



STOKE GIFFORD

PARISH COUNCIL

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STOKE GIFFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION & LEISURE MEETING

Held on Tuesday, 16th July 2024

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE:

In the event of a fire all those present should leave the building calmly, breaking a fire alarm panel on the way out, and assemble on the far side of the car park at the assembly point.

Attendees are reminded to either switch off or make silent their mobile phones.

PRESENT:

S Bandcroft, M Brown, T Hyde, K Marsden, P Richardson and A Shore.

Also in attendance were J Rendell [Parish Clerk], SGPC Head Groundsman, representatives from Balfour Beatty and FACE youth provision, and five local residents.

1	Welcome and apologies for absence. Councillor Mike Brown welcomed all present to the meeting. The Clerk informed members that apologies were received from Grounds staff Andy Slade and Martyn Rendell and Caretaker Paul Passaway.	ACTION
2	To elect a Chair of the Recreational & Leisure Committee. Councillor Andrew Shore proposed Councillor Mike Brown to remain as Chair for the following year, with no seconder. Councillor Keiron Marsden proposed Councillor Penny Richardson be elected as Chair of the Recreation & Leisure committee for 2024/25, seconded by Councillor Sue Bandcroft, a vote was taken, 3 for, 2 against, proposal carried. Councillor Penny Richardson thanked members and took the Chair. The Clerk had invited representatives from Balfour Beatty to attend the meeting and inform members of works planned to be undertaken on a landslide near the	

	<p>railway adjacent to the Forty Acres recreational field. Councillor Penny Richardson invited the representatives to address members before proceeding with the youth report from FACE.</p> <p>The Youth report will follow Balfour Beatty later on the agenda.</p>	
	<p>Representation from Balfour Beatty on planned works to landslide.</p> <p><i>Councillor Tony Hyde arrived at this point.</i></p> <p>Christian Hunter informed members Balfour Beatty will be carrying out repair works to a landslide near the railway track and will need to create an access roadway through the Forty Acres site from the Hatchet Road entrance. Contractors have met with the Head Groundsman and Clerk on site and will be closing off a section of the site creating a diversion for park users/ pedestrians during the period of works.</p> <p>Works are estimated to take 15-20 weeks.</p> <p>All Health & Safety polices will be adhered to whilst on site including the vehicles getting on and off the site from Hatchet Road.</p> <p>Site compounds will be created within the Forty Acres fields for welfare and for machinery.</p> <p>Members acknowledged this work has to be done and highlighted the area is classed as an attenuation pond and is extremely wet during the winter months.</p> <p>As part of linking with the local community Christian is keen to replace the entrance gate, widen the pathway with good materials in order to be kept on site following the works, leaving SGPC with a newer/ wider pathway, and also potentially the clearance of the culvert that's currently blocked with debris.</p> <p>Councillors are keen to arrange a site visit with Christian to run through the plans on site and assess the impact it's going to have on regular park users.</p> <p>Clerk has arranged a site meeting for 30th July 2024, 13:30. All members are welcome.</p>	
3	<p>To receive notification of any member's personal or prejudicial interest.</p> <p>None.</p>	
4	<p>To approve the last Recreation & Leisure minutes dated 16th April 2024.</p> <p>Councillor Sue Bandcroft proposed acceptance of the minutes of the last Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting held on 16th April 2024, seconded by Councillor Keiron Marsden, proposal carried.</p> <p>Councillor Keiron Marsden asked the Clerk to add the following to the 5 year plan: To widen the dimension of the pathway corners on stone to dust path adjacent to the car park at Meade Park.</p>	<p>Clerk to add on 5 year plan.</p>
5	<p>PUBLIC SESSION [3-5 MINUTES PER PERSON WITH A MAXIMUM OF 15 MINUTES PER SESSION] – five residents were in attendance.</p>	

