

## **RIVER PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Dixon (in the Chair), Cllr. Allen, Cllr. Buhlman, Cllr. Deal, Cllr. Eyre-Jackson, Cllr. Taylor

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. A. Denyer (Parish Clerk)

#### **Annual Inspection of the Ground**

- i. The door lock on one of the ladies toilet cubicles is not working.
- ii. John Hill is still to renew the toilet cisterns.
- iii. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson suggested that the 'No Water' signs be removed now everything is working.
- iv. Rubbish in the cottage is to be disposed of.
- v. The new notice board needs a title banner – Clerk to action.
- vi. The replacement bench top is to hand. It was agreed that just the two warped planks be replaced and the others kept as spare – Cllr. Buhlman and Cllr. Dixon will undertake the job.
- vii. Cllr. Eyre-Jackson reported that Fensecure have fixed the problem with the play area gate.
- viii. Robin Jackson has adjusted the tension in the aerial runway.
- ix. Cllr. Dixon reported that DDC will remove the vegetation from the beds in the centre and corner of the car park and replace with turf. It was suggested that the committee consider providing benches (possibly also a bin) for the yew tree area as this will be ideal for customers visiting the vendors.
- x. GW Landscaping are still to cut back the tops of the hedges but this is on their job list.
- xi. The bank near the Mannering Close boundary leading down to the lower field will be grass seeded as soon as conditions are wet enough (GW).
- xii. GW are to be asked to plant privet to fill the gap in the Mannering Close boundary hedge
- xiii. Cllr. Dixon will speak to GW for advice on moving the small trees along the Lewisham Road boundary to areas with more light. Dave and Dee Horobin will be informed prior to any relocation.
- xiv. John Hill will be asked to move a bin close to the portable goalposts area as a lot of litter gets left here.
- xv. There are two small tree trunks on top of the bank that need removing as they are a trip hazard.

This was followed immediately by the committee meeting:

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** All present.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none.

#### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018 had previously been circulated. Cllr. Taylor proposed that they represented a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Buhlman and all agreed.

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**a) 11.05.18 7b(ii)** During a meeting with the Bowling Club, it was reported that some of the paving slab repairs are still to be completed.

**b) 11.05.18 7b(iii)** The dead tree has now been removed. Cllr. Taylor confirmed that all the relevant permissions had been obtained prior to the work being carried out.

#### **5. MAINTENANCE:**

Cllr. Dixon confirmed that September 2018 is the last month that the Parish Council retains responsibility for maintenance of the bowling green and tennis courts as River Bowling Club and River Originals Tennis Club have agreed to take them over.

##### **a) Bowling Green**

The Bowling Club have said they currently do not want a renewed 25 year lease until they are confident that maintaining the green is within their resources.

##### **b) Tennis Courts**

The tennis club have said that they want to take over responsibility for four tennis courts. The club have invested in equipment. They will undertake the work themselves with technical expertise from Tim Millett Horticulture as required.

It was agreed that new licences will be necessary even if they are only short term. Cllrs. Dixon and Taylor, along with the Clerk, will seek meetings with the two clubs to discuss licence arrangements.

##### **c) General Groundwork / Play Areas**

Cllr. Dixon confirmed that the general groundwork is being done satisfactorily by GW Landscaping. He will raise the items discussed during the inspection with them.

Cllr. Eyre-Jackson confirmed that the repairs to the Crabble Lane Play Area have now been completed. Cllr. Dixon thanked Cllr. Eyre-Jackson for overseeing the works. The only potential ongoing problem is now shrinkage to the wetpour surfacing.

It was agreed that, as the Crabble Lane Play Area remains popular, it will be kept open and maintained as long as it viable to do so.

#### **6. PROJECTS:**

##### **a) Public Defibrillator**

Clerk confirmed that the KFRS have awarded a defibrillator to the Parish Council for the Recreation Ground. He is now waiting for delivery arrangements to be confirmed. It was agreed that the two sports clubs still be asked to make a contribution to installation to enable enhanced security measures (such as a dedicated CCTV camera) to be installed at the same time.

##### **b) Additional CCTV**

Cllr. Buhlman and Cllr. Allen are researching enhancements to the CCTV system to provide better coverage. Cllr. Buhlman confirmed that no additional cameras can be added to the existing system. The options will be either a full new system or an additional system. Cllr. Buhlman will provide a report with all options in due course.

Cllr. Buhlman circulated images recorded during attempted damage to the play area. Cllr. Allen suggested any such incidents be reported to the police.

##### **c) Any other Projects**

###### i) Kick-About Goal Area

Clerk is looking into any financial support available to improve the 'kick-about' goal area. It was agreed to speak to TCI Football Academy about being part of any bid. It was noted that another unknown group also use the grounds for organised training sessions.

###### ii) Vendors

Now that the initial trial of allowing vendors access to the grounds under licence has proved successful, it was agreed that future arrangements need to be firmed up.

### iii) Signage

It was agreed that previous discussions about signage on the Lower Road gate should move ahead. Clerk is to get costs for a sign which would also incorporate the main users of the Recreation Ground. TCI Football Academy have asked if they can display a banner at the grounds. Cllr. Dixon will liaise with them.

## **7. IDEAS TO INCREASE USE OF THE GROUNDS**

Cllr. Allen suggested a possible Boot Fair as a way to increase use of the grounds. It was agreed that all research contacts of possible organisers.

It was also suggested that the grounds could be a venue for children's activities during school holidays. Clerk will contact local organisations.

## **8. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Clerk confirmed that no invoices have been issued to River Bowling Club and River Originals Tennis Club for the current season whilst discussions were ongoing over future maintenance arrangements. It was agreed that Clerk circulate details of the previously agreed charges so that a decision can be made.

## **9. CORRESPONDENCE:**

### **a) Carly Miles – Fitness Training**

An email has been received regarding possible use of the grounds for a fitness training class. Clerk is to get full details and also check that proposed dates do not clash with current activities.

### **b) S. Nicholas – Community Garden**

An email has been received regarding the use of part of the grounds for a community sensory garden. It was agreed that a suitable location is not currently available but there may be a space in the near future. This is an idea which the committee is looking into but will require consultation with local community groups and, bearing in mind the investment needed, sponsorship.

### **c) J. Philpott - Mannering Close Fence**

A further email has been received from Mr. Philpott regarding the boundary hedge backing onto his property in Mannering Close. He maintains that the wooden fence panel cannot be removed to enable the Parish Council's groundwork contractors to reduce the depth of the hedge as he has requested. The committee re-affirmed its previous position that once the panel is removed then our contractors will carry out the works on the hedge. Clerk is to get details as to why he considers that the panel cannot be removed.

## **10. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Cllrs. Deal and Eyre-Jackson asked that the website be updated to include the new activities taking place at the grounds. Clerk will do this.

Meeting closed at 11.35am

Date of next meeting: 9.30am Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019