



STOKE GIFFORD

PARISH COUNCIL

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STOKE GIFFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION & LEISURE MEETING

Held on Tuesday, 17th October 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:

S Bandcroft, M Brown, T Hyde, K Marsden, P Richardson and A Shore.

Also in attendance were Councillor K Cranney, J Rendell [Parish Clerk], SGPC grounds staff, SGPC Caretaker and three local residents.

1	Welcome and apologies for absence. The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting. Apologies received from Head Groundsman Colin Kenyon.	ACTION
2	To receive notification of any member's personal or prejudicial interest. None.	
3	To approve the last Recreation & Leisure minutes dated 18th July 2023. Councillor Tony Hyde proposed acceptance of the minutes of the last Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting held on 18 th July 2023, seconded by Councillor Sue Bandcroft, proposal carried.	

4	<p>PUBLIC SESSION [3-5 MINUTES PER PERSON WITH A MAXIMUM OF 15 MINUTES PER SESSION] – three residents were in attendance.</p> <p>A local resident asked the Clerk when the Ransome vehicle parts will be delivered. The wheel axle part was ordered last week and is hoped to be delivered and installed in the next couple of weeks. The Grounds staff need the vehicle back on the road asap to be able to cut areas around the Parish. The local resident mentioned the damage caused has happened on other Ransome vehicles and wondered if it was worth contacting TH Whites to inform them of the problem. Clerk will contact TH White.</p>	Clerk informed TH White 20.10.23
5	<p>Update from Head Groundsman.</p> <p>Not present.</p>	
6	<p>Update on Grounds team, Tree maintenance and winter schedule & Caretaker.</p> <p>The Grounds staff informed members the grass cutting is starting to slow down with the change in weather, and hedgerows and overhanging tree branches have been attended to in recent weeks. Staff have also removed a number of small dead trees around the Recreational areas. Councillor Sue Bandcroft acknowledged that we are now able to remove some dead trees in-house without the need for an external contractor and thanked the Parish Council Grounds team for their good work.</p> <p>South Glos Council have been in contact with the Office to say they aim to pick up the Ash Dieback project during 2024.</p> <p>A question was raised from the public whether or not the mulching blades being used on the grass cutting machine were the correct type due to the works involved. Deputy Groundsman Martyn Rendell confirmed they are very adequate for the amount of grass cutting required and various different grounds serviced. Staff have previously used mulching blades at the University Grounds and Bristol Rovers Football Club where the levels of cut are often more elite to a more specialist level.</p> <p>The Ransome machine is off the road and this is causing a concern on certain areas around the Parish that require cutting. The team are using the other two available machines but there are other key areas that will be compromised with the Ransome unavailable. The machine is with the Contractor and parts ordered so it is hoped the machine will be back on the road ASAP.</p> <p>The Clerk has asked the Contractor to hand the damaged wheel and axle back to the Council Staff.</p> <p>Councillors thanked the Grounds staff for their report, and they duly left the meeting.</p>	
7	<p>Update from Youth Provider.</p> <p>Following the recent approval of the new contract agreement between SGPC and its Youth Provision, the Parish Clerk has added an agenda item to the Recreation & Leisure agenda to ensure regular updates and clear links</p>	

