



STOKE GIFFORD

PARISH COUNCIL

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STOKE GIFFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION & LEISURE MEETING

Held on Tuesday, 16th April 2024

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 J Rendell [Parish Clerk], SGPC grounds staff, SGPC Caretaker and three local residents.

1	Welcome and apologies for absence.	ACTION
	<p>The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.</p> <p>At the last Council meeting a resident expressed concerns about the storage of some external equipment and questioned the ground staff and their apparent lack of care for council equipment. The resident felt this was a disregard of resident’s council tax on sports equipment and the service repair and maintenance on the machines was all questioned.</p> <p>The Chair was unhappy this was brought to the public meeting and the resident felt the need to take photos and address members at the meeting. Staffing related matters should be addressed by the Clerk and/ or officers, or even brought to the attention of the grounds staff on the day. Processes are in place which would then be followed. Committee members present agreed and</p> <p>No apologies given as all committee members present.</p>	

2	<p>To receive notification of any member’s personal or prejudicial interest.</p> <p>None.</p>	
3	<p>To approve the last Recreation & Leisure minutes dated 16th January 2024.</p> <p>Councillor Andrew Shore proposed acceptance of the minutes of the last Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting held on 16th January 2024, seconded by Councillor Sue Bandcroft, proposal carried.</p>	
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 who is a keen cyclist questioned the alterations made to the car park at Meade Park. The resident asked for the fence to be removed which forms a security barrier between the car park and the public highway (leading onto Hatchett Road). Since the last Recreation & Leisure meeting many Councillors have visited the park and assessed the new car parking arrangements, and see the current set up as safe and accessible for residents/ buggies and bikes. Removing the fence would make the area dangerous and members agreed nothing further is required. SGPC has received lots of positive feedback on the car park extension.</p> <p>The pathway running through Meade Park is not a cycle track.</p> <p>Councillor Keiron Marsden mentioned that although the current arrangements work well, the parish could look at widening the corners of the new path section in the future allowing for more of a turning area when manoeuvring a buggy or a bike. Councillor Keiron Marsden will liaise with the Clerk on this work, obtain a cost and factor into the five year plan.</p>	KM/Clerk.
5	<p>Storage of maintenance equipment.</p> <p>The current storage is at full capacity and the grounds staff have the spiker and tractor bucket stored adjacent to a shipping container. It’s safe and doesn’t cause any problems operationally but the Clerk will look into additional storage options which would mean all storage can be stored safely away on site.</p>	
6	<p>Update from Head Groundsman.</p> <p>The Head Groundsman (Colin Kenyon) reported to members.</p> <p><u>Parks.</u></p> <p>We all know what the weather has been like it's stopped us doing the things we would like to do especially pitch maintenance wise we were just unable to get onto the grass to do this important task and of course due to the mild and wet conditions the grass has kept growing throughout the winter and it's been a struggle to get machinery onto the parks to cut the grass but summer is coming and things will improve and so will the ground conditions.</p>	

Trees.

We have done some works but with the onset of Ash dieback it will only get worse, and we have lots of large ash in and around the parks so a decent budget is necessary to allow for any surprises.

Machinery.

We have had most of the machinery serviced but we have cut back in areas to cut cost, not a good way to go in my opinion you always pay in the end.

Staff.

I would like to thank Martyn and Andy for the support they have given me especially over the last couple of months it's been a difficult time for me, and they have more than stepped up to plate.

One thing I am concerned about is the constant stream of nit picking complaints from certain quarters checking everything we do taking photos of the odd things we are deemed to have done wrong even taking broken pieces of machinery away to prove what?

3G Astro.

Although it seems in reasonable condition it is coming to the end of its expected life span so a plan for replacement may be a good idea something which I have suggested several times over the years, we have a couple of small holes that have appeared that will need repair when they come to repair perhaps, they could assess the area.

Play areas.

There are areas that need attention mainly some infill on the wet pour safety surfaces and bushes to fit on all the swings.

The bigger problems are the older wooden items mainly at the poplar rooms but a couple of items at little stoke park i.e. the post on the zip wires are wood and have been in for over 10 yrs.

We all know the problems at Meade hopefully the work will be carried out soon and we will have the finished product although looking at it I think there maybe issues with maintenance in the future starting with the grass cutting, hopefully not but it does look very steep in places.

The Chair, Councillor Mike Brown thanked Colin and the team for their continued excellent work around the parish, ensuring the upkeep of the recreational facilities in the parish is of a high standard.

