

WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT SPARROWS GREEN PAVILION ON THURSDAY 19TH JANUARY 2023 AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Crawford (Chair), Cllr Griffin, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Maggs

Also in attendance: Claudine Feltham, Clerk/RFO, and Guy Milner – Wadhurst Tennis Club

MINUTES

1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Tincombe.
2. To receive declarations of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.
Cllr Anderson declared an interest in respect of agenda item 9.2
3. Public Forum – time limit 15 minutes.
*Guy Milner of Wadhurst Tennis Club spoke in connection with item 7.6 and 7.7 of the agenda. The tennis court surfaces were initially installed in 2000, and were changed in 2012, now entering 12 year of service and around the time we would expect for them to be changed again. There are two options, once is to have the surfaces refurbished/cleaned by a professional company. This may lead to 3 – possibly even 5 years further use. Cost approximately £4,000. The other option is to replace the surface now. Cost is approximately £65-£75,000. The courts are quite worn but the regular brushing by the Caretaker has really helped keep them in the best possible condition. Clay is another option, but higher costs for installation and more regular maintenance required – Guy would need to look into this in more detail. Also – the contract between the tennis club and parish council means that rent goes up in relation to annual rate of inflation, and considering current inflation rates was wondering if this could be considered. Cllrs asked questions around member numbers and membership fees, and also discussed re use of S106 funds towards the costs. Cllr Anderson suggested that if we are not within a tight time limit to use the S106 funds then we should have the surfaces repaired/refurbished, but if need to use the S106 funds sooner, then should have surfaces replaced. Members agreed for the Clerk to find out how much, and how long left for the S106 funds in the first place. **Action:** Clerk to speak with S106 officer to find out how much left to spend at Sparrows Green, and what the time it needs to be spent within. **Action:** Clerk to add to full council agenda 2.2.23 **Note:** The Clerk reminded members that for a contract of this value (replacement surface) then we would need to use Contracts Finder*
4. To consider, and approve if appropriate, which agenda items are sufficiently confidential as to warrant exclusion of members of the press and public under the provisions of the Public Bodies (admissions to meetings) Act 1960.
None
5. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2022.
Resolved: *as proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded by Cllr Anderson and reached unanimous approval, the minutes of 10th November 2022 were approved and signed as a true record.*
6. To determine matters arising from the previous minutes for updating and noting.
7. Items for decision and allocation of resources, if necessary.
7.1 Replacements sewer pumps and control panel at Sparrows Green Pavilion – Clerk.

The Clerk advised members that at present we were only in receipt of one quote (from Moody Sewage). CSG had attended on 17.1.23 but their quote was not yet received. The Clerk had also contacted MPC and requested them to quote but they wanted almost £400 just to quote, so this was declined. A further company had declined to quote.

Action: Clerk to add this to full council agenda for 2.2.23 when we would have received the second quote.

7.2 Adequate undercover area for users of the recreation ground - Cllr Anderson

The recently retired Caretaker advised Cllr Anderson that he had caught 10 teenagers in the disabled toilet, sheltering from the bad weather. Cllr Anderson therefore thought an area for them to shelter maybe a good idea. It would be a good place for the table tennis table to be sited, to protect the players from wind. This could be placed on the current tarmacked area between the play area and the car park.

Idea would be to have a L shaped oak building, open at the front so that parents could keep view of children playing.

Action: Cllr Anderson will look to get a design made, so that then quotes could be obtained.

7.3 For Amenities Committee to decide upon supplier of outside table tennis table – and the location for installation (as linked to agenda item 7.2).

Resolved: Cllr Griffin suggested that the traditional style concrete table tennis table from Playcrete be ordered once the new building (agenda item 7.2) is in place, this was seconded by Cllr Crawford and reached unanimous approval.

7.4 To consider the option of adding a Scooter Park for Sparrows Green Recreation Ground and agreeing a budget – Cllr Griffin

Clerk has contacted three companies asking them to quote (Playcrete, Bendcrete and Playsafe Playgrounds). Playsafe Playgrounds are attending site 25th January to assess and then provide quote. Clerk has chased Playcrete, Bendcrete – but not heard back from them re quoting. **Action:** Clerk to chase for quotes again or contact new companies as will need to consider three quotes.

7.5 To agree for the purchase of a new hand dryer for the outside toilet at Sparrows Green – Clerk/Caretaker

Resolved: as proposed by Cllr Crawford, seconded by Cllr Griffin and reached unanimous approval, Clerk to order a stainless steel hand dryer up to the value of £250. Installation will need to be by qualified electrician when other works are being completed at Pavilion.

Action: Clerk to order

7.5 Jardin d'Aubers

7.5.1 To consider the draft lease from ESFR (if received by the time of the meeting) – Cllr Griffin

Not received by time of the meeting

7.5.2 To approve the increase to £500 for the annual rent for Jardin d'aubers to ESFR – Cllr Griffin

Resolved: members considered the request from ESFR to increase the annual rent from £50 to £500, and were quite surprised at the increase. In view of the significant expenses that the parish council will be paying for knotweed treatment, large amount of essential tree works, professional plans for the improvements of the site, legal fees for the lease, dealing with oil that is in the ponds, the parish council proposed we return with a figure of £200 per annum. **Action:** Clerk to advise ESFR.

