

NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE OF THE ABOVE-NAMED PARISH HELD ON TUESDAY, 11th DECEMBER, 2012 AT THE NEWICK SPORTS PAVILION, KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD, ALLINGTON ROAD, NEWICK COMMENCING AT 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Mrs C. Wickens, (Vice-Chairman for this committee), Mrs. DJ Sprackling, and. Mrs. M. Thew, and the Clerks (Mrs. Linda M. Farmer and Mrs S Berry).
5 members of the public were present.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. C. Armitage (Chairman for this Cttee) and Cllr. Mrs. J. Smerdon.
2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** There were no Declarations of Interest.
3. **Questions from the Public:** There were no questions from the public.
4. **Action taken in consultation with the Chairman and Vice of Playing Fields Cttee**
Repairs to the Multiplay Area had been carried out.
Repairs to the skateboard ramp hardstanding had been carried out.
Pressure washing of the childrens' play area to remove moss had been started and was due to be finished off shortly.
Graffiti had been removed from the picnic bench on the King George V Playing Field.
5. **Play Areas**
 - (a) Play area and "Street Course" - Monthly reports by LDC. The past three months had shown no work required.
 - (b) It was reported that the safety surface in the play area was showing signs of breaking up and that it needed to be repaired. It was recommended that Lindsey Baker be asked to carry out this work in the spring.
 - (c) It was reported that the Village Handy Person had slipped on the Multiplay wooden steps whilst carrying out a safety inspection. He had recommended to the Clerk that the steps should be roughened to make them less slippery, however, the Clerk (Linda Farmer) pointed out that the inspection should be a visual inspection only and that the steps were not intended for adults. No action to be taken.
6. **Report by Cllr. Mrs. Wickens relating to the Sports Pavilion Cttee Meeting 6th November 2012**
The Minutes of this meeting, which had been circulated, were noted.
Cllr. Mrs Wickens reported that the Sports Pavilion Committee members had been unhappy that the Parish Council had refused permission for them to erect an additional storage shed adjacent to the Sports Pavilion. A letter from the Sports Pavilion Management Committee stating that they were formulating a more detailed plan to be submitted to the Parish Council was noted.

A request from the Sports Pavilion Management Committee for a contribution towards the cost of painting the exterior of the Pavilion building was considered. It was pointed out that the Parish Council had already given a grant of £380 towards the running of the Sports Pavilion. Following further discussion, it was proposed that the Parish Council should pay the cost of the materials (£775.00) and that this should be taken from the Sports Pavilion reserve fund. It was agreed that this proposal should be put forward to the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting on 8th January 2013.

7. Street Course / Skateboarding Area

Ed Hele, Principal Environmental Health Officer (LDC) attended the meeting and described the noise monitoring that he had undertaken at the skateboarding area in August 2012. He had concluded that, whilst the noise he had witnessed did not constitute a statutory nuisance, there were other issues, particularly that of bad language from users of the skateboarding area and youths gathering near to the skateboarding area late at night, which needed to be addressed. He considered that the existing facility was nearing the end of its useful life and that the Parish Council should explore the revenue streams available for providing a new facility in an alternative location.

Cllr. Mrs Wickens stated that the Parish Council acknowledged the issues raised by local residents in connection with the skateboarding area. She stated that the Council had plans to modify the equipment in order to reduce the sound emitted when it was in use, and that progress was being made with users via the newly formed skateboard user group. She pointed out that relocation of the skateboarding area was not a short term solution, although it would be considered along with the provision of other sporting and recreational facilities as part of the Neighbourhood Plan on which the Parish Council is currently working. It was reported that Downs Energy had offered to donate 8 to 10 rolls of Rockwool to fill the voids under the equipment and that Lyndsey Baker had quoted to close the voids and also to fill it. It was decided that Downs Energy's offer should be gratefully accepted but that the Clerk should check whether the Rockwool was suitable for such a purpose as it may be exposed to a certain extent to the elements and could quickly lose its density. The quotation from Lyndsey Baker was to be accepted minus the filling.

Ed Hele stated that he had advised local residents to report incidents of antisocial behavior to the Police. Mr Balloch, a local resident who was present at the meeting, stated he had made numerous reports to the Police but that there had been no response. Ed Hele advised that the Police were using a new Antisocial Behaviour Risk Matrix which took into account the impact of antisocial behavior on neighbouring families. He advised that if residents felt in immediate danger they should contact the Police on 999, alternatively a report could be made by telephoning the Police non-emergency contact number 101.

It was agreed that Mr and Mrs Balloch would be informed of the date and time of the next Skateboard Users Group meeting as they had indicated that they would like to attend this meeting and contribute to it.

It was noted that further repair work was required to the surface of the skateboard ramp hardstanding surface. A quotation from the Village Handy Person for carrying out this work had been circulated and was approved.

8. **Opening and locking of the Play Area – KGVPF** – Mr and Mrs Pioli, residents of Allington Place who were present at the meeting confirmed that they and other residents were happy to continue locking up the Play Area each evening and that with notice they would also be able to open up on occasions if the person doing this was not available. The Clerk (Sue Berry) advised that she would contact the person who currently helps by unlocking the Play Area when out walking his dog and confirm that he would be happy to continue doing so. She agreed that she would feed back to Mr and Mrs Pioli. Mr and Mrs Pioli were thanked for organising the rota of local residents.

9. **CCTV** – Quotations for replacing the existing faulty CCTV Hard Drive had been circulated, however, it was felt by those committee members present that they needed an explanation as to the difference between the two specifications. Cllr. Mrs Sprackling agreed to meet with the contractor (PBI Audio Visual) to discuss this further.

10. **Gate Leading from KGVPF to Church Road** – Cllr. Mrs Sprackling reported her concern about the fact that the pedestrian gate leading from the playing field on to Church Road is often left open and that this was potentially hazardous for young children. She also reported that there was also a small gap in the fence beside the gate which a small child could get through and on to the road. She asked for consideration to be given to putting a self-closing device on the gate and for the gap in the fence to be closed. The Clerk (Linda Farmer) advised that there had never been any kind of self-closing device on the gate and that in the past ROSPA had advised against this because of the risk that children might get their hands caught. Discussion followed and it was suggested that signs could be put on the gate asking for it to be kept closed (if these were not already in place). It was also agreed that Lindsey Baker should be asked to provide a quote for closing the gap in the fence with chestnut paling.

11. **Post and Rail Fencing** – The Clerk (Linda Farmer) reported that there was a rail missing from the ranch fencing in the KGVPF near to the Scout Hut and that the post needed securing. Clerk (Sue Berry) was asked to contact Lindsey Baker to ask him to do this work. Linda Farmer also reported that she had found a heavy wooden post with gate hooks attached. It was not known where this had come from.

12. **Items for the next agenda** – Any items brought forward from this meeting.

Meeting Closed at 8.00 p.m.

Signed: Dated: