

## NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council Playing Fields Committee held at the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2014 at 6.30 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors: C. Armitage, Mrs J. Smerdon, Mrs C. Wickens, and Mrs M. Thew.  
**In Attendance:** Mrs. S. Berry (Clerk)  
Nine members of the public were present

- 1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman for this committee** – Following the resignation of Cllr. Mrs Spracking, it was necessary to elect a new chairman for the committee. Cllr. Armitage was nominated and seconded as Chairman and this was unanimously agreed. Cllr. Mrs Thew was nominated and seconded as Vice Chairman and this was unanimously agreed. It was noted that the Terms of Reference for the Playing Fields Committee stated that the committee would comprise of five or more members and, in view of this, a request was made that the issue of coopting an additional committee member should be on the agenda for the Parish Council meeting to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> September.
- 2. Apologies for Absence and to consider whether to approve reasons given** – No apologies had been received.
- 3. Disclosure by Members of personal interest in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct** – No disclosures were made.
- 4. Questions or Statements by Members of the Public** –

Mr Thomas spoke regarding agenda items 5 and 6. He stated that he considered that the noise problems from the skate park could be alleviated by filling the void underneath the quarter pipes at either end of the skate park. He also stated that, in his opinion, the fence surrounding the play area had been badly constructed and a large number of the clips were not fitted correctly which intensified the reverberation noise when balls were kicked against the fence. The Clerk was asked to get Lewes District Council to check this on their next inspection of the play equipment.

Mrs Rodgers had sent an email which had been forwarded to committee members in advance of the meeting. She stated that she had spoken to some of the young people using the recreation ground to find out what equipment they felt should be provided. She reported that they had told her that the existing goal on the multi-games/basketball area was not suitable and that they would like a large all weather area for ball games and for the nets to be left on at least one of the football goals. It was agreed that the committee would look into this further.

Mrs Pioli made some comments based on a government report from 2006 (Making Space for Play, Dept for Children, Schools and Families). She stated that the report highlighted that the best play spaces were those where children would choose to play naturally and where they felt safe to play without criticism from others. She also mentioned that provision of play equipment often tended to favour boys rather than girls and raised the matter of safe access to play areas for children who were not accompanied by an adult. Mrs Pioli also asked for reassurance that the proposed outdoor table tennis table would not be located behind the houses in Allington Place.

*A member of the public joined the meeting at 6.42 p.m.*

- 5. Skateboard Area** – An email from PCSO Sally-Ann Reed had been circulated prior to the meeting and it was noted that there had been two incidents of anti-social behaviour around the skate park reported to the Police in the past three months. Cllr. Armitage briefly outlined the background to the Parish Council's decision not to relocate the skate park in the short term. He advised that there had been problems with finding a suitable alternative site and that this still had to be resolved. He proposed that research should be carried out as to the feasibility of installing acoustic fencing around the skate park. This was agreed and the Clerk was asked to contact

Jackson's Fencing to arrange for a site visit. It was also agreed that skate park users should be approached in an effort to resurrect the skate park user group.

- 6. Play Equipment upgrade project** – Following the resignation of Cllr. Mrs Sprackling the play equipment upgrade project had been on hold. Cllr. Mrs Smerdon gave some background to the project and what had been done so far. The Clerk was asked to contact Chris Bibb from Lewes District Council, who had been supporting the project sub committee, in order to arrange a meeting. Cllr. Armitage agreed to join the sub committee. It was agreed that the suggestion of improving the football goal facilities should be pursued. It was agreed that the committee would recommend to the Parish Council that the proposal to install an outdoor table tennis table should not be pursued. It was agreed to recommend that the proposal to install adult fitness equipment should be considered further.

*Eight members of the public left the meeting at 7.20 p.m*

- 7. Repair and maintenance issues** – It was noted that the wet pour surface in the play area had been repaired and the litter bin in the play area had been replaced. The monthly play area inspection report from Lewes District Council for July 2014 was considered. It was agreed that the rotting timber on the multiplay should be replaced and that Barcombe Landscapes should be asked to reinstate the soil level around the skate ramp. It was agreed that a new wet pour repair kit should be purchased but that a graffiti repair kit should not be purchased at the present time.
- 8. Consideration of report following inspection of playing fields** – It was noted that Cllr. Armitage had carried out an inspection of the playing fields on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2014, copies of his report were circulated at the meeting and action points agreed.

*Cllr. Mrs Wickens left the meeting at 7.40 p.m.*

- 9. Car parking area adjacent to Church Road entrance to King George V Playing Field** – It was noted that residents of Church Road were regularly using the area in front of the pedestrian gate to the King George V Playing Field for parking their vehicles. It was suggested that action should be taken to prevent this as it restricted the view for pedestrians crossing Church Road to reach the pavement on the other side. After discussion it was agreed not to pursue this at the present time.
- 10. Items for the next agenda** – Update on Play Equipment Upgrade Project

**The Meeting Closed at 7.50 p.m.**

**Signed.....Dated.....**