



New Alresford Town Council

Alresford Recreation Centre, The Avenue, Alresford, Hants, SO24 9EP

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Minutes of the Recreation and Environment Committee held at Alresford Recreation Centre, The Avenue, Alresford, SO24 9EP, on Tuesday 29 January 2019 commencing at 7.30pm

Name	Present	Apologies	Absent
Cllr Sprott (Chair)	✓		
Cllr Byrne		✓	
Cllr Gordon-Smith	✓		
Cllr B Jeffs	✓		
Cllr Witchard		✓	
Cllr Power	✓		
Mr Cleeve (ATRC)	✓		
Mr Lewis (Tennis Club)		✓	
Mr Peters (ATYFC)		✓	
Mr Walshe (ATFC)		✓	

ALSO PRESENT: Members of the public and Deputy Clerk.

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

R19/001 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Byrne, Cllr Witchard, Mr Lewis, Mr Peters and Mr Walshe – Apologies accepted
(Power used: Local Government Act 1972 s85)

R19/002 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary items to receive.

R19/003 TO APPROVE DISPENSATIONS FOR DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary items to approve.

R19/004 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT TO RAISE QUESTIONS ON ISSUES NOT INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA. EACH PERSON WISHING TO SPEAK WILL BE ALLOWED A MAXIMUM OF THREE MINUTES.

A new allotment holder at Spring Gardens, attended Committee to raise constructive ideas on helping to reduce the waiting list.

He advised the Committee that the Allotments Act 1908 section 23 puts the authority under a duty to provide sufficient allotments and the Allotments Act 1950 recommends at least 4 acres per 1000 of population.

He suggested:

a. Canvassing current plot holders to see if anyone is struggling to manage their plot and may consider donating to the next person on the waiting list.

- b. Capturing data of each plot holder to help inform NATC on suitable plot size and management of existing plots.
- c. Exploring with landowners such as Tichborne Estate, the possibility of leasing land to open new allotment sites.
- d. Make additional allotments part of planning gain.
- e. Consider the Garden Share scheme, to link people with unused areas of garden, with people on the waiting list.
- f. Review the rules to consider changing rule 5 to “only one plot per family can be leased while a waiting list exists’.

He also advised that he would have benefited from information with the contact details for the Allotment Society committee, and information on other site details such as location of communal sheds etc.

The allotment holder was advised that Committee would consider his points and that the development at Sun Lane does include a request for allotments. He was also informed that Agenda item R19/015 is ‘To discuss potential for new allotment provision’.

A resident attended to discuss his ideas for a padel court in Alresford. He will raise the funds necessary for a court, if a site could be found in Alresford. He would hope for a return on his investment, but also wants to provide an opportunity for people to enjoy this sport which is increasing in popularity.

Committee advised the resident that they are open minded to his suggestion and asked him to draw up a proposal as to how the project might progress.

R19/005 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 23RD OCTOBER 2018

A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of accepting the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 23rd October 2018.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2018 be accepted.

(Power used: Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 Para 41 (1))

R19/006 SPORTS CLUB UPDATES

The football club gave the following written update:

ATFC stand at 7th in the league and are in the Southampton Senior Cup semi-final, and the North Hants senior cup. Injuries are still an issue, but this is improving gradually.

Ball catching nets have received approval and will be erected after the season has ended. The Committee was unclear what the reference to 'approval' referred to as the football club had previously been asked for details of the dimensions of the nets as full Council approval would be required prior to any installation.

The grading inspection is awaiting the fire risk report which the football club believes was carried out by NATC recently. All other grading queries have been resolved.

The entrance wall is being upgraded, but there remains a question as to whether the walls needs reducing in size.

A proposal on training lighting is being put together for Council. At present there remain queries around wattage that are being resolved.

The Youth Football Club gave the following update:

Everything is going well in youth football with some very positive results in certain ages groups. The club are still filling the holes in Stratton Bates every week.