7.5.3 To approve for Berry & Lamberts to review the lease from ESFR and set a budget for this.

Resolved: As proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded by Cllr Anderson and reached unanimous approval, members approved a budget of up to £1500 for Berry Lamberts Solicitors to review the ESFR lease for Jardin d'Aubers. **Action:** Clerk to advise ESFR.

- 7.5.4 Jardin d'Aubers professional development plan. To consider the quotes received and decide upon a contractor – Cllr Griffin
*Members considered the options for the contractor for the professional plan. **Resolved:** Cllr proposed for SE Environmental to produce the plan, and for David Eyre to then inspect the plan, this was seconded by Cllr Anderson and reached unanimous approval. Once the lease is in place, we may need surveys carried out of the trees prior to any work being carried out as it may have entered into nesting season.*
- 7.5.5 Forestry Commission re tree works required at Jardin d'Aubers – to confirm works that Gimbles can proceed with, that doesn't require re stocking (once the new lease with ESFR is finalized) – Cllr Griffin.
Cllr Griffin gave an overview of the communications between the Forestry Commission and the parish council, in their last email it confirmed re stocking was not essential as we were trying to get light into the ponds. Work to be carried out as per the last correspondence from Forestry Commission.
Important: the parish council had previously approved for Gimbles to do this work but will require their Risk Assessments and Method Statements prior to work commencing, and these to go to Cllr Anderson to check.
- 7.6 Surface of the tennis courts – Guy Milner
Please refer to agenda item 3
- 7.7 Consideration of tennis court annual rent in relation to inflation – Guy Milner
Members felt that the current arrangements should stand, and maybe the tennis club should consider increasing their membership fees.
- 7.8 Consideration of quotes for groundworks/grass matting between the path and the Jubilee play area and in front of the bench/es by the play area – Cllr Anderson/Cllr Griffin
*Cllr Anderson explained that we had received two quotes, both much higher than our anticipated budget. Clerk confirmed she had written to a local contractor back in November, but not heard back. **Action:** Clerk to forward the November correspondence to Cllr Griffin who will contact them.*
- 7.9 Consideration of quotes for groundworks/grass matting around the new sports wall surface and into the field behind – Griffin
*Cllr Anderson explained that we had received two quotes, both much higher than our anticipated budget. Clerk confirmed she had written to a local contractor back in November, but not heard back. **Action:** Clerk to forward the November correspondence to Cllr Griffin who will contact them.*
- 7.10 Consideration of issues with sports wall surface at Sparrows Green- Cllr Anderson.
*Cllr Anderson explained that there were areas on the new sports wall surface that had hollows underneath. The Clerk had written to Creative Play to request an inspection. **Action:** Clerk to chase Creative Play about when the inspection will take place.*
- 7.11 Commemoration Hall toilets refurbishment – to consider quotes received – Cllr Griffin.
 Members considered the quotes that had been received so far. One came to just short of £20,000 but didn't include the tiles, electrical work or carpentry. Cllr Griffin had sourced another two contractors who were attending and would provide quotes too.
8. Items for discussion
- 8.1 Sussex Clubs for Young People – The Purple Bus – Clerk.
The Clerk advised that whilst the initial quote had come in at approx. £3500 for a 12 week programme, when she went back to the Organisers they suggested that we would need to budget approx. £40K for a more prolonged project to tackle issues. The Clerk does not feel that there are issues that would

*justify such expenditure and suggests this is left for the time being, whilst other projects are taken forward at Sparrows Green. **Resolved:** no further action at this time.*

9. Items for noting only

9.1 To note Amenity Committee, spend to date against budget

Noted

9.2 Update on the Pavilion alterations – Cllr Gadd

Cllr Anderson advised on the works that had been carried out to date. The store rooms were knocked through and had created more space than the disabled toilet – so it was more cost effective not to move the disabled toilet, but to work on the store rooms instead.

The disabled toilet was left in situ, with the addition of a storage cupboard.

The outside toilet was knocked through to the office area. A new door will be installed which will allow light into the office. There will be a screen/reception hatch

A glazed screen will then be put into the internal corridor – this has to be 30-minute fire resistant and will create a lighter and more airy office.

A lot of cupboard space has been created with the Pavilion now.

Full building regulations have been submitted.

The next step is to look at the fire precautions within the Pavilion and make improvements. Cllr Anderson is meeting with Spy Alarms to discuss an upgraded system.

The Clerk commented on how well the builders had worked, and then made it clean, tidy and ready for the next regular Pavilion hirer.

Cllr Crawford thanked Cllr Anderson for all of his time and effort in making this project come to fruition.

10. Any new amenities issues

Clerk advised that she had received a list of Pavilion/Sparrows Green recreation ground issues from the Caretaker, on the day of the meeting, so was too late to add to the agenda. She had gone back to the Caretaker to ask which of the items he could deal with, and which we would need contractors in for.

11. Urgent issues at the discretion of the Chair for noting or inclusion on future agenda.

Meeting closed at 2107 hours