



STOKE GIFFORD

PARISH COUNCIL

Community Hall, Little Stoke Lane, Little Stoke
Bristol, BS34 6HR
Tel: 01454 865202
Email: clerk@stokegifford.org.uk
Web: www.stokegifford.org.uk

STOKE GIFFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION & LEISURE MEETING

Held on Tuesday, 17th January 2023

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE:

In the event of a fire all those present should leave the building calmly, breaking a fire alarm panel on the way out, and assemble on the far side of the car park at the assembly point.

Attendees are reminded to either switch off or make silent their mobile phones.



PRESENT:

Cllrs M Brown [Chair], S Bandcroft, A Shore (standing in for Cllr P Reich) and A Hyde.

In attendance were C Kenyon [Head Groundsman], J Rendell [Parish Clerk], Tim Hewer (LSSSC) and one local resident.

1.	Welcome and apologies for absence.	ACTION
	The Chair, Councillor Mike Brown welcomed all present to the meeting. The Clerk has received apologies from Councillors Ernie Brown and Pauline Reich.	
2.	To receive notification of any member's personal or prejudicial interest.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Councillor Sue Bandcroft advised she is the Chair of Friends of Forty Acres.▪ Councillor Tony Hyde declared he is Secretary of Stoke Gifford Retirement Village, Residents Association, member of the Extra Care Charitable Trust.	
3.	To approve the last Recreation & Leisure minutes dated 18th October 2023.	
	Councillor Tony Hyde proposed acceptance of the minutes of the last Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting, held on 18 th October 2022, seconded by Councillor Sue Bandcroft, carried.	

<p>4.</p>	<p>PUBLIC SESSION [3-5 MINUTES PER PERSON WITH A MAXIMUM OF 15 MINUTES PER SESSION] – two residents were in attendance.</p> <p>A local resident informed members the drainage ditch running through Forty Acres and Royal Park is full of debris and blocked in places, and the parish council or Environmental Agency should be made aware and look into clearing the ditch. This will help with the flooding through the park.</p>	<p>Clerk to contact Environmental agency 18/01/23</p> <p>Ref no: 2124313</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Update from Head Groundsman.</p> <p>Report below from Head Groundsman (Colin Kenyon).</p> <p><u>Parks</u> All the parks look reasonably ok although there are a few areas that need attention, but some of this may have to wait because we are still playing catch up because of the staffing levels in the autumn and start of the winter. Of course, the weather is playing its part we are either frozen or flooded which makes it difficult at times to access areas where we need work.</p> <p><u>Machinery</u> We have finally got the new rotary gang mower and used it a few times before we shut down the grass cutting operations last calendar year all went well. All the large machines have been serviced or are in the process of having the annual service, we are just waiting for the Ransome parkway triple to come back from TH Whites, most of the smaller machinery is being serviced and only the hedge cutting tools to go in once we have finished using them. Following last weeks Full Council meeting the Clerk mentioned the possibility of purchasing a chipper due to South Glos and Sort-It refusing to take garden waste at the tips, although it's a good idea practically we have no storage space left so I think we will have to hire as and when we need to.</p> <p><u>Staff</u> We now have a full contingent which is a big relief. Martyn Rendell has joined us from Bristol Rovers Football Club and has been a great fit into the team and I'm sure his knowledge after spending many years at the Combe Dingle university ground and Bristol Rovers he will be a great asset moving forward. Andy Slade gained his small fell chainsaw licence which is very helpful to the council and has already taken down and cut up some fallen trees over the past few weeks, so the course has paid for itself already.</p> <p><u>Changing rooms</u> The old changing block is looking very tired although the Community Payback Team are painting all internal walls, it can't hide the fact the shower area needs some work and what you seem to class as park toilets are not fit for that purpose and need a total overhaul and the floors in the changing rooms are beginning to break up they need screeding again as last time the job was done it was a very poor quality.</p>	<p>Clerk to look into replacement sinks and toilets.</p>