Alresford Rugby Club gave the following update:

The new coaches are working out well, however injuries remain an issue.

The main problem is training. The RFU have noted that ARFC are the only club without training lights. Mr Cleeve informed Committee that they have drawn up a design for a temporary lighting rig for the lower field. This would be run by a silent generator, with downward facing lights and the rig only brought out when needed. The lighting would also benefit Perins teams. The rig would require a storage container on site.

Mr Cleeve advised he would like to do a lighting demonstration for the whole Council.

Mr Cleeve was advised to find out from Winchester City Council whether he would require planning permission for a storage container, and separately, whether he would require planning permission for the lights. He was also advised to speak to the landowner.

Mr Cleeve was asked to return to Committee with a proposal, once he has received pre-planning advice from WCC. The proposal to Committee will include a plan of the storage facility, and a lighting demonstration at which all Council members would be welcome.

R19/007 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING NOT CONSIDERED ON THE AGENDA ELSEWHERE

Moving forward, Sarah Johnson, Deputy Clerk, will be clerk for the Recreation and Environment Committee. Frances Simpson, Committee Clerk was thanked by the Committee for her commitment to the Recreation and Environment Committee over the years and the hard work she has put in.

The Chair of Council raised the matter of new tree planting in the town, following the loss of diseased trees in Memorial Gardens.

A former resident who has previously contacted the Council about planting a memorial tree in Memorial Garden, has re-contacted the Council. The Committee discussed whether Memorial Gardens is an appropriate location, and whether Sun Hill Recreation Ground might be suitable.

Recommendation 1: The tree surgeon who has undertaken work at Memorial Gardens is asked for his opinion on planting a new tree in this open space and to propose other landscaping work that might benefit the gardens, and what tree might be appropriate.

Recommendation 2: Planting a memorial tree is put on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Recreation and Environment Committee on 12th March 2019.

R19/008 CLERKS UPDATE

The Clerk informed the Committee that Pete Bridges has completed the work following the October walkabout of the parks. The tree guards have been removed, however a location to store these needs to be found.

The tree work in Memorial Gardens has been undertaken. There is a final section of tree that still needs removing when the weather is more suitable.

Following a recent inspection by Wickstead, the company have agreed that the zip wire at Sun Hill Recreation Ground needs adjustment. This will be done as a priority.

Playground inspections will be undertaken in early February.

The Playing Pitch Strategy is not open for review by WCC at present. The Clerk will recirculate the document around the sports clubs, to ensure their comments are incorporated when the document is next reviewed.

The Memorandum of Understanding for the Fair is underway.

Recommendation 1: The Clerk will see if there is space at Stratton Bates pavilion to store the tree guards.

Recommendation 2: Wickstead will be asked as to suitability of mounds at the zipwire.

Recommendation 3: The Clerk will recirculate the playing pitch strategy around the sports clubs.

Recommendation 3: The Clerk will contact the Fair to see whether they are planning on visiting Stratton Bates this year. Previous minutes will be checked to see if a contribution from the Fair for damage to the ground, has been sought.

R19/009 TO APPROVE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee were advised of suggested changes to the Terms of Reference. A discussion was raised around ownership of The Soke gardens.

Recommendation 1: The Clerk and Chair will investigate ownership of The Soke through the Land registry.

A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of accepting the Terms of Reference following the amendments and confirmation of land ownership of The Soke.

RESOLVED: That the Terms of Reference are accepted following amendments and confirmation of land ownership at The Soke.

R19/010 TO CONSIDER PLAY EQUIPMENT AND BENCH REPAIRS AND AGREE TO REPAIR ACTION

The Committee were advised that the play equipment needs lubricating. Pete Bridges can undertake this work. The benches would benefit from an annual preserve, which will cost £40 a bench. The roundabout at Stratton Bates play area needs repairing. The Clerk was asked if the lynch gate at Memorial Gardens is being cleaned.

Recommendation 1: The Clerk will contact the roundabout manufacturer for advice on repairs.

