

WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the **RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE** held on **TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2019 at 6.30 pm** in the Committee Room, Town Hall, Wimborne Minster.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr W J Richmond - Chairman
 Cllr A E Roberts – Vice-Chairman
 Cllr C L Butter
 Cllr L C Hinks
 Cllr M J Hopkins
 Cllr D J March
 Cllr S R Wheeler
 Cllr S K Bartlett – Ex-Officio – Chairman of the Council
 Cllr K F Webb – Ex-Officio – Vice-Chairman of the Council

MEMBER NOT PRESENT

Cllr C A Chedgy

OFFICER PRESENT

Administration Officer

106 RECREATION GROUNDS INSPECTION REPORT

The Chairman submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cllr March commented that the water fountain attached to the toilet block in Redcotts Recreation Ground had still not been repaired after three weeks. The Administration Officer would investigate the delay as the contractor had been instructed to carry out the repairs.

Cllr March also commented that several elderly people had requested that the small barrier that had been removed from the Cemetery Road entrance be replaced. The Administration Officer replied that this would prove difficult in view of the exposed tree roots at this location.

107 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Administration Officer submitted report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Administration Officer further reported that the police had confirmed that they would increase patrols of the area but that any incidents witnessed by the public should be reported immediately via 101.

The Committee believed that the situation would calm down now that the school summer holidays had ended.

108 **DOG RELATED PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER**

The Administration Officer submitted an email from the Environmental Health Department at Dorset Council a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The email notified the Town Council of the need to extend the existing Public Spaces Protection Orders across the five former district councils until 31 December 2020 to enable one order covering all of the Dorset Council area to be put in place.

109 **DOG WARDEN PATROL REPORTS**

The Administration Officer submitted for information the Dog Warden Patrol Reports for July and August 2019, copies of which had been circulated to each Member and copies of which appear as **Appendix D** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cllr Hinks and Cllr Butter enquired whether the same Dog Warden also patrolled along the river, both at the Riverside Park and near the Tice garage. The Administration Officer would make enquiries of Dorset Council but explained that the Town Council only paid for patrols on the land that it owned.

110 **MAPLE TREES – REDCOTTS RECREATION GROUND**
(Min 56 – 09.07.19)

The Administration Officer submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix E** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The report set out the professional advice of a tree surgeon concerning the pruning of these trees.

RESOLVED that the pruning recommended by the tree surgeon be carried out and that the quotation from him in the sum of £450 be accepted, the cost being met from the Contract Work Fund.

(Note: Cllr L C Hinks declared a pecuniary interest in this item and left the room during the discussion and voting thereon.)

111 **GRASS TENNIS COURTS (Min 57 – 09.07.19)**

The Administration Officer submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix F** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Recreation & Leisure Committee – 10 September 2019

The report set out the cost of removing the fencing around the courts and the difficulty, due to lack of funding, of making alternative use of the space.

The Committee discussed re-opening the courts next year for a further summer season for 'knockabout' tennis. There was concern that removing the courts and not replacing them with an alternative amenity could be viewed negatively and would have no obvious benefit to the residents of the Town.

RESOLVED

- a) **that the grass courts be maintained and re-opened for a further summer season in 2020 with free access to the public and their use during that time be monitored;**
- b) **that the necessary repairs be carried out to the fence and back boards.**

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm.

SignedDate.....
Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council

30th August 2019

Meeting with Shelagh Fuller & Ann Roberts – Redcotts & Leigh Park Inspections

Redcotts Recreation Ground

There is currently a non-operating light on the SW entrance to the park – about 50 metres from the toilet block.

The footpath approach to the toilet block is quite overgrown with ivy extending some way across the path from the hedge. Strimming the weeds at the lower levels would be useful.

[Historically, strimming of this area has been done following a request from the school. However, the groundsmen have now strimmed the area.]

There appears to be a continued presence of a sleeper behind the toilet block – There is a duvet covered by waterproof sheeting alongside the building wall.

