

## 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 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2014 at 7.18 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors: G. Parker, Mrs J. Smerdon, Mrs M. Thew (Vice Chairman for this committee), and Mrs C. Wickens.  
**In Attendance:** Mrs. S. Berry (Clerk)  
Seven members of the public were present

- 1. Apologies for Absence and to consider whether to approve reasons given –** Apologies had been received from Cllr. Armitage (conflicting engagement). It was resolved to approve the reason for this absence.
- 2. 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.
- 3. Questions or Statements by Members of the Public –**

Mr Shorter read a statement in which he referred to problems of antisocial behaviour associated with the skate park and the Parish Council's response to complaints made by residents. He made reference to recent legislation which he understood could ultimately lead to the forced removal of the skate park from its current location if the antisocial behaviour persisted. Mr Shorter made the point that if a decision was made to install acoustic fencing at the skate park, and the facility was subsequently removed, the cost of the fencing might be seen by parishioners to be a waste of public money.

- 4. Play Equipment upgrade project –** It was reported that the consultation morning held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2014 had been well attended and that further consultation had been carried out with Newick Pre-School, the Music For Fun group, and the Tiddler and Toddler group. It was noted that there had also been a display at the Newick School Christmas Fair on 6<sup>th</sup> December, but it had not been possible to collect any feedback at this event. The feedback forms and voting slips had been analysed, showing that design number 4 was the clear favourite. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with Chris Bibb at Lewes District Council for early in the new year in order to progress the project.

It was noted that Mrs Caffyn had contacted the Parish Council to ask that the bench that she had donated in memory of her late daughter should remain in the play area and that it should be refurbished to the same standard as the other benches belonging to the Parish Council. It was agreed that every effort should be made to ensure that the bench was incorporated into the new design and that it should be refurbished.

- 5. Skate Park –** It was reported that Jackson Fencing had recommended that it would be advisable to obtain a report from a sound engineer before asking for a quotation for acoustic fencing. However, the sound engineer who had been recommended had not responded to the Clerk's attempts to contact him so no progress had been made. It was agreed that contact should be made with Ed Hele at Lewes District Council to ask for his recommendations and for details of the new legislation referred to by Mr Shorter (see agenda item 3 above).

It was reported that there had been no response to the article in the Parish Council newsletter inviting those interested in being involved in a Skate Park User Group to get in touch.

- 6. Repair and maintenance issues –** The monthly play area inspection report from Lewes District Council for December 2014 was considered. It was agreed that the Clerk should be authorised to arrange for missing rivets on the Spine Jump to be replaced as soon as possible.

It was noted that the following repairs had been carried out since the last meeting:-  
Replacement of rotting timbers on Rainbow Arch Bridge,  
Rehanging of cricket nets and repainting of the score box,  
Removal of the scrummage machine (the tyres had not yet been removed but they had been cleared of litter) and the checking of a floodlight post that appeared to be wobbly.

It was noted that the Football Club had rejected the request to leave a goal net in place on a permanent basis as, in the past, this had led to damaged nets and damage to the surface of the goal mouth

Two quotations for the painting of thermoplastic markings on the speed humps in the recreation ground car park had been received. The Clerk explained that the quotes had been given on the basis that the contractor would carry out work for the Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Committee at the same time in an effort to reduce costs for both parties. It was agreed to accept the quotation supplied by Central Linemarkings Ltd.

An email from Lewes District Council regarding the rattling of the wire fence surrounding the play area had been circulated in advance. It was agreed that quotations for tightening/replacing the clips and securing the panels should be sought.

7. **Consideration of request from parishioner for additional litter bin to be provided on King George V Playing Field** – Copies of correspondence with a parishioner highlighting the problem of litter near to the benches on the southern side of the King George V Playing Field had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was agreed that the sports clubs should be asked, via the Sports Pavilion Management Committee, to ensure that any litter left behind after their fixtures was cleared up, and that the situation would be monitored. Details of the cost of supplying and maintaining a new litter bin had been circulated, and it was agreed not to proceed with this purchase.

8. **Items for the next agenda** – Antisocial behaviour associated with the skate park

**The Meeting Closed at 7.56 p.m.**

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