

Minutes of the Meeting of the Recreation Committee, Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council.
Wednesday, 8th July 2015, held at Whartons Lane Recreation Ground, Ashurst.

Present; Cllr M Coaker, Cllr A Sturgess, Cllr S Arnold, Cllr S Jenkins.

Clerk; Helen Klaassen

3 members of the public.

RC/001 Election of Chairman.

Cllr Arnold proposed and Cllr Sturgess seconded that Cllr Coaker be elected as Chairman and it was; **unanimously agreed.**

RC/002 Apologies for Absence.

None.

RC/003 Declarations of Interest.

None.

RC/004 Plans for the current year 15/16.

1. Installation of New Equipment.

It was brought that there had been various requests for more seating in the RG. Discussion ensued on the types and location of seating and it was agreed that the matter should be investigated. There was suggestion that residents may wish to purchase a memorial bench. It was agreed that in the meantime the Clerk should obtain prices for both benches and picnic tables.

The matter of new equipment for toddlers was raised, a discussion ensued regarding a fenced off area, but some doubt was expressed as to it's location as there was worry about losing valuable space and that it would not fit with the 'open' look of the RG. It was agreed that members should, if they so wished, identify 2-3 pieces of toddler equipment that they would like to see in place and email their selections to the Clerk, who report back to the Chair.

The issue of nets for the goals were discussed, as they had been requested via letter from a local lad who often played football in the RG with friends. Various ideas were discussed for the storage and / or installation of the nets and how this would work for those wishing to use them. However, it was eventually decided that for safety and prevention of vandalism it would be better for the goalposts to remain without nets.

2. Fields in Trust Dedication / plaque. Decision on method of mounting plaque and dedication day event.

The Chair updated members to the current situation, which was that have received official notification of the dedication of the field, all that remained was to hold a dedication ceremony, to unveil a plaque and generally celebrate the QE II status of the recreation ground. Cllr Coaker told those assembled that there were a couple of ways a plaque could be mounted, on a stake in the ground; on a tree; on a rock and that he favoured the latter option as it was felt to be more vandal proof and would stand the test of time better. The committee voted and, 3 for and 1 against, agreed that; **the clerk should obtain prices and types of suitable 'rocks' and order the plaque and ascertain timescale for installation,** before a date was set for the dedication

ceremony, with the aim being the end of September.

3. Other projects. To consider what other projects should be undertaken in the Recreation Ground.

Christmas lights. It was noted that the lights outside the precinct of shops on Lyndhurst Road were in need of replacement. The Chairman asked assembled councillors if they felt it would be appropriate for the Recreation Committee to take on the task of replacing them. The committee agreed to this and discussion ensued surrounding the current provision, past provision and what should take place this year. Cllr Arnold said that Southern Electric could be employed to erect lights and that although that may be expensive the PC would be ensured of a professional job that met the correct legal requirements regarding powering them and installation. It was agreed therefore that; **The Clerk would obtain a quote from SE and ascertain whether there were any other companies who would offer the same services with a view to obtaining quotes from them too.**

Discussion took place surrounding the possibility of utilising the stretch of verge outside of the RG to create a parking area for visitors to the RG. Since councillors were unclear whether the verge was HCC land or part of the RG it was agreed that; **The Clerk should contact HCC to ascertain who was responsible for the land and if it was HCC to request permission to change its use.**

RC/005 Maintenance.

1. Grass cutting and hedges. To consider frequency of.

It was decided that generally, weather depending, three cuts a year should suffice.

2. Fencing and gates. To consider renewal of certain areas of fencing. Gates – to consider extending the installation of safety mesh to the Lakewood Road gate.

It was noted that the fence boarding Lakewood Road was in a poor state of repair and could do with replacement. It was agreed that the clerk would gain quotes for the work, which would be considered in due course.

3. Trees. To consider any tree work that may be necessary.

Cllr Coaker informed the committee that NFDC routinely comes in to provide a report on the trees and advised on work to be carried out. The committee then takes appropriate action from their advice.

4. Other Maintenance. To consider what, if any, other maintenance is needed.

Consideration was given to removing the cages from around the smaller trees to enable easier grass cutting.

Under the auspices of maintenance, discussion took place surrounding starting a group of volunteers to routinely maintain the RG. It was suggested that an article could be submitted to the parish magazine to encourage residents to join. It was discussed that community days could be organised for people to come in and join the committee in clearing bushes, shrubs, brambles etc. and that the PC could lay on tea, cakes etc to thank them for their efforts. The issue of a name was discussed and it was left that committee members should give this some thought.

The committee discussed that greater clearance of bushes and brambles was needed throughout the RG, discussion took place regarding whether the probation services

could be engaged for this purpose. Cllr Coaker stated that whilst they were adept at the clearance itself, the issue had been disposal of waste which was something that councillors had to undertake themselves. It was decided that; **the clerk should contact the probation services to ascertain their willingness to undertake this work and whether they would be able to dispose of the waste.**

The Clerk brought the committees attention to the RoSPA safety report and items therein that required attention. It was decided to follow these up after the quarterly safety inspection had taken place in August.

RC/006 Budget. To review the 14/15 spending (appendix 1) and set the budget for 15/16. The committee discussed the budget and it was felt that until a clearer picture of costs for planned projects could be ascertained that it would be difficult to set a definitive budget. It was hoped that this would change shortly and that the situation could be re-assessed at the mid-year review in October and a budget determined then.

RC/007 Any Other Business.
None.

Appendix 1 (approximate, taken from the 14/15 accounts)

	In	Out
S106 contributions	3,168.05	
SD 1/4ly inspection		50.40
Wicksteed playground equipment		3,801.66
G&T Tree works		393.89
Playsafe Inspection		96.00
Expenses		217.03
Grasscutting; J,A,S		360.00
Rokill wasps nest removal		60.00
G&T Tree works		789.04
Footpath spraying NFDC		72.00
	3,168.05	5,840.02
Total		-2,671.97