



DRAFT

Minutes of the Wembury Recreation Ground Committee meeting held on the 21st of September 2023 in the Knighton Room, Wembury Village Hall.

Present: John Bennett, Andy Camack, Cllr Cox, James Friend, Cllr Stansell, Cllr Walrond.

Apologies: Adam King

Clerk: Anne Towill.

Meeting opened at 19:00

23-01 Youth Shelter

There was a discussion around the options for the youth shelter and the committee decided to recommend that the shelter be renovated rather than replaced. The quotes need to be revisited to ensure they still stand, and the committee will recommend the council agree to an upper limit of £5500 to be spent on the renovation.

23-02 Skate Ramps

James Friend explained what he had seen when he looked at the underneath of the skate ramps. He advised that the underside is painted with a suitable paint to prevent any rust, and ventilation be installed in one of the panels on each ramp, to ensure the build-up of humidity is reduced. Once a quote for this work has been agreed he will look to start this work this autumn.

James will also look to get a quote for a repaint of the surface of the ramps, which will need to be done less often than the current painting, but will be more expensive. He will also get quotes for access hatches to be installed to be able to inspect the undersides and use them for some storage.

James is doing regular maintenance on the ramps to keep them in good order and will continue to do so.

23-03 Play Park

The committee agreed to recommend to council to have the A frame in the park removed, due to the cost of both immediate and imminent repairs. It will be taken down and replaced with a new piece of equipment as soon as is possible.

The inclusive swing will be put back up now that the part has arrived. James suggested that the bearings on it be replaced every six months (cost of a few pounds) to make sure it is always working well. There was also a discussion around

the possibility of the swing being tethered when not in use to reduce the wear and tear on the bearings. The Clerk will look in to this.

The toddler swing will also be rehung soon now that the spare parts of that have been received.

The need to increase the surfacing between all the swings was discussed and it was felt to be an important item to be prioritised to make sure that the ground does not become too slippery, and items can be accessed easily by those with buggies and wheelchairs.

James is continuing to resolve issues brought up by the Allianz report and maintenance issues.

23-04 Hedgerows

The Committee wish the hedgerows to be filled with native hedgerow species and the Clerk will source supplies for them from grants or donations etc. The National Trust will be dealing with dead elms along the boundary with their field and hopefully replanting it.

23-05 Dying Elm and Other Dead Trees

It was agreed that the dying elm which stands near the play park had to be taken down for safety reasons. The main trunk will be left and hopefully repurposed. The felled wood will be used or disposed of once council have decided what they wish to do with it and once the condition of the tree branches is known.

Other dead trees and branches around the boundaries will also be taken down and costs shared with adjoining landowners. A tree survey will be done shortly to ensure all problematic trees are dealt with.

23-06 Tennis Courts

There was a discussion around the surface of the tennis courts and how one court is now not playable due to the ridges and surfacing. They are also becoming more slippery. James will attempt to reduce the ridge height. The committee will recommend to council that the cost of the resurfacing of the tennis courts and replacement of the nets be investigated and grants sought to help pay for it. John Bennett explained that 15 years ago the cost to resurface them as £25,000.

23-07 Priorities for Spending

The committee agreed that the priorities for spending within the recreation ground needs to be the Teenage Shelter renovation, removal of the A frame, tennis court surfacing and surfacing between swings in the recreation ground. Depending on what grant providers say, this may mean that the trim trail equipment and any new pieces of equipment will have to be delayed. The committee will suggest that the Responsible Financial Officer be asked to seek grants once a discussion around what can be included in the grant application is discussed.

There was some concern about the durability of the equipment provided by the most recent suppliers. James explained that the equipment was often sourced from the same place so might be of similar durability from another provider. Other providers not previously asked for quotes will be approached in the future to ensure that alternatives are considered.

23-08 Management Plan

It was explained that there is a management plan in place for the recreation ground and the Clerk and James are now working to the schedule of works. They're aiming to get on top of the maintenance as soon as possible, but as James is only contracted for a certain number of hours, jobs will have to be prioritised. The Clerk suggested that the Friends of Wembury Recreation Ground idea be looked at again in order to make sure that low risk, high work hours jobs be completed by volunteers. It was agreed that she will look in to this.

23-09 Memorial Benches

The committee discussed possible locations for another memorial bench. It was decided that a spot near the tennis courts would be suitable. James was asked to quote for a plinth and the Clerk will contact the member of the public who had expressed an interest in one. There is also the possibility of another bench being put near Barton Brake in the future.

23-10 Electric Scooters/bikes

Due to an increasing problem with electric scooters and bikes being used in the recreation ground at speed the Clerk will look at sourcing a sign informing users that it is illegal to use them in public spaces. She will also put up a social media post on the topic and inform the pcso's of the issue which tends to be worse in the evenings.

23-11 Reverse of Noticeboard

The Clerk explained that the back of the noticeboard has a sign up which shows the plans for the park. This is now out of date, and she suggested that it be replaced with an information sign about the wildlife or similar and information such as contact information and what 3 words location. Cllr Walrond will speak to a colleague about designing it and Cllr Smith will be approached for ideas/information.

Meeting Closed at 20:23