Recommendation 2: The Clerk will contact Pete Bridges to ask about cleaning the lych gate.

A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of asking Pete Bridges to undertake lubrication of the play equipment and an annual preservation of the benches.

RESOLVED: That the play equipment will be lubricated, and an annual preserve of benches undertaken.

R19/11 TO REVIEW OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION REGARDING BALL EQUIPMENT AT SUNHILL RECREATION GROUND AND CONSIDER ACTION

The committee were informed of responses in favour of keeping the ball shooter at Sun Hill Recreation Ground, received via email and social media.

The Committee discussed a design competition to improve the look of the ball shooter.

Recommendation 1: Committee will approach Sun Hill Junior School in relation to a competition to redesign the look of the ball shooter at Sun Hill Recreation Ground

R19/012 TO DISCUSS CAR PARK AT STRATTON BATES RECREATION GROUND

The Hampshire County Council tree survey advised Council that car parking on tree roots at Stratton Bates recreation ground near the car park, is compacting the soil and will damage the root structure of the trees.

Car parking at Stratton Bates is inadequate, especially during football training and matches.

The Committee discussed restorative work of the ground, reinforcement on the ground that would be sufficient for temporary parking, and a root protection zone.

Recommendation 1: Cllr Gordon-Smith will liaise with the Deputy Clerk about getting quotes for this work.

R19/013 TO DISCUSS STRATTON BATES RECREATION GROUND PROJECT

The Committee were advised that the Clerk had spoken with the Open Spaces Officer from Winchester City Council. The model used for new playground installation at WCC is:

- widespread consultation with residents and schools etc. using questionnaires and workshops
- drawing up a brief with a budget which is sent to six playground companies for them to come up with a design
- evaluating the designs, choosing between 2 and 4 of these, then consulting with residents, schools etc. as to their preferred design

The Open Spaces Officer has kindly sent through the consultation material that WCC use.

The Committee were advised that the new playground at Winnall was £120,000.

CLlr Gordon-Smith has undertaken research at local playgrounds and drawn up a sketch which involves keeping some existing equipment, as well as tree/hedge planting.

The Committee were advised that a resident with extensive experience of playground design has been in touch to offer her advice and experience in relation to The Theory of Play.

Recommendation 1: To invite the resident to an informal meeting with the Committee

Recommendation 2: The Chair and Clerk to discuss consultation

R19/014 TO APPROVE QUOTE FOR ALLOTMENT WORK

The Committee were informed that three companies had been approached for quoting for work at the allotments to clear the ditch and banks, reduce the hedge line to 7 foot along the roadside and to reduce the willow trees to 7 foot. RP Gardening were the only company who provided a quote. RP Gardening quoted £5135 to complete the work.

A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of accepting the quote from RP Gardening for work at the allotments.

RESOLVED: That the quote from RP Gardening is accepted for work at the allotments.

R19/015 TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL FOR NEW ALLOTMENT PROVISION

The Chair of the Committee had contacted a local landowner who had indicated that an area of approximately one acre may be available a relatively short distance from the town boundary. The Committee discussed if this could be suitable for allotment provision, and whether there is a maximum distance that an allotment site can be from a Parish.

Recommendation 1: The Clerk will investigate if allotment sites can be located outside of a Parish, and if there is a maximum distance.

A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of the Committee continuing dialogue with the owner of the land in relation to new allotment provision.

RESOLVED: That the committee continue dialogue with the owner of the land in relation to new allotment provision.

R19/016 TO DECIDE PRIORITY FOOTPATHS FOR HCC RIGHTS OF WAY VEGETATION PRIORITY CUTTING LIST 2019 AND DISCUSS PROGRAMME SCHEDULE FOR THE LENGTHSMAN

The committee were advised of a request from HCC for five footpaths for the Vegetation Priority List. The suggestions are footpaths 9,10,11 (and 12), 3 and 2. There is no guarantee that the paths will be cut.