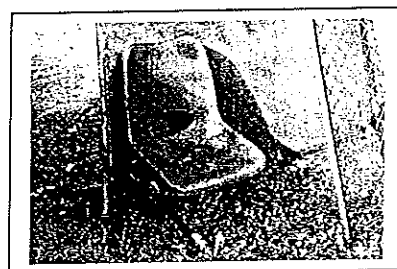
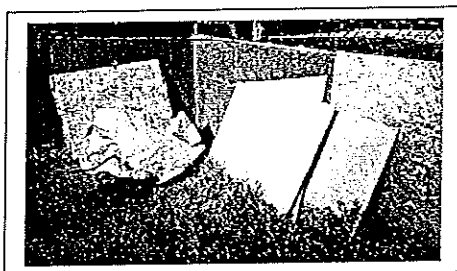
[This has been reported to the police although no response from them has been received. In addition, an outreach worker for Dorset Assertive Homeless Service has visited the person.]

There is a damaged gutter and missing 'downpipe' on the toilet block building.



At the lodge end of the grass tennis courts there are a number of sheets of laminated board material that have most probably been fly-tipped. Perhaps only 4 or 5 sheets along with a 'Hippo' bag. There is a damaged chair too that needs removing .

[The Groundsman has been requested to remove this.]



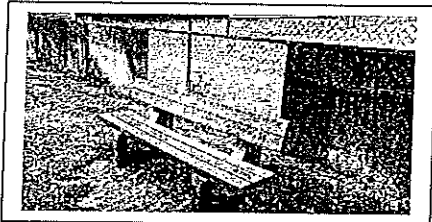
A quick look in the two public toilets showed the 'ladies' to be quite clean whilst the 'gents' had material smeared onto the wall. Other than the dirty wall they were both in an acceptable and clean state.

An attempt to damage the paintings on the toilet-block/storage building has left one or two loose with one showing a damaged edge.



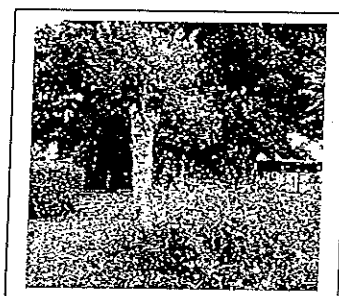
If the fencing around the grass courts is to be retained – (subject to a decision by the R&L Committee) then some minor maintenance would be required:

- i There is a lower panel missing from behind the bench seat adjacent to the table tennis table.
- ii A general netting check (some cuts) and fence post condition check would be necessary
- iii A few empty drinks cans/bottles in the long grass alongside the toilet block/storage building - Could this area be monitored and the litter removed ?



If the grass courts are to be retained (subject to committee agreement) for a trial period as 'knock-about' courts then Glen believed a fairly low level of intervention would be necessary to maintain the area at its current standard. (Scarifying and weed control being the main focus)

The first tree on the right of the path after entering (opposite the lodge & by the Boule area) looks problematic – a fair amount of new growth but a very brittle and bark-free trunk. [The Groundsman has removed the dead wood].



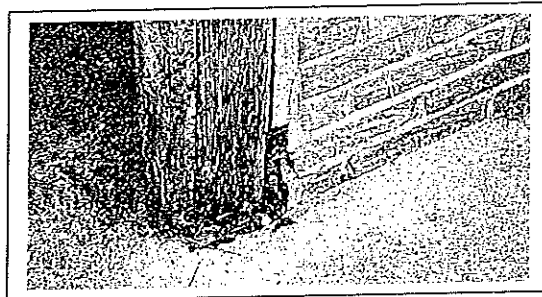
Some pruning is needed on the Viburnum adjacent to the right-side entrance corner by the lodge. There are areas of dead wood within the bush but otherwise there is a lot of green growth. It may be that the dead areas have been caused by ivy – which needs to be removed from around the bush.

The wild-flower area opposite the lodge – looks interesting with seed heads and a few late flowers remaining, even now that the main flowering has passed.

The maple trees along the western boundary of the football field were the subject of a tree-surgeon's report and it may be that the committee considers acting on that report with the pruning recommendations that should not encourage too much new growth and should limit the potential leaf fall in the Autumn. (Item of the Agenda).

The Leigh Park table tennis table has now been removed and returned to Leigh Park Recreation ground.

A brief examination of the pavilion shows that the wooden uprights at each entrance are rotted where they meet the ground but otherwise the structure looks sound. It may be worth seeking advice and perhaps removing the rotted section of each post and replacing with 10cm or so of 'brickwork support' beneath the good timber of each pillar.



