing needs to be flattened out
- Guttering – missing brackets, end joints, bend missing and parted in a number of places, blocked down pipe
- Doors – Tanyard Developments are unable to provide a further quotation at this time for the refurbishment of the doors and the provision of one new stable type door.

Councillor Tinner stated that in her view the timber cladding also needed attention, it would appear that some of the timber has rotted. It was agreed that this work should also be included.

The Clerk to obtain quotations for all of the work listed. Councillor Knapper agreed to provide the labour to refurbish the doors with the Council providing the materials. It was agreed that this was acceptable.

9. TO CONSIDER APPLYING TO NHDC FOR A RURAL GRANT:

R016 The Committee agreed to apply to NHDC for a grant for pavilion repairs (Community Building Refurbishment Fund) and for a piece of play equipment for the St Albans Road Recreation Ground ((Playground Challenge). The Chairman and the Clerk to complete the application forms by the due deadline of Friday 2nd October 2015.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

R017 Tuesday 22nd September 2015.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8:43pm.

Signed..... **Chairman**

Date..... **2015**