	<p>A resident raised questions about some of the Groundsman’s equipment stored outside and the Head Groundsman’s report from the last meeting. The Chair, Councillor Penny Richardson asked the resident to stay behind after the meeting along with the Clerk and these questions can be addressed.</p> <p>A resident has noticed the stone path leading to the BMX track has many loose stones spilling onto the grass either side, and this would cause issues to the mowers when the team are cutting the grassed areas. The Parish Clerk informed that this is a well used pathway leading to the BMX entrance and he will look into a more permanent solution.</p> <p>A resident who visits Meade Park regularly would like to see the inner hedging attended to as it is currently overgrown and spilling onto the pathway, reducing the path width. The Head Groundsman confirmed this work is on the schedule and he will be undertaking this hedge work in the next two weeks.</p> <p>A discussion was had about the newly installed Zip Wire. The soil surrounding the new equipment has some stones protruding through the surface and it doesn’t help when staff are looking to maintain the area with machinery. The frame of the zip wire appears close to the slope and children could trip or fall if entering the new equipment via the top of the mound. Ground Staff could look at installing wildflower beds around the perimeter of the slope.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed the grassed areas surrounding the new equipment are due to be maintained week commencing 22nd July.</p> <p>The Clerk has been in contact with Playdale regarding the poor service received towards the latter end of the project.</p> <p>Due to the duration of the works Playdale installed an additional £2,500 worth of top dressing to the surrounding areas of the equipment and has agreed with the Clerk to waive the additional costs due to the issues raised. The Grounds team are now maintaining the area which is being well used and received by many residents of all ages.</p> <p>The Clerk will discuss with Playdale the current height of the seat and if necessary, reduce the height to make it more accessible for younger children.</p>	<p>Clerk to link with contractor.</p> <p>Colin Kenyon.</p>
6	<p>Additional play equipment at Meade Park.</p> <p>Members are keen to investigate the possibility of installing additional play space to Meade Park following the fire damage to the popular play tower. Members (and public) had various ideas and feel the area would benefit from additional play space to include a climbing net which was popular on the tower accommodating a wider age range of younger residents. An exercise trail could also be an option built within the wooded area.</p> <p>Councillor Penny Richardson is keen to liaise with the council’s new youth provider (FACE) and for them to consult local young people and find out what they would like to see added to the facilities already on site, Dawn Young (FACE) is very keen to interact with the young people and will link with Councillor Richardson and the Clerk to gauge public opinion.</p>	<p>Clerk to add item to following agendas.</p>

	<p>Updates will be provided at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Update from Head Groundsman.</p> <p>The Head Groundsman (Colin Kenyon) reported to members.</p> <p>Parks</p> <p><i>In the main the parks are in fairly good order although they could all do with a bit of a tidy up, strimming, hedge cutting etc. We are getting around gradually but due to sickness and holidays it's been a slow process but we will get there.</i></p> <p>Play areas</p> <p><i>Always ongoing repairs. Some of the wet pour needs attention and when staff and time allows play bark where needed, and also some renovation around the slider in Meade Park.</i></p> <p>Trees</p> <p><i>We all know what's coming so the Council just have to deal with the situation as best they can, as staff we are limited to what we can cut down so it will be mainly contractor work.</i></p> <p>Sports</p> <p><i>We had our annual Stoke Lane football tournament in June which is attended by at least one thousand people over the weekend. Although it creates work for the grounds team with marking etc. it went very well with no litter or damage left to the grounds - a good event for the local area.</i></p> <p><i>The football season kicks off for us in three weeks so we have to prepare for that with eleven pitches of different sizes to mark out plus the two rugby pitches.</i></p> <p>Staff</p> <p><i>Hopefully Andy and Martyn are settled and ok in the job. I wouldn't want to see either of them leave it would be a tough job finding replacements, they are a great support to me, and the council are fortunate to have them here.</i></p> <p>Machinery</p> <p><i>We have had no major issues so far just normal repairs.</i></p> <p>A resident informed members three of the newly planted trees along Winterbourne Road are dead. The Clerk will inform SGC.</p>	<p>Clerk to inform SGC.</p>

8	<p>Update from Grounds Team & Caretaker</p> <p>None.</p>	
9	<p>Update from Youth Provider.</p> <p><i>Discussed earlier on the agenda.</i></p> <p>Dawn Young introduced herself to members and set out the plans Face are currently undertaking in supplying the youth provision within the parish.</p> <p>FACE took over from CYN on 1st July and have tuded some staff across.</p> <p>FACE hold youth sessions on a Monday evening at the Scout Hut, and also a detached youth session on a Thursday.</p> <p>FACE are confident in sourcing additional funding from a local Housing Association to help support the summer programme.</p> <p>FACE have access to a new minibus called Doris which is an outreach youth vehicle, and the plan is to be able to reach all areas of the parish, building relations with young people. The minibus will be used at sporadic times across the year.</p> <p>Councillor Sue Bandcroft explained to Dawn that the new Brooklands estate continues to grow, and it would be a great idea to add the area onto the detached youth work plan. Dawn will take this away and work closely with members going forward.</p> <p>Dawn/ FACE will continue to update members at this committee.</p>	
10	<p>Update on Local Nature Action Plan (SGC).</p> <p>Councillor Sue Bandcroft informed members the wildflowers are starting to blossom in Forty Acres and are a lovely-looking feature in the area.</p> <p>The Chair, Councillor Penny Richardson has noticed other areas within the parish where wildflowers are growing nicely which is excellent for the wildlife as well as the general outlook.</p>	
11	<p>Refreshments policy for hirers and external events.</p> <p>The Clerk informed members the office staff continue to actively seek room hirers and event teams to utilise the community hall and playing fields as best as possible working on income budgets and using the facilities available.</p> <p>On occasion hirers can be local community groups that will offer refreshments to parents for a small fee, the local Football Club will hold food stalls for tournaments and the funfair will have food and drink vans.</p> <p>The Community Café continues to run and flourish at the Community Hall and relations are good between Café and the SGPC office. Questions have been raised recently (from the Café to office) regarding the sale of refreshments on site and the Café owner doesn't believe the parish should allow this to happen.</p> <p>The office are very mindful we have a community café on site and have</p>	

