



Tollesbury Parish Council

Notice is hereby given that the virtual Meeting of the **TOLLESBURY PARISH COUNCIL RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE** will be held on Monday 26th April 2021, via Zoom commencing at 7.30pm, to which members of the Recreation Ground Committee are summoned for the transaction of the under-mentioned business.

M. Curtis

Michelle Curtis – Clerk to the Council

20th April 2021

Councillors: T Lowther (Chairman), A St Joseph (Vice-Chairman), V Chambers,
R Cole

THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

Photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is permitted however the privacy of (i) persons who object to the same and (ii) children and vulnerable adults must be respected by anonymising the identities of such.

The meeting is virtual and is being held via Zoom. If you wish to attend the meeting, please contact the Clerk who will email you joining information.

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Declaration of Interest

Members are reminded that they are required to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Pecuniary Interests and Non-Pecuniary Interests which they know they might have in items of business on the agenda. They are reminded that they will need to repeat their declarations at the appropriate point in the meeting and leave the room if required under the Code of Conduct. Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time.

3. Public Forum

Members of the public will be given an opportunity to put forward their question(s) or statement to the Council. The Chairman will at his discretion then decide if he is able to answer the question(s) or proposes to put the item on the agenda for the next meeting.



4. Minutes

To receive and approve the Minutes of the Recreation Ground Committee Meeting held on 8th January 2021. #

5. Play Area Fencing

To discuss email from resident regarding the fencing to the play area.*

6. Litter/Dog Bins

To discuss issues with existing litter/dog bins and consider purchasing replacement bins. *

7. Football

7.1 To consider request from Tollesbury Juniors for funding towards new portable goals. #

7.2 To discuss letter from resident regarding the close proximity of the goals to the skate park. *

7.3 To consider the installation of a kick-wall

8 Tree Planting

To consider tree planting at the Recreation Ground.

9. Entrance to the Recreation Ground

To consider the installation of a bollard at the entrance at St Johns Court.

10. Pavilion

To consider improvement works to the Pavilion.

11. Other Matters

To consider any other matters relating to the Recreation Ground.

Key: * = attached - # to follow

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

Address: 4 Valkyrie Close, Tollesbury, Essex CM9 8SL

Telephone: 01621 869039. **Email:** tollesburypc@btinternet.com

Safety at the children's playground within the Victory Recreation Ground



To: tollesburypc@btinternet.com tollesburypc@btinternet.com;
16/02/21 19:34

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Dear Michelle

I am writing to express my concern regarding safety and the children's playground at the Victory Recreation Ground. My concern is in relation to the three metal gates used to access the playground. The gates appear to have some self-closing mechanism built into them, however, they do not fully close. The slide bolts are also obviously manually operated – and that, I believe is where the problem really lies.

To my mind, the gates are there to serve two principal aims: -

1. To ensure young & vulnerable children remain contained inside the fenced area and therefore safe
2. To help keep dogs out of the play area.

Unfortunately, I fear they are currently achieving neither. I use the playground regularly, taking my son [REDACTED] who loves playing there. When there I have to ensure all gates remain closed & bolted to ensure Harley can run around & play freely. Some of you may be aware already that [REDACTED] was diagnosed with severe Autism, Global Developmental Delay and at six years old, remains completely non-verbal. [REDACTED] is very active, constantly running up and down. As such, it is a blessing to have an enclosed area in which he can (or would be able to) run free.

If [REDACTED] manages to exit the playground unattended, he is quite likely to run, and run, and run. Given a head start, I could not guarantee being able to catch him before he made it to the road. Due to his condition, unfortunately [REDACTED] has pretty much zero danger / hazard awareness and as such this is a situation I cannot run the risk of allowing to occur...

It is a shame, but sadly with few exceptions from what I have observed, very few people bother to close and bolt the gates when entering or leaving the play area. Children under a given age can of course be excused, however older children could be educated and definitely should know better. Yesterday I was there with Harley for around 90 minutes during which time the area was quite busy with children & families coming and going. When we arrived, I walked around the fence & closed & bolted all three gates. I then counted the number of times I either had to close & bolt a gate because someone else did not, or I had to call after the individual who had just entered / left asking them to please close & bolt the gate. During the 90 minutes that count was 37 times! The number of times a gate was properly closed & bolted without my prompting was 2.

I shall be grateful if the Parish Council will consider replacing the current gates with ones which will fully self-close, and most importantly self-latch closed, thereby making "closed" the

default position where the latch is “young child-proof”. Tolleshunt D’Arcy Recreation Ground has a playground with gates operating on this basis & it works very well.

I realise there will be a cost and such things have to be taken into consideration, but if this could be investigated, I shall be most grateful.

My thanks to you and the Council, in anticipation for your time. I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: Tollesbury Parish Council <tollesburypc@btinternet.com>
Date: Apr 6, 2021 1:24:16 PM
Subject: FW: Tollesbury Bins repairs needed

Good Afternoon


Appletons have provided photographs of 2 bins that urgently need repairs, I assume that both of these bins belong to the Parish Council however if I am mistaken about the black bin please let me know.

The frog bin needs a new liner and the other bin has come loose from its stand and also needs a liner. I can ask Appletons to provide a price to reinstate the black bin if you require and you may be able to get another liner on-line – I believe the Froggo Novelty litter bin is available from Glasdon who also do various sizes of liners.

Regards

[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]
To: tollesburypc@btinternet.com
Date: Mar 22, 2021 7:45:26 PM
Subject: Football net so close to the skatepark

My son had quite a bad accident (he's fine now) at the skatepark earlier, as football goals have been placed right next to and facing the skate ramp. This means those playing football are kicking footballs towards the skatepark constantly - which is so dangerous. A football was kicked onto the ramp (by accident) just as [REDACTED] was dropping into the ramp and the ball hit his deck - he slammed onto his back and twisted his arm.

It's such a dangerous place to put goal posts - especially as the rec is so huge - I don't understand why they've been placed there.
Please can they be re-located as a matter of urgency before someone gets really hurt and needs hospital treatment?