	<p>throughout the length of the agreement. A small group of Councillors have volunteered to link on a regular basis and will look to engage with the Youth Providers with the hope to increase on numbers attending and quarterly updates from the Youth Leader throughout the first 12 months.</p> <p>As the new agreement doesn't start until April 2024 the Clerk will ask the Youth Leader to produce a report for December 2023 and March 2024 on its current provision and service provided.</p>	
8	<p>Update on Local Nature Action Plan (SGC).</p> <p>Councillor Sue Bandcroft informed members the restoration works currently taking place at the Forty Acres River are going well with many local volunteers also getting involved. The works should be complete by the end of October 2023, and it is hoped the new tidy clear river will improve the waterflow and wildlife.</p> <p><i>River restoration – autumn 2023.</i></p> <p><i>What's going on in the 40 Acres River? A team of river specialists from the Bristol Avon River Trust (BART) are installing improvements in the Stoke Brook. Along with a team of volunteers they are pinning small brushwood bundles, known as berms, into the river. These add small bends into the river which was straightened and 'tidied up' by humans back in the past before we maybe understood the implications of a tidy river for water flow and wildlife.</i></p> <p><i>In high flow the water rushes through and all plant life, insects and fish eggs get washed away. The berms will allow wildlife to flourish again and will add lots of nooks and crannies for fish and the water insects they feed on to hide away and thrive. The berms will also catch a lot of soil, gravel and small particles that wash in from roads, drains, rooves etc. which can smother a river. The natural woody berms will take about 2 weeks to install and should last forever. The berms in the brook further upstream in Bradley Stoke have been very successful. Advice for landowners north of the motorway have also reduced sediment, chemicals and slurry entering the watercourse.</i></p> <p>Biodiversity Team.</p> <p>StreetCare, South Gloucestershire Council</p>	
9	<p>Update on play equipment at Meade Park confirmed.</p> <p>At the September Full Council meeting SGPC approved the installation of a purpose-built step platform to adjoin to the large slide and aerial runway to be added to Meade Park.</p> <p>It is hoped this work will take place before the end of this calendar year so the new additional play equipment can be enjoyed by the many park users and also insurance claim closed. The original Tower equipment was damaged by arson in June 2023.</p>	

10	<p>Community Litter Picking group. Next get-together Wednesday 13th December.</p> <p>The next Community Litter picking day is being held at Little Stoke Community Hall on Wednesday 13th December, 13:00. All welcome.</p>	
11	<p>Any other business relevant to this committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Brook clearance. <p><i>Discussed agenda item 8.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual grass cutting of Forty Acres and hedgerow cutbacks around the Parish. <p>The Clerk informed members the annual grass and hedge cutting has been taking place the last three weeks by an external contractor. The hedge along Hatchet Road (both sides) Forty Acres and Meade Park remains to be done and is hoped to be completed before the end of October. The Flail topping of the forty acres park (complete area) and hedge cutting around the park is finished.</p> <p>This work includes the cutting of all large hedges and shrub beds in Meade Park, Mike Gallivan fields, Royal Park and cut road hedge along Stoke Lane.</p> <p>Councillor Andrew Shore thanked the Clerk for the update and asked for this report to be included within the Head Groundsman’s report earlier on the agenda in the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request for annual contribution to Ratcliffe Shops for Christmas Lights. <p>The Clerk informed members the Parish Council have contributed to the Christmas lighting in recent years at Ratcliffe Drive, the Kingsway and St Michaels and a budget is approved for 2023/24 of £2k.</p> <p>Although members felt this has been a worthy cause over the years, they are keen to ensure the Management Company have sourced funding support from local businesses and what, if any is being contributed from the Management Company for Christmas lighting.</p> <p>Following discussion, Councillor Penny Richardson proposed the approval of £250 as a contribution from the Parish Council as long as the Management Company match fund, seconded by Councillor Tony Hyde, unanimously carried.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meade Park car park extension. <p>A local resident shared concerns over the project and felt the plans weren’t clear on materials used and the routing of the newly formed pathway. The resident would have liked to have seen some architectural drawings of the proposals and maybe a tarmac surface.</p> <p>Councillor Keiron Marsden reiterated to members that due process was taken, a comprehensive report from Officers along with three quotations from specialist contractors was presented to Members, a full discussion was had, voted on and approved so all in order. Information on the materials used and pathway</p>	

	was included in the work brief and report. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Finance and General-Purpose meetings. As the committee meetings fall quarterly the Clerk will include the minutes for approval at the following Full Council meeting in order to get the minutes approved along with actions more swiftly.	
	Date of next meeting. 16 th January 2024.	

Meeting closed 16:15

Signed: _____

Date: _____

M Brown (Chair)
On behalf of Stoke Gifford Parish Council