



# 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 12 March 2019 commencing at 7.30pm**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Members of the public, Marcia Phillibert-Town Clerk and Sarah Johnson - Deputy Clerk.

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

## **R19/027 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

## **R19/028 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Cllr Sprott expressed both a non-pecuniary interest (personal) in the siting of the SLR – Agenda Item R19/041, and in the tree surgeon providing a quote in Agenda Item R19/034.

## **R19/029 TO APPROVE DISPENSATIONS FOR DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011**

The Clerk advised that nothing was received for this meeting.

## **R19/030 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.**

Two members of the public wished to speak about the skatepark. As this was an item for the agenda already, the Chair invited them to speak when this item was discussed. No other members of the public spoke during the public participation session.

## **R19/031 TO RECEIVE SPORTS CLUB UPDATES**

Alresford Town Football Club:

Alresford Town Football Club are Southampton Senior Cup finalists (date to be announced) and North Hants Senior Cup Finalists (26<sup>th</sup> March 2019).

Approval for ball catching nets has been rejected. The club will gather further information, via photos and more detailed specifications.

The ground inspection is awaiting the fire risk report.

The Club will approach the Committee with a proposal on training lights, once all the relevant information has been obtained.

Alresford Town Youth Football Club gave the following update:

There was an excellent recent sell out Comedy Night held at Perins School as a fundraiser.

All seventeen squads are happy and most are doing well this season. Four teams doing very well in their respective leagues, including the U15 Girls which is a fantastic achievement. Five teams are in either quarter or semi-final positions in Cup competitions.

ATYFC will be supporting ATFC in their Cup Finals, including as mascots at St Marys.

Mr Peters asked if the Council would consider replacing some of the posts around the car park to close the gaps, as a short-term solution to the parking problem.

Mr Peters also asked if the Council could confirm that Burnetts Fair will be visiting in June, and not during the football season.

Mr Peters was unhappy about tree guards being stored at Stratton Bates pavillion, and asked for them to be moved as soon as possible.

The Tennis Club gave the following update:

Mr Lewis thanked New Alresford Town Council for the beech whips. He informed the Committee that two floodlights on the court have been repaired.

A member of the Tennis Club has donated 45cm paving slabs for use as a path from the carpark to the ramp, which will reduce dirt on the court. The Council confirmed that so long as the job is done properly, they approve this.

It was highlighted to Mr Lewis that at the previous Committee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019, a member of the public presented on the sport of Padel, and his hope for a Padel court in New Alresford.

Alresford Rugby Club gave the following update:

Mr Cleeve informed the Committee that the season is going well. The First team is currently 6<sup>th</sup> and the Second team is 4<sup>th</sup>. The issue with training lights continues to be a problem, and for this reason the new coaches are not staying. Mr Cleeve may take over as head coach, and another representative from the Rugby Club will attend the Recreation and Environment Committee. The Chair thanked Mr Cleeve for his regular attendance at the Committee and his enthusiasm for its work and for the generous help he has given to NATC and the other clubs in the town.

The Rugby Club have a meeting with Winchester City Council for pre-application advice on a lighting rig, on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The rig would light up the smaller pitch. Between half and three quarters of this pitch would be lit. The Rugby Club will provide a technical demonstration once they have sufficient information.

A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of confirming that the Tennis Club create a path from the car park to the ramp with the donated slabs.

**RESOLVED: That the tennis club create a path from the car park to the ramp with the donated slabs.**

#### **R19/032 TO CONSIDER WALL BETWEEN BIN STORE AND ENTRANCE TO FOOTBALL GROUND**

As the Football club were not present, the item is deferred to the next meeting.

**R19/033 TO DISCUSS NEW PLAY AREA PROJECT AT STRATTON BATES RECREATION GROUND (PRESENTATION ATTACHED)**

A schoolgrounds and early years play space designer attended the meeting to share some of her ideas on creating an exciting and high-quality outdoor play space.

Key objectives for the play spaces she designs are risk taking, using natural materials, encouraging open ended play and developing confidence, strength and resilience.

She informed the Committee that Stratton Bates Recreation Ground provides an opportunity for something really different, that meets the needs of a wide range of children.

Ideas for the space could include:

- Large slides, particularly large double slides and tube slides
- Big structures with multiple options for play including climbing, twisting
- Contouring and mounding the space for interest, and for activities such as rolling
- Planting and natural features such as fallen logs

She recommended that the Committee consider tightening their brief and considering who they are doing this for and why they are doing it (e.g. primarily children local to Stratton Bates and secondarily other children in Alresford, or will it be a feature park to attract tourists etc.). Ideally it would fill a gap not met by other parks in Alresford. The designer felt Stratton Bates currently met the needs of 6-10 year olds.

