

Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 13th November 2023

Present Jane Hartley (Chair of Amenities), Narinder Ryatt, Matt Walker, Pat Sutlieff, Rob Jones and Lee Cripps

Apologies Isabelle Bray

Absent

23/705 OPEN FORUM – No residents present.

23/706 To approve the Minutes of Amenities Meeting held on Monday 9th October 2023 at the Charvil Village Hall – The minutes were approved by the committee and signed by Cllr Hartley as Chair of Amenities.

23/707 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND ANY WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE ASSISTANT CLERK – None.

23/708 Review the Usage Reports for the Facilities.

The numbers are as expected. The Assistant Clerk advised that there have been three new regular bookings in the pavilion since reopening but that one of the old regular bookings has ceased.

23/709 Consider Park Inspection Weekly Reports

These have been received and nothing new to report.

Other items for consideration

23/710 To hear an update regarding the proposals for the redevelopment of the play park at East Park Farm.

Cllr Sutlieff briefed the committee on the latest quotes that had been received from two companies recommended by Ricky Josey of Wokingham Borough Council. The highest being in the region of £68,400 incl. VAT – this is for the supply and delivery of the equipment, it is expected that it would cost the same again for installation. Cllr Ryatt is exploring the costs of the groundworks. Rough estimate for the entire project would be in the region of £250,000. Cllr Sutlieff and members of the working group to visit other local parks that have been redeveloped and gain further information. Cllr Sutlieff and the Clerk will explore possible grants and funding and confirm whether planning permission is required.

23/711 To hear a complaint regarding dog waste on the sports pitches at East Park Farm.

The Committee were informed that the football teams have to constantly remove dog waste from the pitches prior to play and that last weekend players witnessed dogs fouling on the area of the goal mouth, they have asked the Council to consider signage to discourage dogs being allowed without a lead on the field and for the person responsible for the dog(s) to pick up after them. The Councillors were disappointed to hear dog fouling was still an issue and would like social media posts issued to request

people pick up after their dogs. There is already signage on the fields in various places. The Assistant Clerk was asked to contact the dog warden and ask if they could schedule a visit to the area to offer some advice and also to check the Keep Britain Tidy website to see if there are any helpful hints and tips on controlling dog waste. It was noted that many other sports grounds have banned dogs completely because of the health and safety risks to sports groups. Fencing off the pitches would be a significant investment but may need to be explored as part of future plans if all other options fail.

23/712 To review the proposed facilities budget for 2024/25.

The reviewed the proposed figures provided by the Clerk and the main cause of the deficit appears to be due to the maintenance required on both buildings. It was assumed income was based on current hiring rates. Some of the required expenditure could be covered by future increases in both hiring rates and precept and possible use of reserve funds if necessary. Cllr Hartley proposed further items to be considered in the final budget – extra treatment to the cricket area of the field, weed killing and over seeding to improve the ground as it is currently very poor (cost approximately £250), the provision of hand driers in the pavilion toilets (cost in the region of £1,500) which would provide a saving in respect of blockages and the purchase of hand towels in the future, soap dispensers to be changed out to all the same type – Assistant Clerk asked to obtain rough pricing. It was also noted that the existing fan heaters in the main hall of the pavilion be upgraded as and when they fail, to ones similar to those recently installed in the changing rooms as part of the pavilion redevelopment.

The meeting closed at 8:48pm