

ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

Bricket Wood, Chiswell Green and Park Street

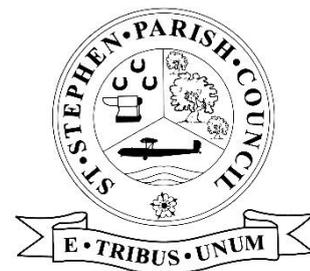
THE PARISH CENTRE STATION ROAD BRICKET WOOD

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Present

Cllr John Bell

Cllr Dorothy Kerry

Cllr Bill Pryce (Chair)

Cllr Becky Spriggs

Also present:

Isabel Crozier - Assistant Clerk, (taking minutes), Sue Hake – Clerk

2 Members of the Public

Minutes of the **Leisure Committee meeting** held on **Thursday 05 December 2019** at **7.30am**
Venue: **The Parish Centre, Station Road, Bricket Wood, AL2 3PJ**

1920/LC/031 To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Wendy Berriman and Cllr Eileen Whittaker. Apologies also received from the Head Groundsman

1920/LC/032 Declarations of interest and dispensations

- a) To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda
None.
- b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests; and
None.
- c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate
None.

1920/LC/033 To approve the minutes of the meeting 12 September 2019

APPROVED: *Proposed Cllr Bell, seconded Cllr Pryce, unanimous*

1920/LC/034 Public Participation

Two members of the public, Suzanne Dolan and Gary Sims spoke about the proposals for Woodbury Field. They said:

We need to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by 50% over the next 10 years in order to keep warming to 1.5°C. Our recreational spaces need to engage and prepare children for a life ahead that embraces sustainable transport. We owe it to our young people to provide a space that they can learn to love cycling and active living, in a safe and fun environment. This could be done using a pumptrack for bikes, skaters and scooters. Kids cycle in the park, then to the park, then to the shop and to school. Then we create a culture that begins to tackle the toxic air pollution and parking problems outside Mount Pleasant Lane School.

Currently there are no other local spaces that provide free leisure facilities for children over 8. This facility would bridge that gap. We would also look to provide some equipment specifically for girls over the age of 8. Statistically, teenage girls fall out of all forms of activity at secondary school which significantly impacts on their levels of activity and negatively impacts on their health.

The exact design of the leisure park would be achieved through community consultation, as part of the wider sustainability strategy for the Parish Council, along with community climate change education.

Please give us the opportunity to investigate options for a leisure facility that includes children over 7 that are not currently catered for in the parish and also embraces solutions to sustainable living that are imperative for this young generation, if we are to limit the worst impacts of climate change.

1920/LC/035 Play area enhancement proposals – to consider approach from residents to look at options for creating a multi-use space which would appeal to a diverse age range and engage children in cycling, skating and scooting

RESOLVED: *Proposed Cllr Pryce, seconded Cllr Kerry, unanimous*

that a focus group of potential users and interested parties is set up and a proposal developed for facilities to be funded through Section 106.

ACTION: Suzanne Dolan and Gary Sims to work with the Assistant Clerk to set up a focus group and develop proposals. Keep District and Parish Cllrs informed.

1920/LC/036 To receive a report on cricket pitch maintenance and consider future hire arrangements

The Council considered the finding of the report that the overall cost of maintenance, including staff time, far outweighs the income generated from cricket bookings. It was generally felt that there should be some level of subsidy of cricket but that measures can be taken to reduce the amount spent on maintenance and that these measures should be discussed with the cricket teams. Additional admin time is spent crediting the clubs for unplayed games

RESOLVED: *Proposed Cllr Pryce, seconded Cllr Kerry, unanimous*

-that the hire rates are increased by 4% for 2020,

-that the Head Groundsman reduce the weekend cutting, in consultation with the clubs, and depending on weather conditions.

-that the Council alter the invoicing arrangement to increase efficiency

ACTION: Assistant Clerk and Groundsman to share the findings of the report and start a dialogue with the cricket teams

ACTION: similar cost analysis to be completed for other Council facilities, eg play areas, allotments, football pitches

1920/LC/037 To agree the BBQ and Hog Roast Policy (draft circulated)

The Council received a draft copy of the BBQ and Hog Roast Policy for use with function hirers wanting to have an event catered in this way.

RESOLVED: *Proposed Cllr Bell, seconded Cllr Kerry, unanimous*

that the BBQ and Hog Roast Policy be adopted

1920/LC/038 To consider the fence adjacent to Footpath 19 (report circulated)

In 2004 the Council agreed to replace the fence alongside Footpath 19 using grant funding in order to maintain a mud-free route to school between Hawfield Gardens and Park Street Lane. The Council entered into an agreement with the landowner whereby they would maintain the fence until such time as they decided they no longer wanted the fence and would remove the fence. The post and rail fence is now falling into the field at one end and requires repair.