7	<p>Update from Grounds Team & Caretaker.</p> <p><u>Grounds Team</u></p> <p>Groundsmen Andy Slade and Martyn Rendell were present and informed members of the work schedule being carried out and various jobs around the Parish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Football pitches are playing well despite the weather, only three weekends cancelled to date despite the rainfall.- Tree and hedge cutting ongoing through winter programme.- Continue to replenish safety play bark at all parks (much needed).- Continue to replace old damaged general waste bins around Parish.- Removal of dead Elm trees and build fencing at Meade Park and Forty Acres.- Continue to verti-drain sports pitches when weather allows.- Planting- Continue to follow the work schedule, daily/ weekly/ monthly duties. <p><u>Caretaker Paul Passaway</u></p> <p>Caretaker Paul Passaway updated members:</p> <p>Jobs completing in addition to normal caretaking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Air boxes outside of main building• New Noticeboard• New Bench Meade Park• Replaced two broken air vents around building.• Covered cleaner for two weeks.• Graffiti removal ongoing.• Painting internally ongoing <p>Jobs that need to be completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outside of office window work• Drainpipe on side of building• Rendering on roof tiles on back of building facing park• Rendering around the main building. This is being viewed by the original contractor and he will come back to me with a price to bring up together.• Painting exterior grey doors on side of building	
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	<p>Just a general statement, if anyone sees something that they feel needs doing then please let me know. I try to cover everything that needs doing but I am only human so I will miss areas that need attention.</p> <p>The Chair, Councillor Mike Brown thanked Paul for the update and for keeping on top of the works at the Community Hall and around the parish.</p> <p>Members noted the flooding of Little Stoke community playing fields and car park this winter was progressively worse than previous years. The Clerk has contacted contractors and the ground works to include new drainage linking to the main storm drains would cost in the region of £5k. Chair of Finance, Councillor Keiron Marsden will liaise with Clerk and add to the five year plan.</p>	<p>KM & Clerk add to five year plan.</p>
8	<p>Update from Youth Provider.</p> <p>The Parish Clerk tabled the last quarterly report from CYN showing an increase in attendances.</p> <p>FACE have devised a Memorandum for members to look through and return with any amendments. FACE are keen to link with the parish (as the end user) ensuring all expectations are met when supplying the youth activities throughout the year. The youth meetings will be taking place twice weekly. The current funding runs out in June 2024 where FACE will officially be taking over the contract. In the meantime, the Clerk will liaise with FACE on ensuring the Memorandum is approved with ongoing regular reports at the Recreation & Leisure committee meetings.</p>	<p>Clerk liaise with FACE.</p>
9	<p>Update on Local Nature Action Plan (SGC).</p> <p>Councillor Sue Bandcroft has been chasing SGC for a maintenance schedule for the newly planted trees on the Forty Acres site. The trees have taken well and are starting to bloom. The grass will continue to grow long in between the trees which is good but we need to see what SGC are planning in terms of periodic ongoing maintenance for this area.</p> <p>The Clerk will arrange for the Forty Acres site to be cut in August/ September by an external contractor.</p>	
10	<p>Update on play equipment at Meade Park confirmed.</p> <p>The Parish Clerk informed members the zip wire installation continues to be delayed due to the wet weather conditions. The ground remains under water and will not take heavy machinery.</p> <p>A date has been booked for Monday 22nd April and as long as the site dries out and firms up enough to get heavy machinery in then we should have the works completed by Friday 26th April.</p> <p>SGPC staff will be working closely with the contractor ensuring the works run smoothly and we all look forward to getting the site back and seeing the zip wire</p>	

	<p>in operation.</p> <p>Councillor Mike Brown is keen for SGPC to look into additional items of play equipment to add to the area to further enhance the play equipment provided for the site. Meade Park is extremely popular with families, and we will investigate the options of play once the zip wire job is complete.</p>	<p>Clerk/ KM to work on 5 year plan.</p>
11	<p>SGC initiative, Greenprint Live Labs 2.</p> <p>The SGC innovation project is looking at how grass cuttings can be used to generate energy and reduce South Gloucestershire Council’s carbon emissions is to be rolled out to more communities. The project, called Greenprint, is part of ADEPT Live Labs 2: Decarbonising Local Roads in the UK, which is a three-year, UK-wide £30 million programme funded by the Department for Transport that aims to decarbonise the local highway network. Greenprint is investigating potential new ways grass cuttings could be used to produce biomethane fuel for vehicles and a road surfacing material called biochar. As part of the scheme, the council is using new machinery to cut and collect grass from highway verges and other green spaces, rather than leaving it on the ground. The project aims to mix the collected grass with the council’s food waste and take it to an energy-from-waste plant where the mixture will be subject to a process called anaerobic digestion.</p> <p>The Clerk informed members there are areas maintained by SGC within the parish of Stoke Gifford where this is being rolled out.</p>	
12	<p>Community Litter Picking group. Next get-together Wednesday 17th April 2024.</p> <p>The next Community Litter picking day is being held at Little Stoke Community Hall on Wednesday 17th April, 13:00. This will be weather dependent and updated on the Parish website. All welcome.</p>	
13	<p>Any other business relevant to this committee.</p> <p><u>Redundant Stokes Youth Building</u></p> <p>Following the recent public consultation carried out by SGC (December 2023), Councillor Neel Das Gupta has been chasing an update on the building and grounds. Its an eye-sore and in need of some attention.</p>	
16	<p>Date of next meeting.</p> <p>16th July 2024.</p>	

Meeting closed 15:40

Signed: _____

Date: _____

M Brown (Chair)

On behalf of Stoke Gifford Parish Council