

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Freeman Seconded: Cllr Berriman
That a projector is not purchased.
Votes in favour: 3 Votes against: 1

6.3 To review the results of trial 'hirers packs'

At the November meeting Cllrs Berriman and Whittaker had agreed to develop, cost and trial a complimentary welcome pack. Cllr Berriman reported that the trial had not been set up.

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Freeman Seconded: Cllr Pryce **Motion Carried**
That the trial packs are not a viable proposal.
Votes in favour: 4 Votes against: 0 Abstentions: 0

6.4 To consider damage caused by indoor football

Since damage to the plasterboard in the sports hall had been repaired, similar damage had occurred again in the same place. The Centre Manager had personally checked that the appropriate indoor football was being used. It was suggested that the area be repaired with plywood/perspex to protect the wall.

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Pryce Seconded: Cllr Freeman **Motion Carried**
That the Maintenance Man be asked to consider a viable repair solution.
That the Centre Manager ask the indoor football club if it would like to contribute toward the repair cost.
Votes in favour: unanimous

The Centre Manager retired from the meeting.

7. PARKS & AMENITIES

7.1 To progress the identified projects for 2014/15 & 2015/16:

Members referred to the updated Earmarked Reserves summary.

a) Concrete slab (alternative staff entrance into Greenwood Park)

Confirmation had been received regarding the strength of the concrete pad. Members considered the two options of either galvanised off-the-peg gates or powder coated green bespoke installed gates.

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Freeman Seconded: Cllr Pryce **Motion Carried**
That the quotation for the concrete pad for £2616 and the powder coated gates for £2521 be accepted.
Votes in favour: unanimous

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Freeman Seconded: Cllr Berriman **Motion Carried**
That £2k for park signs and picnic benches be re-allocated to this project.
Votes in favour: unanimous

b) Mayflower Road fencing

The Head Groundsman reported that the self-closing play area gate would be purchased in the new financial year.

c) Woodbury Field picnic tables

The Head Groundsman reported that the picnic bench sponsored by the Bricket Wood Residents' Association was ready for installation. He recommended that the new bench be monitored before the other picnic bench is installed.

d) Picnic bench repairs

Project complete and remaining funds re-allocated (reference item 7.1a).

e) Park signs

Project on hold until the timber matures. Funds re-allocated (reference item 7.1a).

f) Parallel bars for Greenwood Park and new/replacement equipment for Park Street
Considered under item 7.7.

g) Rolling replacement programme 2015/16
Pending budget approval.

7.2 To receive an update on the Green Flag award

Cllr Pryce reported that applications for both Greenwood Park and Park Street Recreation Ground had been submitted, together with the management plans and maintenance schedules. The management plans would become living documents updated throughout the year. Cllr Pryce thanked Cllr Bell, Gary Field, the Clerk and Administration Officer for their assistance.

7.3 To receive an update on the sponsored recycling bins

Invitations to sponsor had been sent out to all business users of the Centres and hirers of the outdoor facilities and grounds. All non-business users had been advised of the programme. Invitations would be sent to local business in the next round.

7.4 To set the cricket hire rates for 2015

Suggested options 1 to 3 were considered. Expenditure in the previous year, excluding labour, had exceeded income. Advice from the English Cricket Board Regional Advisor was that the hire rates should be brought in line with the standard provided.

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Pryce Seconded: Cllr Freeman **Motion Carried**
That a 15% increment be applied to pitch hire (rounded to the nearest whole figure) and 0% be applied to the changing room hire.
Votes in favour: unanimous

7.5 To set the football hire rates for 2015/16

Options presented were considered.

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Berriman Seconded: Cllr Pryce **Motion Carried**
That a 15% increment be applied to pitch hire (rounded to the nearest whole figure) and 0% be applied to the changing room hire.
Votes in favour: unanimous

7.6 To receive the annual play inspection & life expectancy reports

It was noted that the life expectancy report was a guideline to be considered in conjunction with the experienced hands-on advice of the Head Groundsman. The Head Groundsman reported that the aerial runway was reaching the end of its life as it was showing signs of substantial wear. The wooden bridge had also undergone temporary repair to replace rotten boards. The majority of items in the inspection were rated a low risk. The rubber surfacing had perished at North Close play area and it was recommended that the climber apparatus be removed and all the rubber surfacing replaced with grass matting at an estimated cost of £4k using the general repairs & maintenance budget in the new financial year. The Groundsman said that it was hoped that free topsoil could be sourced to keep costs down.

