

CAM PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD WEDNESDAY 12TH MAY 2010 AT 7pm IN
THE COUNCIL SHOP**

PRESENT: D Andrewartha (Chairman), N Ledoux, M Clifton, J Fowles, D Pritchard, B Powell

APOLOGIES: M Poole, J Sherman

IN ATTENDANCE: S Hanman (Clerk)

RL.10.18. To receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies as listed above were received and accepted.

RL.10.19. To receive Declarations of Interest

None received

RL.10.20. To Accept and Sign Minutes of the Meeting of 14th April as a True and Correct Record

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**RL.10.21. To receive any questions, statements or submissions from members of the public in attendance or
from any Councillor in respect of any agenda item in which he/she has a Prejudicial Interest**

None received.

RL.10.22. To note matters arising from the Minutes and not covered by agenda items for Information Only

It was noted that the grass matting for the fitness equipment had been ordered and would be installed shortly.

RL.10.23. To note correspondence received

RSS Record – Sales leaflet

GPFA – ‘Playing Field’ Newsletter

RL.10.24. To receive and comment on budget report and consider any amendments

Copy of current budget situation attached. No amendments were considered necessary at this time. It was noted that proposed works at the Jubilee Field (removal of old fencing, repairs to safety fencing) could be funded from the grounds maintenance budget, together with the Jubilee Field Development budgets.

RL.10.25. To consider Jubilee Field Maintenance and Development issues

i) To receive update on anti social behaviour, litter, damage etc and agree any actions

There had been no significant problems with anti social behaviour recently. Litter continued to be a problem – it was noted that some clearance was being done by members of the public, to whom the Committee extended their thanks. Graffiti on the climbstones would be removed by Neighbourhood Wardens.

**ii) To receive update on works to changing rooms and agree any further actions, including consideration of
quote for lock replacement**

It was RESOLVED that authority to accept a quote and proceed with the replacement of locks be delegated to the Clerk, on consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, to a budget ceiling of the total of the quote received to date. It

was also agreed that, once new locks are in place, control should remain with the Parish Council, with clubs to be required to pay a significant deposit for keys.

iii) To discuss options for provision of new changing rooms

As the cost of a new brick-built structure would be very high, other possible options were being explored, including a modern modular building. A contact had now been established for the group which had been successful in acquiring a new pavilion building at North Nibley, and it was hoped to gather some information from him shortly. Acquiring costs for the provision of services to the proposed site for a new building had proved more difficult than had been envisaged. Severn Trent would only provide a quote on a full application for the service, which has a cost of several £hundred. Their website did, however, provide some indication of costs, which could be used to calculate an approximate figure, probably sufficient at this stage. Central Networks also required an application for a new service to be made, but as this does not have a cost, this had been done and had revealed an extremely high cost for the provision of electricity so far down the field. There was thus some discussion on the necessity of relocating the facility. It was noted that one of the main reasons for this had been the advice that there are FA regulations on the distance that changing facilities can be from pitches – this would be checked. There remained serious concern about the level of responsibility being shown by the football clubs regarding the facilities - it was agreed that the current units should be brought up to an appropriate standard and that more information should be acquired regarding the provision of new facilities, but that the project should then be put on hold and the situation monitored to establish whether the clubs can manage the current facility before going forward with the provision of a new one.

iv) To consider provision of play equipment for younger children

Following the rather high quote from Proludic to install an embankment slide, further quotes for similar provision had been sought from other companies, but only one had so far been received. It was RESOLVED to defer a decision until more quotes are received, and to delegate a decision to the Clerk, on consultation with Chair and Vice-Chair.

v) To agree arrangements for resurfacing the skatepark

The necessary specialist paint was being sourced locally. It was agreed that the resurfacing would, dependent upon the weather, be undertaken during the weekend on 24th and 25th July. Cllrs Clifton, Fowles and Ledoux volunteered to assist and other volunteers would be sought.

vi) To consider fencing of ball park area

The representative of the supplier had not yet been able to visit. It was agreed to defer this matter to a later date.

vii) To consider repairs to safety fencing

Members had received a copy of the comprehensive quote for repairs to the safety fencing from a Company approached following a recommendation from the District Council. As the cost would be significant, it was agreed that other possible options should be explored before accepting the quote, including an enquiry as to whether the Leyhill Wok Party would be able to undertake this work, and seeking a quote from a local fencing contractor.

viii) To consider grounds maintenance issues and agree any actions, including work programme for Leyhill Work Party scheme and possible community clean up day

Issues identified during the site visit included removal of scrub and debris and further trimming of trees. It was agreed that volunteers should be sought to undertake these works on the same day as the resurfacing of the skatepark. The Youth Club/Forum would be approached for help with this.

ix) To further consider the ongoing development of the field, including amenity furniture, access path

The following were identified as issues to be addressed in the short term:

Provision of benches on the two vacant plinths near the football pitches (subject to available budget); topping up bark under trim trail equipment; replacement of climb poles on trim trail; weed treatment on path.

RL.10.26. To confirm approval for the use of the Jubilee Field for the Scratch 'n' Sk8 event on 5th & 6th August and consider financial contribution

It was noted that the Youth Service was having difficulty in raising sufficient funding for this year's event, and had therefore approached the Parish Council for assistance. It was agreed that this is a valuable event for the community, and therefore RESOLVED to allocate £500 from the Play Support budget as a contribution if needed.

RL.10.27. To approve use of Hopton Green for the Hopton School House fete on 12th June

It was RESOLVED that permission be granted for use of the Green for this event, provided that appropriate risk assessments are carried out, adequate insurance is carried and that the event organisers reinstate any damage caused to the Green.