Actions for the Committee to consider now could include:

- Desk research from census detail etc. about target group requirements
- Observation of who currently plays at Stratton Bates Recreation Ground and how they use it
- A survey via social media about how residents currently use Stratton Bates, what they love, what they don't use, what they would like to see in the future

The Chair thanked the designer for attending the meeting.

**Recommendation 1:** The Clerk and the Chair will put together a survey, which the playground designer has kindly agreed to make suggestions on.

**R19/034 TO APPROVE QUOTE FOR TREE WORK AT STRATTON BATES RECREATION GROUND**

The Clerk informed the Committee of a health and safety concern regarding a dead elm at Stratton Bates Recreation Ground and the need to cut back trees by Makin's Court which are impacting on the quality of life for a resident. Due to the urgency of this work, one quote was sought. A price was provided of £500.

A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of accepting the quote for tree work at Stratton Bates Recreation Ground.

**RESOLVED:** That the quote for £500 is approved for tree work at Stratton Bates Recreation Ground.

**R19/035 TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ON TEMPORARY MATTING/ROOT PROTECTION ZONE/ CAR PARK POSTS AT STRATTON BATES CAR PARK (PLANS ATTACHED)**

Cllr Gordon-Smith presented his ideas to extend the car park at Stratton Bates. This would involve slight grading, putting down sand and a hexagonal grid. From a cost exercise, he estimated this would cost in the region of £10,000.

The Committee discussed that the car park needs securing as there are reports of people driving on to the recreation area/ pitches. Moreover, New Alresford Town Council have a duty to protect the trees from damage due to inconsiderate parking.

**Recommendation 1:** The extension of the car park is referred to the next Town Council meeting.

**Recommendation 2:** The Clerk will inform the Youth Football Club that New Alresford Town Council are minded to provide additional parking and enquire whether they would be interested in sponsorship. The Clerk will also ask the Youth Football Club to let parents know what will happen, encourage them to park in the car park and if they must park on Roseberry Road, to park considerately.

A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of asking the Clerk to obtain three quotes for securing the carpark and carry out works.

**RESOLVED: That the clerk will obtain three quotes for securing the carpark and carry out works.**

### **R19/036 TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON POTENTIAL NEW ALLOTMENT SITE AND DISCUSS INFORMATION PROVIDED TO NEW ALLOTMENT HOLDERS**

The Chair informed the Committee that following a meeting with the landowner, there is space for potentially two or three allotments at Bighton Hill. The Committee discussed that residents on the waiting list may be provided with a contact number for the owner of this land and liaise with her directly regarding leasing the space. This would work in a similar way to the Garden share scheme and would not be administered by New Alresford Town Council. It should be made clear that any arrangements made would be directly between the landowner and the residents and that the Council would bear no responsibility in relation to those arrangements. It was agreed that any residents taking advantage of this kind offer should not be penalised, so their place on the allotment waiting list should be preserved.

The Committee were informed that the Allotment Association are producing a leaflet for new allotment holders with useful information about the site and contact details. The Clerk had informed the Chair of the Association that New Alresford Town Council could print copies of this leaflet and give it to new allotment holders.

**Recommendation 1:** The Clerk to contact the landowner to discuss moving a potential Garden share forward. Those on the waiting list would be allowed to remain on the allotment waiting list for an allotment, even if they rented land directly from the landowner.

**Recommendation 2:** An article about Garden share and how this might work, is put in the Forum in May 2019. As this may help to reduce the allotment waiting list.

**Recommendation 3:** The Clerk contacts Tichborne Estates to see if they have any land available for leasing for allotments. All Councillors will be contacted to see if they know of any suitable land for allotments.

**Recommendation 4:** The Clerk will review the allotment rules and circulate to the Committee.

### **R19/037 TO CONSIDER PARKING QUERIES ON NEW FARM ROAD FOLLOWING RESIDENT ENQUIRY**

The Committee were informed that the Council were contacted by a resident concerned about parking on the bend of New Farm Road.

**Recommendation 1:** That the Clerk will send a letter to businesses asking employees to park responsibly.

### **R19/038 TO CONFIRM PLANS FOR ALRESFORD LITTERPICK DAY ON 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019**

The event will take place 10-1 on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Residents can turn up at the ARC on the day for equipment or arrange with the Clerk for delivery in advance. Complimentary refreshments will be provided.

The litter pickers, hi vis and bags have been ordered from Idverde. Gloves will be ordered.

The Clerk is in the process of contacting local groups to ask for their involvement.

The Committee noted that the centre of town, in particular Broad Street and to a lesser extent West and East Streets were not looking at their best. The Committee is keen to encourage a greater sense of pride in the town and this would be an opportunity to promote this. It would

also improve the general environment for visitors to the town and in turn encourage more visitors to use the shops and other businesses.