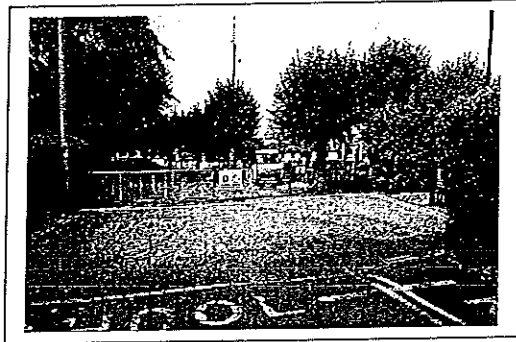
The Cemetery Road entrances look to have benefitted from the 'gravel laying' across the uneven roots of the trees in that the ground is much more even for pedestrians. There was a query as to the open nature of these entrances that might lead to cycles or mopeds entering - and that may need to be monitored.

There is a dead tree that may need removing in the hedgerow row between the two entrances (but closer to the cemetery) and a bush in the hedge at the gate itself.



The approach Gates – Redcotts

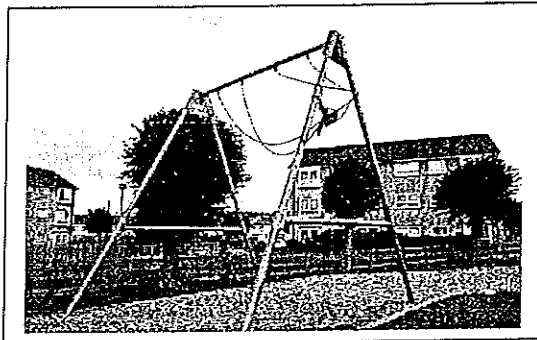
The road markings are very worn at the gates and residents / park users have been seen to park in the area previously marked with the “Keep Clear” emergency access signs.



Leigh Park Playing Field

Swings – Groundstaff will need to disentangle the very tall swing structure using a ladder – exuberant behaviour from someone having placed the seats high up the frame.

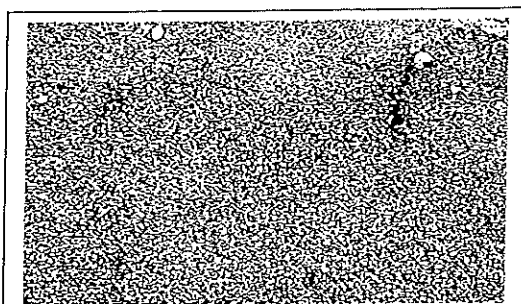
[The Groundstaff report that the swings are now disentangled].



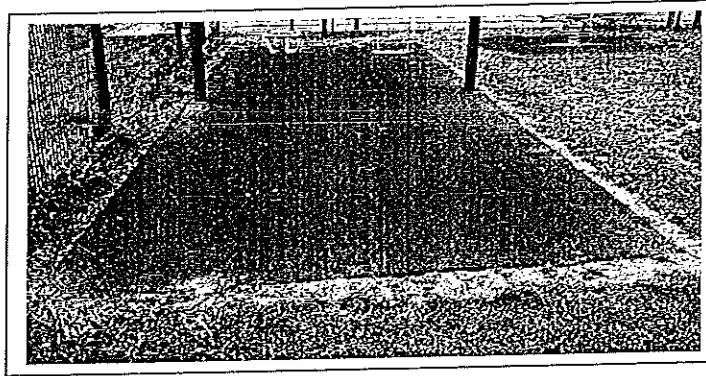
The grass in the main play area is looking much better than at the early Summer visit although the stony nature of the ground still shows through and allows spaces for a few weeds. The main Rugby Field playing area looks tidy and the edges free from litter and rubbish.

The Table Tennis table has been re-sited in the main play area and currently looks undamaged with very minor marks on the repainted playing surface.

The rubberized surface surrounding the small ‘boxed’ swings is showing some cracking (possibly the result of hot weather and settling?) and may need monitoring/repair. The cracking is at the end away from the rugby club building. – The Head Groundsman previously believed the ‘patching’ beneath the swings could be easily done by the ground staff – this may be a similar issue.