RL.10.28. To note issues in respect of the Woodfield Park and consider actions, including:

There had continued to be some issues in connection with the park, including aggressive and bullying behaviour by certain children. These were being addressed by the Police in conjunction with the District Council, with one family in particular being in danger of losing the tenancy on their home if they do not bring their children under control. It was felt that things were improving and agreed that the situation should continue to be monitored. Various specific issues had been raised in connection with these problems which were now discussed as follows:

- i) **Signage** – The Police had asked if signage can be provided which gives an upper age limit for use of the park. They were aware that these would not be legally enforceable, but felt that it would assist them in removing older teenagers from the area when they are causing problems. Adjacent residents had also asked for a 'No Alcohol' sign. It had been explained that this would not be legally enforceable without creation of a formal 'Alcohol Free Zone' similar to that recently invoked in Dursley, and which this Council has always opposed for Cam. Committee's view was that it did not wish to have restrictive signs at the Park, as this was contrary to the open access policy it wishes to adopt. It was considered that there should be no problem with people of any age using the equipment, provided that they are not creating problems for others in so doing. As there are already powers available to Police to deal with anti social behaviour and underage drinking, it was not felt that additional signs should be necessary. The signs to be provided by the County Council under the Playbuilder scheme would include contact details for the Parish Council. As the annual safety inspection of the area was due, it was agreed to await any inspector's comments regarding signage before taking any further action.
- ii) **Traffic calming and parking restrictions** – Neighbours had also asked if parking restrictions and/or speed humps could be provided in Hadley Road along the boundary with the park. This was due to fears about children running into the road between parked cars, concerns about traffic speeds and an objection to the additional congestion in the area caused by people from outside Woodfields bringing their children to the park by car. The issue had been raised with County Highways (no response so far), but it would seem unlikely that it will be supported in this residential area. Parking restrictions would also be very difficult to enforce, given the availability of District Council Parking Officers, which would be likely to result in them being widely abused/ignored in any case. It was also felt that removal of parking in the area would be considered to be detrimental to traffic calming. It was agreed that a more effective solution might be the introduction of a 20mph limit around the park, an issue that would be raised with Glos. Highways.
- iii) **Need for any additional seating, litter bins etc** – There had been some increase in litter since the new equipment was installed, although in general this seemed to be reducing somewhat other than on individual occasions when it was clear that drinking sessions etc had been going on (unlikely to be addressed by additional bins). It was noted that the Handyman, when clearing litter from the Park, tends to put this into the bins on site, with the result that they are very full – he would be asked not to do this in future, but to remove collected litter from the site. Costs for provision of a new bin would be checked and the situation would continue to be monitored. Given that there are several seats, and people also sit on the stockading and the mound, additional seats were not considered necessary.
- iv) **Arrangements for formal opening** – It was agreed that this be moved to July, just before the main school holidays. Cllr Andrewartha would be asked to liaise with the school for a suitable date.

RL.10.29. To further consider planting of trees on Parish Council sites as part of the ATC Challenge and in conjunction with Stroud Valleys Project (memorial trees)

The situation regarding the ATC trees would be discussed with them.

It was felt that the far corner of the Jubilee Field would be best for the Memorial trees – this would be further discussed with Stroud Valleys project.

RL.10.30. To receive regular inspection reports for play areas and agree any actions

Some incidents of broken glass, both at Woodfield and the Jubilee Field (a considerable amount of glass involved), and some graffiti (that on the climbstones to be addressed by Neighbourhood Wardens who are trialling a new removal solution). It was agreed that obscene graffiti should be removed or covered.

RL.10.31. To Note any Comments from Users of Jubilee Field and Agree Actions

None received

RL.10.32. To receive inspection reports for open spaces and consider any action

The Handyman would be asked to deal with the hole and stump of wood at Cam Pitch, and with litter at Lark Rise.

RL.10.33. To note and comment of cutting of highway verges

It was noted that the first of the 4 cuts agreed had now been completed. There had been some problems in getting the end of Knapp Lane cut, but this had now finally been achieved. The standard appeared to be generally good.

RL.10.34. To Note any Issues Relating to Allotments

i) To consider any applications for structures and note planning implications

Plot 3 Upthorpe – Application for new shed on site of one previously permitted – it was agreed that permission be given, subject to the shed being of similar dimensions and construction to the previous one. The applicant would also be advised to check the planning situation.

ii) To consider necessary actions to bring the additional site at Ashmead into use , and confirm engagement of Banks Man to oversee digging of trench

Following advice sought after local people reported a possible World War II Home Guard ammunition dump on the site being prepared for allotments at Ashmead, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal trained Banks Man had been engaged to oversee the digging of the trench for the water supply. This had now have been completed and no problems had been reported. The advice was that normal cultivation of the allotment plots should not be an issue, as anything buried would be deeper in the ground that would be achieved by normal digging. The cost of engaging the Banks Man was £300 per day – the engagement had been agreed with the Chair and Vice Chair of Committee and was now formally confirmed.

Once the water supply and taps have been completed, arrangements would need to be made to rotovate the site and mark out the plots etc., after which plots could be offered to those on the waiting list. It was RESOLVED that authority be delegated to the Clerk, on consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, to make the necessary arrangements and engage contractors.

iii) To note and comment on any further allotment issues

Almost all rent payments were now in – the remaining few would be chased. A few tenants had relinquished plots, which had been re-let to those on the waiting list. Site checks were being carried out over the next few days and would be reported shortly

RL.10.35. Any Other Urgent R&L Matters for Information or Referral Only

None raised. There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8.55pm.