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Freeman Seconded: Cllr Bell **Motion Carried**
That the proposed play area maintenance programme for 2015 be approved including the removal of equipment and repairs for North Close.
Votes in favour: unanimous

7.7 To consider the proposed forward priority plan for the parish play areas

a) Parish play areas

It was recommended that the Toddler multi-play unit be removed at Park Street and replaced with a self-propelled spinning carousel for 3 to 10 year olds. The Grounds team would be able to install the carousel.

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Freeman Seconded: Cllr Berriman **Motion Carried**
That the toddler multi-play unit be removed and replaced with the multi-spinner carousel working within the budget available of £4843.
Votes in favour: unanimous

b) Greenwood Park play area

Members referred to the draft plans. Option 1 showed that the cost of replacing worn items, together with a couple of new small items of equipment, would be circa £52k (before discount) and would cater for approx. 47 children. A Member was concerned that the existing space net was going to be removed. The Grounds men explained that the space net was almost 10 years old and the rope was frayed in places requiring a complete new net as it could not be repaired in sections. The cost of the new net was almost the same as replacing the equipment. Option 2 showed that the cost of a large net climber and turning bars would be circa £60k (before discount) and would cater for about 110 children providing play for a varied ages and abilities. The net climber could be expanded over time to include more activities. The modern rope netting from Kompan could be repaired in-house in small sections. It was proposed that sand be used as the safety surfacing medium to provide another play dimension. The Groundsman said that it might be possible to get another £10k discount on the book price. A similar large piece of equipment had been installed at Moneyhole Playing Fields in Welwyn Garden City and it was agreed that Members visit this site before the next meeting in July. It was further agreed that the Grounds men obtain a formal quotation for the discounted price as well as the cost of employing the services of a fund raising consultant through Kompan.

7.8 To receive a report on possible funding streams

Cllrs Pryce and Freeman, together with the Clerk, met with the Officer at the District Council to make enquiries about access to s106 funds from development with the parish. The District ward Councillors have the final say on the allocation of s106 funds. Officers advised that there was currently only £7.5k available toward leisure. It was agreed that a project plan be prepared to apply for s106 funding. The Clerk outlined an achievable funding scenario for the Greenwood Park project without a loan. The Clerk was asked to seek information about whether a loan could be used for play equipment and what it would cost to repay.

A summary of research to date of grant funding opportunities was circulated for reference.

7.9 To consider the proposed hire of Greenwood Park Pavilion

With reference to a recent enquiry the Committee was asked to agree an hourly hire rate for the cricket club room in the Pavilion.

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Pryce Seconded: Cllr Freeman **Motion Carried**
That an hourly rate of £5.25 be approved for the cricket club room.
Votes in favour: unanimous

7.10 To consider a request for woodchip at Woodbury Field

Members considered the request from the Bricket Wood Residents' Association for a woodchip path to the typhoon and woodchip in front of the park seats. The Head Groundsman explained that a woodchip path would require timber edging and that on boggy ground the woodchip would rot. At Woodbury Field a tarmac path would be the best option. A crushed concrete path would cost around £4k to £5k. The plan was to lay recycled paving slabs beneath the new picnic bench.

7.11 To consider a request for a path to the public court

Members considered the request from the Tennis club for a paved path between the footpath and public court. The Head Groundsman said that it would not be practical as it would be damaged by the tractors and the fair. Members were not in favour of the proposal because of the aesthetics. It was suggested that the problem with mud on the court could be helped with some extra paving laid near the gate and a foot scraper.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.05 pm.

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NOTE: These minutes are to be considered as 'draft' until the Committee has approved them.