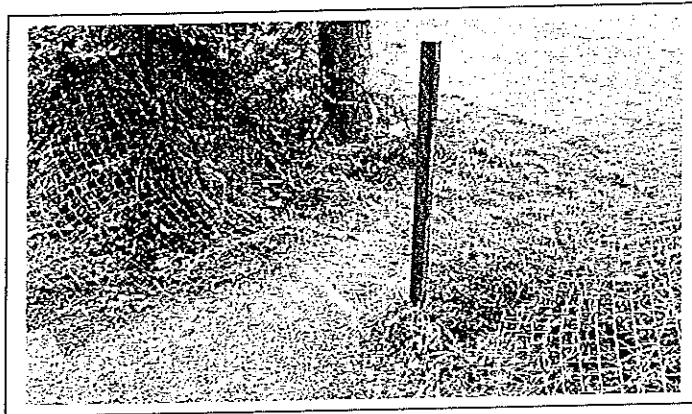


The edges of all play areas previously lined with concrete edging (now removed) would benefit from re-seeding in the Autumn.



Surrounding the larger area of the ruby field a number of suckers need to be removed from lower down on the boundary trees.

Fencing on the Eastern boundary adjacent to the lane, is broken a few metres up from the pedestrian entrance gate - It may be sensible to add a new fence post, secure the fencing to this and leave the gap as another entrance - as it has clearly been created to remove the need for the extra walk to the original entrance gap.



Memorial Benches

The Administration Officer has met with Cllr Chedgy to discuss this and will report further at a future meeting.

W Richmond

August 30th 2019

(With Cllr Ann Roberts and Shelagh Fuller)

RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Date: 10 September 2019
Reference: Anti-Social Behaviour
Author: Administration Officer

A resident who lives in Westfield Close and is a regular dog walker has expressed his concerns at a regular group of young people who monopolise the skateboard ramp during late afternoons and evenings. The young people are apparently aged between 13-16 years.

He said that these young people appear threatening, are abusive and use foul language. Apparently he has seen these young people climb on to the roof of the Pavilion.

The police have been contacted with a view to carrying out regular patrols during the hours that these young people are in the Recreation Ground and we are still waiting for a response.

The Groundsmen, who hitherto have not witnessed any young people of this age range they have seen younger children purported to of middle school age. The Head Groundsman has been asked to observe the area over the next few days and the result will be reported to the Committee.

It is suggested that Cllr Butter could raise this problem at the next meeting of the Partners and Communities Together (PACT).

From: Enviromental Health NDDC [<mailto:envhealthteamb@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>]

Sent: 27 August 2019 16:25

Subject: Consultation on Extension to Dorset Council Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Orders

Dear Clerk

Most of the Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) in the now Dorset Council area are due to expire next year.

It is the intention of Dorset Council to have a single dog-related PSPO, drawing all former 5 Orders in to one. To do this a 12 week public consultation exercise must be undertaken, with appropriate reports to committees. There is a great deal of pressure on agendas as the new Council is moulded and the reports to committee must be heard to complete the democratic process, and consequently the time line for producing a new Order is in the region of 12 months.

As a relevant stakeholder, you are hereby invited to comment on the proposal to extend the Orders until *31 December 2020*:

East Dorset Dog related PSPO due to expire in October 2020
North Dorset Dog related PSPO due to expire in 2023
Purbeck Dog related PSPO due to expire in October 2020
West Dorset Dog related PSPO due to expire in August 2020
Weymouth and Portland Dog related PSPO due to expire in May 2020

By extending the existing Orders, they will continue to be in force whilst the process is completed. If an extension is agreed, it is proposed to undertake a full public consultation on a 'new' Order during that period and complete the production of a single Order.

Any comments should be submitted to Mrs Jane Williams by no later than **Friday 20 September 2019**. All responses will be included in a report for discussion.

Thank you for your input and attention.

