

**SPORTS & RECREATION
GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

Met on Wednesday 20th March 2019 at 7.30 pm at
Marshalswick Community Centre

PRESENT:

Councillors Geoff Churchard (Chair), Jenny Roberts, Geoff Churchard, Graham Leonard, John Newton-Davies
Public Members, Philippa Mulberry

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Bernard Roberts, Cllr John Foster, Chris Gallagher (Vice-Chair), Tom Clegg,

OFFICERS:

Rebecca Pannese, Project and Amenities Officer

IN ATTENDANCE:

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

Replacement Chair – In Councillor Bernard Robert's absence Cllr Geoff Churchard acted as Chair for the meeting

370 ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Geoff Churchard be nominated as Chair until the new Council in 2019 and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED

That Councillor Geoff Churchard is elected as the Chair of the Sports and Recreation Ground Committee until the new Council in 2019.

371 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Mrs Chris Gallagher expressed her willingness to continue as Vice-Chair until the new Council in 2019 and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED

That Mrs Chris Gallagher is elected as the Vice-Chair of the Sports and Recreation Ground Committee until the new Council in 2019.

372 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Sports and Recreation Ground Committee held on 18th July 2018, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and it was:

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Sports and Recreation Ground Committee held on 18th July 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record.

373 REVIEW OF WALKABOUT

Members of the committee reviewed and discussed the walkabout on the 2nd October. The recreation grounds visited were; Damson Way Open Space, Harness Way Open Space, Jersey farm Open Space and St Leonard's Open Space. Members viewed the newly installed facilities in these areas and identified potential improvements for these spaces.

There was also some minor maintenance that the Project and Amenities Officer has noted and will resolve.

374 NEW ITEMS IN 2019/20

Members reaffirmed the items originally suggested for installation in 2019/20.

Members also reviewed the alternative proposal to include a skate facility at Jersey Farm Open Space, and discussed two options – one for a Half Pipe Ramp with a target age range of 8 - 16 yrs., and one for a Micro Ramp with a target age range of 3 – 10 yrs. A sample quotation had been obtained from a local company outlining the two alternative ramps. Members were reminded that should they decide to opt for a skate facility, some of the suggested items agreed for installation in 2019/20 would need to be postponed until the next financial year. Members were reminded that the budget approved by the Finance Committee for works in 2019/20 was £25,750. After discussion it was;

RESOLVED

To proceed with the following items in 2019/20

1. Halfpipe Skate Ramp at Jersey Farm Open Space. Total estimated cost £15,833
2. Rugby/football posts at the adjoining field on Jersey Farm Open Space. Total estimated cost £2,750
3. Wetpour around the seesaw at Harness Way. Total estimated cost £3,400

Total cost of works in 2019/20 estimated - £21,983. Although this figure is less than the agreed budget, it was felt prudent to keep some in reserve in case of unexpected costs associated with installing the Halfpipe, given we have not had experience of this before.

Members were reminded that the skate facility will be subject to the landowner's permission (St Albans District Council) to erect it on their land. The Project Officer will make the necessary enquiries.

375 MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

Members were informed by Tom Clegg that football nets had been attached to the goal posts at William Bell Open Space. It is assumed that members of the public had attached them. The Clerk and Project Officer had visited the site in the week leading up to the meeting and assessed the safety of the nets. It was agreed that the nets are not considered safe to leave on, due to the large holes and risk of a child or dog getting caught in them. The Project Officer agreed to look into alternative "safe" nets, with small holes suitable for public parks. In the meantime John O'Conner to be advised to remove the nets and a notice put up explaining that the Council will replace them with a safer alternative.

John O'Conner has since been contacted and asked to remove the nets as priority.

376 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

There were none.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 20th March at 7.30pm

Chair

Date.....