

Present: Cllrs Chambers, Cole and St Joseph

In the Chair: Cllr. Lowther

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

1. Apologies for Absence

All members were present.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest disclosed.

3. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

4. Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the Recreation Ground Committee Meeting held on 4th November 2020 be approved as a true record of the Meeting. Unanimously agreed.

The Chairman would sign the Minutes as soon as possible.

5. Football

5.1 Football Pitches

Currently, three adult teams are using one full-size 11-a-side pitch. This pitch is being damaged due to overuse.

Resolved: to propose the to the Full Council the following:

- The existing junior 11-a-side pitch is moved to where the junior 9-a-side pitch was (the 9-a-side pitch is no longer in use). The goal sockets on the junior 11-a-side pitch will need to be dug out and repositioned.
- The existing junior 11-a-side pitch is enlarged to an adult 11-a-side pitch.
- To accept the quotation from DW Maintenance for £548 to carry out the works above.

5.2 Funding – Goal Posts

The Committee considered the request from Tollesbury Athletic for a grant towards a set of new portable 11-a-side goals.

The Committee were supportive of having additional portable goals as the football club intends to run a reserve team in the new season which would mean there would be 4 adults teams playing at the Recreation Ground. The Committee also thought this was a long term investment as it would also reduce costs going forward should football pitches need to be moved or rotated. Currently, should a pitch need to be moved we have to dig up and reposition goal sockets meaning additional expenditure for the Parish Council.

The total cost of new portable goals is £2,555.92 and Tollesbury Athletic has secured funding from the FA of £1,200 leaving a shortfall of £1,355.92

Resolved: to recommend to the Full Council that a grant is given towards the purchase of new portable goals as follows:

- If the funding from the FA needs to be spent before March 2021, then it is proposed that a grant of £678 is given towards the new goals.
- If the funding from the FA can be spent after March 2021, the full amount of £1355.92 is given towards the new goals.

The funds for this expenditure would come from the Recreation Ground budget.

6. Other Matters

Litter Bin – The Chairman reported that the new litter bin for the Recreation Ground had been delivered. The Clerk had obtained a quotation from Bonz to install the bin which is approx. £40.

Grounds Maintenance – The Chairman advised that the Grounds Maintenance Contract came to an end on 31st December 2020. The contract is currently being advertised with quotations to be considered by the Full Council at the meeting on 2nd February 2021. D W Maintenance has agreed to continue the contract until the end of January 2021.

Biodiversity – A letter had been received from a resident suggesting that the grass around the perimeter, a 2-3 metre border, was left longer to encourage biodiversity and create an interesting environment for those who wish to take their recreation on foot. A winding path could be mown through the long grass without trampling on plants.

The Committee considered the proposal from the resident but felt that the Recreation Ground should be left for recreation. There are also some invasive plants around the perimeter which need to be kept short or they will kill off vegetation. The Recreation Ground Committee will focus on the planting of trees.

Action: Clerk to respond to the resident to thank them for their letter and advise that the Cemetery is currently being considered for projects.

The Committee was also pleased to note that the resident had commented on the excellent job of the current Contractors on the grounds maintenance at the Recreation Ground.

Dog Bin – The Clerk reported that a resident had suggested that another dog bin was installed in the bottom left-hand corner of the Recreation Ground. There are no bins in this area. Due to COVID more visitors are coming to the village and using the footpaths, a dog bin in the area would allow residents and visitors to dispose of their dog waste in the bins before going up onto the seawall via Church Street and also users of the Recreation Ground.

Action: The Chairman to check the store shed as he believes there is a spare bin in there.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.10 pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....