	<p>supported the business over the years and many of the hall hirers frequent the café before, during and after meetings. When approached it is acknowledged when booking the rooms there is a community café on site and not advised to advertise the sale of refreshments.</p> <p>The current policy is that smaller groups can offer parents teas and coffees (and not advertise) which helps keep the groups afloat, the resident football club run the refreshments bars at the annual tournament and the funfair have refreshments vans whilst on site. Councillor Andrew Shore believes this seems fair and no need for any alterations to the policy.</p> <p>The Clerk and office staff will continue with the current policy.</p>	
12	<p>SGC initiative, Greenprint Live Labs 2.</p> <p>After a lot of unrest amongst residents through June and July where recreational spaces were left unmowed and become very unkempt, SGC have since caught up with the Greenprint programme. The Clerk who was receiving the complaints has linked closely with SGC and confirmed the operatives were nearly three weeks delayed in cutting the green spaces in the Parish. SGC have a further two cuts under this project this calendar year. Once the cuts are complete SGC will be monitoring the feedback and potentially remove some areas that are better kept on the standard cutting programme, and submit a recommendation to the Parish Council, the Clerk will then present to Council.</p> <p>SGC Greenprint project:</p> <p><i>The SGC innovation project is looking at how grass cuttings can be used to generate energy and reduce South Gloucestershire Council's carbon emissions and it is to be rolled out to more communities. The project, called Greenprint, is part of ADEPT Live Labs 2: Decarbonising Local Roads in the UK, which is a three-year, UK-wide £30 million programme funded by the Department for Transport that aims to decarbonise the local highway network. Greenprint is investigating potential new ways grass cuttings could be used to produce biomethane fuel for vehicles and a road surfacing material called biochar. As part of the scheme, the council is using new machinery to cut and collect grass from highway verges and other green spaces, rather than leaving it on the ground. The project aims to mix the collected grass with the council's food waste and take it to an energy-from-waste plant where the mixture will be subject to a process called anaerobic digestion.</i></p>	

13	<p>Community Litter Picking group. Next get-together Wednesday 7th August 2024.</p> <p>The next Community Litter picking day is being held at Little Stoke Community Hall on Wednesday 7th August, 13:00. This will be weather dependent and updated on the Parish website. All welcome.</p>	
14	<p>Any other business relevant to this committee.</p> <p>Councillor Andrew Shore is pleased to have the option of a site visit with representatives from Balfour Beatty and welcomes a similar scenario with other works taking place within the parish, as well as potential equipment upgrades as it helps confirm the job specification with members as well as officers.</p> <p>A Local resident is concerned about the condition of the changing facilities and would like to see the doors to the plant room locked shut. The resident has raised this at previous meetings, feels that’s nothing being recorded, and the work is being neglected.</p> <p>The Clerk thanked the resident for raising this with the committee and reassured members that various works continue to take place on the building: upgrading lighting, emergency lighting and structural works to the building have all been completed this summer. Mandatory gas and electrical checks are up-to-date and passed and works to internal doors and flooring are pending once quotes are obtained.</p> <p>A local resident and previous Chair of Stoke Gifford Parish Council is disappointed the parish council appears to be making decisions from a political perspective and is unhappy to see Councillor Mike Brown no longer Chair of the Recreation & Leisure Committee.</p>	
15	<p>Date of next meeting.</p> <p>15th October 2024.</p>	

Meeting closed 15:45

Signed: _____

Date: _____

P Richardson (Chair)

On behalf of Stoke Gifford Parish Council