Kind regards,

Jane Williams (Mrs)
Team Leader
Enviromental Health

Dorset Council

Dog Warden Patrol Report

Month: JULY 2019

Parish: WIMBORNE

Total Hours: 8

Date	Time Started	Time Finished	Comments
16/7/2019	14.00	15.00	Called on the Parish office and spoke to Assistant Parish Clerk, advising Dog warden Patrols were resuming in July. The past two weeks would be caught up in the coming week. Patrolled the Rec. 2MOP seen with dogs, no DFD seen on the paths, one seen on the field.
17/7/2019	11.30	12.30	Patrolled Leigh Park, One MOP seen with a dog. Found gate to Childrens play area open and closed the gate.
23/7/2019	12.30	13.30	Patrolled the Rec. 3 MOP seen with dogs, one was seen to pick up, no DFD seen on the paths.
24/7/2019	10.30	11.30	Patrolled Leigh Park. One MOP seen with a dog on lead.
25/7/2019	10.30	11.30	Patrolled the Rec. One MOP seen with 2 dogs, picked up after both of them. No DFD seen on the paths ,one seen on lower field.
29/7/2019	12.00	13.00	Patrolled Leigh Park. 2 MOP seen with dogs, one seen to pick up.
30/7/2019	12.45	13.45	Patrolled the Rec. 4 MOP seen with dogs, of which one was seen to pick up., no DFD seen on the paths.
31/7/2019	13.45	14.45	Patrolled Leigh Park. Very hot , 27 deg, no dog walkers seen out in the heat.

Dog Warden Patrol Report

Month: AUGUST 2019

Parish: WIMBORNE

Total Hours: 8

Date	Time Started	Time Finished	Comments
1/8/2019	10.10	11.10	Patrolled the Rec 7 MOP seen with dogs, of which 3 were seen to pick up, no DFD seen on paths or on the field.
2/8/2019	11.15	12.15	Patrolled Leigh Park. Very hot day 28c, no MOP seen with dogs,
5/8/2019	11.30	12.30	Patrolled the Rec. 7 MOP seen with dogs, of which 4 were seen to pick up
6/8/2019	10.45	11.45	Patrolled Leigh Park. 3 MOP seen with dogs, one was on lead, all were seen to pick up.
7/8/2019	10.00	11.00	Patrolled the Rec. 5 MOP seen with dogs, of which 3 were seen to pick up. No DFD observed on paths or fields.
8/8/2019	9.45	10.45	Patrolled leigh Park. 4 MOP seen with dogs, 2 off lead and 2 on lead, 2 were seen to pick up.
27/8/2019	11.15	12.15	Patrolled the Rec. 5 MOP seen with dogs, of which 3 were son lead, one was seen to pick up. No DFD observed on the paths.
28/8/2019	13.30	14.30	Patrolled Leigh Park. 3 MOP seen with dogs, 2 were on lead, one was seen to pick up.

RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Date: 9 September 2019

Reference: Maple Trees – Redcotts Recreation Ground (Min 56 – -9.07.19)

Author: Administration Officer

Further to the last meeting Members will recall that they requested the Administration Officer obtain further professional advice concerning the maple trees. The text of this advice is below:

Dear Shelagh

Thank you for your recent email concerning the Maple trees in Redcotts.

The proposed pruning work would restore the tree's natural density which at the moment is very thick in response to a previous pollarding operation. This would not involve any further work because the tree would not grow vigorously after a thinning operation.

The trees have not yet reached their full height. The question worries me because there may be thoughts of topping them. I would advise against this because it would cause the same problems as did the previous pollarding operation. It would be better to remove alternate trees and leave the remaining trees to become fully mature, but this would not need doing for at least 5 to 10 years.

I hope this answers your queries.

With kind regards

Martin Noscoe

The Committee's instructions are requested.

RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Date: 10 September 2019
Reference: Grass Tennis Courts (Min 57 – 09.07.19)
Author: Administration Officer

As instructed at the last meeting quotations have been obtained for removing the chain-link fencing around three sides of the grass tennis courts. These are:

Quote 1: £6,750

Quote 2: £3,200

A third quote would have been obtained but there has been some difficulty in finding a suitable contractor who wanted to do the job.

The only money available in the budget to finance this work is the £10,000 in the Redcotts Future Development Fund. Otherwise the Committee would need to ask Council to use the General Fund.

The Tennis Coach has been advised that the management agreement has been terminated in accordance with the Committee's instructions.

Word about the imminent closure of the tennis courts has been circulating in the public domain and as a result two members of the public have expressed their disappointment that the grass courts will no longer be available. These would appear to be the only public accessible grass courts in the area.

The Committee's instructions are requested.