**Recommendation 1:** That the Clerk will send a letter to businesses in the town centre asking them to get involved in the litterpick day and use it as an opportunity to get business owners and their staff to spend some time clearing weeds and accumulated debris from the area outside their premises. This could also be an opportunity to inform them of Alresford's Parish in Bloom entry and the additional troughs and baskets for the town that have been funded by New Alresford Town Council.

**Recommendation 2:** The clerk contacts organisations who have used the trees in Broad Street, as a means to pin up posters, and politely ask them not to do so.

#### **R19/039 TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON ALRESFORD SKATEPARK (TWO PLANS CIRCULATED)**

Two members of the skatepark, a user of the park and her mother, informed the Committee that following conversations with fellow skaters, they have proposed a plan of what they would like to see at the skatepark including seating and bowls.

The Chair thanked the skatepark user for working on the plan and reminded the Committee that following previous consultation over the past year, the key finding for the skatepark was the need for a runoff area and that an initial cost estimate had already been sought for this. However, the skatepark improvements are part of the Committee's five year plan and the Chair asked that the Committee could have a copy of the plan for future consideration once other work across the five year plan had been completed. The resident was also encouraged to join the Alresford Skatepark Improvement group on Facebook and speak to Chris Matthews, who is leading the consultation with skatepark users.

Cllr Gordon-Smith presented his sketch plan, which sees an increase in the runoff area and a timber wall. The approximate cost would be £9,000.

**Recommendation 1:** That the Clerk shows the sketch design prepared by Cllr Gordon-Smith to the Alresford skate group for their view.

A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of asking the Clerk to obtain three quotes for increasing the run off area of the skatepark as per Cllr Gordon-Smith's sketch plan.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk will obtain three quotes for increasing the run off area of the skatepark.

#### **R19/040 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Terms of Reference were approved at the Committee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 subject to confirming that The Soke gardens is not under the ownership of New Alresford Town Council.

**Recommendation 1:** That the Clerk will write to the landowners confirming that New Alresford Town Council do not own the land and has no responsibility in respect of the land.

#### **R19/041 TO CONSIDER LOCATION OF SPEED LIMIT REMINDER SIGNS AND PURCHASE OF NEW SIGN**

The Committee looked at data from the speed limit reminder (SLR) sign which was extracted by the Chair of the Committee and discussed a redistribution of the locations. The Chair's working paper is attached as a supporting document. The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to have a sign that enables drivers to see what speed they are doing.

**Recommendation 1:** That the Clerk develops a new schedule for the SLR camera, which will include two directions on The Avenue/ Pound Hill, the new agreed location on Sun Lane and will represent an even distribution between the roads in the town in line with the analysis of the speed data. Additional locations will also be considered in Grange Road (near to Stratton Bates), Windsor Road, and near the Globe.

A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of asking the Clerk to obtain three quotes for an additional SLR camera which will show drivers speed and agreeing a spend of up to £3,000.

**RESOLVED: That the clerk will obtain three quotes for a new SLR camera and spend up to a value of £3000.**

**R19/042 TO DISCUSS CYCLE PROVISION IN ALRESFORD**

The Committee discussed the lack of cycle stand provision in Alresford.

**Recommendation 1:** Cllr Gordon-Smith will investigate suitable cycle stands that would fit into the town centre and at Arlebury Park, and their price.

**R19/043 TO RECEIVE ADVICE IN RELATION TO THE MEMORIAL GARDENS AND OTHER ADVICE**

The Clerk informed the Committee that the tree surgeon had advised holding off on any planting in Memorial Gardens, to see how many ash trees fall foul to ash dieback. Approximately 80% of the trees in the Gardens are ash. This would then provide the best opportunity for strategic replanting.

The laurel hedge at the back of the Gardens inhibits light. By maintaining it to roughly the height of the fence, the light from the south would be maximised.

**Recommendation 1:** The Clerk obtains advice on the best time of year for cutting back the hedge and three quotes.

**R19/044 TO RECEIVE PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORTS**

The reports have been received for all play areas. The Clerk will begin to schedule what works needs doing.

**R19/045 REPORTS AND ISSUES - FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Burnetts Fair – will be visiting Stratton Bates Recreation Ground in June. Date to be confirmed. A Memorandum of Understanding is being written by the Clerk.

SLR on Nursery Road- the proposed location has been forwarded to Ian James at Winchester City Council, and the resident has been informed.

The relocated dogbin location on Spring Gardens has been agreed with Winchester City Council and the Allotment Association. The bin should be moved by the end of March 2019.

Playing Pitch Strategy has been circulated to all sports groups.

The Lengthsman visited on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and undertook clearance work around Nursery Road, Ellingham Close and Sun Lane

Richard Hein at Winchester Parking has responded to the resident enquiry regarding parking on the verge at Park Mount

These were noted by the Committee.

The meeting closed at 22:10