	<p><u>Trees</u> SGPC continue to manage all smaller trees in-house. Bigger dead trees are ongoing and being prioritized on urgency.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Update on Local Nature Action Plan (SGC)</p> <p>Councillor Sue Bandcroft informed members a plan is now in place from SGPC with support from admin officer Rachel Madden in the parish office and local resident Tim Hewer. Tim is prepared to build the bird and bat boxes and anything else that’s required around the parish! Councillor Sue Bandcroft thanked Rachel and Tim for their time support and energy shown so far and should members approve this work we will submit the plan to SGC asap.</p> <p>This scheme is a positive one for the parish to get involved in with the wider community getting involved creating wildlife corridors. The Bats follow water courses, and the location of the bat boxes would need to be sighted in the appropriate areas.</p> <p>Tim would like to involve the local Scout Group and schools to generate interest in the scheme and possibly create a bat chase.</p> <p>Clerk will devise a link on the parish website informing residents of the scheme and promoting the work behind it. This will include all the necessary contact details.</p> <p>Following discussion members are in favour of supporting the scheme and Councillor Tony Hyde proposed SGPC proceed with the Local Nature Action Plan and we present to SGC, seconded by Councillor Sue Bandcroft, unanimously carried.</p>	<p>Clerk created a link and advert on the parish website.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Replacement Climbing Frame at North Road</p> <p>At the 2022 annual Playground maintenance inspection, the Net Climber at the Trust Ground was deemed  Moderate risk and the Operative was concerned about the structure lasting another winter or two.</p>  <p>I have also highlighted my main concerns with the equipment as it stands, aiming at the rotten timber beams at ground level causing too much movement to the main structure. As we have a duty of care to the users and the fact the item of equipment is a main focal point to the park I feel we should look to replace the item asap, or remove the current climber during the autumn of 2023 due to its continued deterioration especially through the winter months.</p>	

	<p>ROSPA Operatives report:</p> <p><i>“This item of equipment relies on a single post, or a line of posts, for stability and extra care needs to be taken with equipment of this nature to avoid the potential for catastrophic failure - Ensure that regular detailed inspections are undertaken to assess for rot, corrosion and general stability”</i></p> <p>SGPC staff monitor and maintain the equipment on a weekly basis and keep a close eye on this item.</p> <p>At the previous meeting members asked the Clerk to obtain like for like quotes to help SGPC budget any potential replacement works going forward.</p> <p>Quotes received:</p> <p>Pentagon Play £7,640</p> <p>Live Play Educate £9,834</p> <p>Fun & Active £9,900</p> <p>Members asked the Clerk to add to the next available Full Council meeting (February) for a decision to be made.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Any other business relevant to this committee.</p> <p>Green waste bins.</p> <p>Councillor Andrew Shore has highlighted that SGC plan to increase the service charge for collecting green waste per household by 83% from £30.00-£55.00 per annum from April 2023.</p> <p>Members feel this increase will be counterproductive and Councillor Andrew Shore has contacted SGC stating the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>You say that a rise from £30 to £55 will bring the charges in line with neighbouring authorities, however I note Bristol CC charge £32pa.</i> • <i>As Cllr Brian Allinson rightly says, an increase from £30 to £55 (which is up >83%) is simply a ridiculous increase</i> • <i>It may not have been increased for a while, but that is not a reason to levy such big increase now, especially not with household budgets already so squeezed by other things</i> • <i>Whilst seeking to ensure it covers the full costs may sound the right idea, one has to consider all the consequences and wider considerations</i> • <i>With the climate situation, we need to further encourage more biodiversity, which some of the council policies do. But policies need to be joined-up and that means we need to encourage people to have more trees & shrubs etc, which increases the need for some garden waste. That needs to be recognised as a reality and be factored into the green bin charge-setting</i> • <i>We should also be supporting, at this time of high food costs, people who choose to grow vegetables in their gardens. Again, this needs to be supported and encouraged with a low green-bin charge, not by an 83% increase on law-abiding citizens</i> • <i>You need to be viewing this not as a full cost-recovery exercise, but one</i> 	

	<p><i>which seeks only a partial contribution to the green-bin costs, because of the realities and implications from public non-compliance (which mean you won't realise the savings you think you'll make) and the wider benefits from encouraging biodiversity and gardens at home.</i></p> <p>Members are disappointed this increase appears to be confirmed without consultation or any known formal discussion at a SGC meeting.</p> <p>Members asked the Clerk to contact SGC to express the disappointment of the Recreation & Leisure committee.</p>	<p>Clerk contacted SGC. Increase now cancelled.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Date of next meeting.</p> <p>18th April 2023.</p>	

Meeting closed 15:00

Signed: _____

Date: _____

M Brown (Chair)

On behalf of Stoke Gifford Parish Council