RESOLVED: *Proposed Cllr Bell, seconded Cllr Bell, unanimous*

that the fence be repaired at a cost of up to £300 and that the landowner be advised that the Council will not continue to maintain the fence in future.

ACTION: Assistant Clerk to enquire if there is any Parish Paths Grant funding available and to write to the landowner with the decision.

1920/LC/039 To consider re-tendering the Ice Cream concession for 2020/21 (2019 agreement circulated)

The Council felt it was appropriate to retender the ice cream concession as in previous years with the addition of wording about the presence of a Café concession onsite which may also be selling ice cream.

1920/LC/040 To consider reducing the number of Parish Council Noticeboards (list and map circulated)

There were mixed opinions amongst councillors about the reduction of noticeboards. It was agreed that the residents associations should be asked and a decision made following this feedback. It was also mentioned that there was a well-used community noticeboard inside St Lukes Hall that should be added to the Council poster round and that it could be wise to move noticeboards to new locations in the new Lancaster Gate, Hanstead Park and Harperbury Park developments.

ACTION: Assistant Clerk to canvas the residents associations and feedback to the next meeting

1920/LC/041 To receive an update and consider and agree actions for Greenwood Park

a) To consider the production of a new management plan

ACTION: Assistant Clerk to produce a management plan to cover the next five years for Greenwood Park and North Close, including undertaking consultation on a proposed Community Orchard at North Close Open Space.

b) To consider funding for phase 2 bin replacement

ACTION: The Clerk to approach Cllr Sue Featherstone for locality funding towards the bins in 2020/21 and to budget for the rest in the next financial year

c) Play area update – agree a new position for shade sail

Cllrs Pryce and Berriman met the Head Groundsman, Groundsman and Clerk on site to look at the position of the shade sail. It was decided to retain the posts in the same position and install a new sail, if possible positioned higher, permeable to water and with a strained wire to prevent it sagging.

d) Café

i) to receive an update on the café and feedback from the consultation

Very little correspondence was received following a call for people to get in touch in the recent newsletter. We had a couple of people with interest in a future tender and a couple of people who commented that they hadn't been aware of the café.

ii) to agree a specification for future provision and timetable for tender process

RESOLVED: *Proposed Cllr Pryce, seconded Cllr Kerry, unanimous* that the draft specification, circulated in advance of the meeting, be used as a basis for inviting tenders for a café concession at Greenwood Park.

e) To consider purchasing more chairs

An approach from the Colne Valley and Verulam U3As offering to split the cost of 30 new chairs (10 replacements for broken ones and 20 new chairs) with the Council has been received.

RESOLVED: *Proposed Cllr Pryce, seconded Cllr Kerry, unanimous* that the Council purchase 30 chairs (at a maximum cost of £25 per chair), and accept the contribution of 33% from each of the U3As.

ACTION: Centres Manager to negotiate the removal of the U3A book trolley in order to accommodate the additional trolley of 20 chairs. Groundsman to construct a new trolley for the chairs.

1920/LC/042 To receive an update on Park Street Recreation Ground

a) Devolvement of assets

The Clerk had been pursuing SADC Estates team but currently no progress made.

b) Play area update

The bus climbing frame is rotting under the ground and needs replacing. The surface underneath is woodchip and gets thrown out regularly and this needs replacing with matting

1920/LC/043 To receive an update on Woodbury Field

a) Devolvement of assets – as above, see item 1920/LC/042 a)

1920/LC/044 To receive a report for North Close

a) To consider progressing a Community Orchard Project

ACTION: the Assistant Clerk to consult local community, including Park Street Residents Association, through the management planning process to gauge if there is an interest in having a community orchard.

1920/LC/045 To receive a report on Cherry Hill

a) Fence alongside footpath 39

The work to remove the current chainlink fence and associated vegetation is likely to cost £5,000. The Rights of Way Service no longer have capital funding available this year however, the Council agreed that the project lends itself well to a S106 funding stream for green infrastructure. Grounds staff received some feedback whilst they were on site from a homeowner which backs onto the path. He said that in his opinion the residents would welcome the footpath being open to the field, ie the fence being removed and not replaced.

b) Play area update

Nothing to report

1920/LC/046 To receive a report on Mayflower Road

a) Dog control

Assistant Clerk enquired with SADC the potential for having a Public Spaces Protection Order to deal with dog control in our open spaces. SADC explained the need to have good written evidence of instances involving out of control dogs and felt that this was too difficult to obtain.

1920/LC/047 To consider priorities for 2020/21 budget setting

the following priorities were put forward for consideration in the budget setting process:

Phase 2 bin replacement at GWP and replacement bins for PSR

Chairs and tables for the lounge at GPCC

A replacement embankment slide at GWP

Continuation of the green bollard along the field side of the GWP drive

Lids for water troughs at all sites

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm

Chairman

Date