The lengthsman will visit on 4 March 2019 and will undertake path clearance work through Beech Road, Nursery Road, Lime Road, past Chiltern Court, to Ellingham Close from Jacklyn's Lane and from Station Approach to the bridge on Sun Lane. He will also be asked to clean the speed signs on Winchester Road and The Avenue.

19/017 TO CONSIDER ACTION IN RELATION TO LITTER FROM A PROPERTY IN BAKELAND GARDENS

This item was removed from the agenda

R19/018 TO CONFIRM RELOCATION OF DOG FOUL BIN AT SPRING GARDENS

Committee agreed to the relocation of the dog foul bin to beside the entrance to the allotments, subject to any comments from the Allotment Society. The Chair has approached the Allotment Society and is waiting for a response. The decision to relocate the bin was at the request of a resident and it is understood that the resident will pay for the work.

R19/019 TO CONSIDER CLEANING LITTER AND DOG FOUL BINS.

Committee discussed the need for cleaning a number of litter and dog foul bins.

Recommendation 1: The Clerk will approach David Ingram in Environmental Services at Winchester City Council to determine if this is a WCC responsibility.

R19/020 TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR TOWN LITTERPICK DAY ON 27 APRIL 2019

The Committee agreed to put an advert for the event in the March Forum. The event will begin at 10:00 and refreshments will be provided at the ARC. Winchester City Council will be asked to deliver 60 litter pickers, bags and high vis. 60 sets of gloves will be bought for use by the pickers. WCC will collect the rubbish. NATC need to let WCC know where/when to do this.

The Committee discussed encouraging residents to clean up their own street/patch.

Recommendation 1: An advert will be placed in the Forum

Recommendation 2: The Deputy Clerk will ask WCC to deliver bags and litter pickers, and source gloves.

A proposal was received, seconded and voted in spending £30 on refreshments.

RESOLVED: Up to £30 will be spent on refreshments for the Litter pick event.

R19/021 TO DISCUSS SLR LOCATIONS AND USE OF DATA TO JUSTIFY LOCATIONS

The committee agreed to install an SLR on Sun Lane, near the entrance with Nursery Road. It will be facing downhill.

Recommendation 1: The Clerk will confirm the exact location and add to the SLR programme.

Recommendation 2: The Clerk will write to the resident who has been in touch, to confirm the new location.

R19/022 TO CONSIDER DIMENSIONS OF THE SKATEPARK AND APPROVE ACTION

The Committee were advised that the dimensions of a possible extension to the site are 6 x 15 meters.

A resident representing several skateboarders at the skatepark, has approached the Committee with a sketch. This would see the bench and grind rail moved/removed, and a large space for run-off. Committee discussed the possible need for a retaining wall, drainage and enough space for paths.

Recommendation 1: Councillor Gordon-Smith will put together a cost estimate and small brief.

R19/023 LIAISON WITH PERINS REFERRED TO THE RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE FROM FULL COUNCIL

Committee agreed that the Chair will arrange meeting with Perins on a regular basis.

Recommendation 1: The Chair will approach Perins to arrange regular meetings

R19/024 TO CONSIDER COMMITTEE WEBSITE PAGE

Committee discussed the need for updating this page. The Chair advised Committee he is beginning to put text together.

Recommendation 1: The Clerk will ensure out of date information on the page is removed.

Recommendation 2: Information about the Lengthsman and the Litter pick day will go on the page.

R19/025 TO DISCUSS PERINS PEN RECYCLING SCHEME

Committee were advised that Perins have contacted the Council about their pen recycling scheme. Committee agreed to support the scheme. The Chair has approached Oakleaf Stationery about them being a collection point for old pens for all residents in the town. Oakleaf Stationery have kindly agreed to this and will liaise directly with the organiser at Perins.

Recommendation 1: The office will collect their old pens and drop them off at Oakleaf Stationery.

R19/026 TO NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AS TUESDAY 12TH MARCH 2019

The meeting closed at 2140 hours.