



Dear Councillor

3 December 2021

You are invited to attend a virtual informal meeting of the **RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE** via video link on **FRIDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2021 at 10.00 am.**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Laurence Hartley'.

Town Clerk

Members of the public are advised that although the Covid restrictions have been relaxed, the return to face-to-face meetings has not yet commenced. As a consequence, the Council's committees will meet informally and virtually for the time being and the Town Clerk will make the decisions under delegated powers after each meeting based on the discussions held by Councillors.

**Members of the public and press will still be allowed to listen *and watch* the informal meeting in audio mode only using Zoom. To avoid disruption the public and press will not be displayed on video or be able to be heard by the meeting. Members of the public are still invited to submit questions to the Committee in writing by 9.30 am on the day before this meeting (i.e. Thursday 9 December 2021) using the following email address: [office@wimborne.gov.uk](mailto:office@wimborne.gov.uk) or by delivering a hard copy of the question to the Town Hall, West Borough.**

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**AGENDA**

- 1 Apologies for absence.
- 2 **RECREATION GROUNDS INSPECTION REPORT**  
To receive the report of the Committee Officer (copy herewith).
- 3 **USE OF GLYPHOSATE (Min 66 – 24.09.21)**  
To consider the report of the Committee Officer (copy herewith).
- 4 **REDCOTTS RECREATION GROUND – REQUEST FOR DEFIBILLATOR (Min 67 – 24.09.21)**  
To consider the report of the Committee Officer (to follow).
- 5 **POLLARDING OF LIME TREES – REDCOTTS RECREATION GROUND**  
To consider the report of the Committee Officer (copy herewith).

**MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE**

**Cllr S K Bartlett (Chairman)**  
**Cllr A E Roberts (Vice-Chairman)**  
**Cllr P Bache**  
**Cllr C A Chedgy**  
**Cllr L C Hinks**  
**Cllr M J Hopkins**  
**Cllr D J March**  
**Cllr W J Richmond**  
**Ex-Officio – Chairman & Vice-Chairman of the Council**

(Members are reminded of the importance of letting the office know of non-attendance by 9am on the day of the meeting)

**LOCALISM ACT 2011 and CODE of CONDUCT**

Members are reminded to comply with those elements of the Localism Act and the Town Council's Code of Conduct in respect of disclosable pecuniary interests.

**GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Members are reminded that the Council has a duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (age, disability, gender reassignment, marital status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation), Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety, Human Rights and Data Protection (General Data Protection Regulation).

**PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

**Members of the public and press will be allowed to listen *and watch* the meeting in audio mode only using Zoom. To avoid disruption the public and press will not be displayed on video or be able to be heard by the meeting.**

**Please use the following link from 10 am to observe and listen to the meeting:**

Webinar ID: **921 7621 3406**

Password: **012843**

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

United Kingdom: +44 330 088 5830 or +44 131 460 1196 or +44 203 481 5237 or +44 203 481 5240  
or +44 208 080 6591 or +44 208 080 6592

Webinar ID: **921 7621 3406**

Password: **012843**

Any questions which members of the public wish to put to the Council or Committees must be in writing and received by 9.30 am on the preceding working day before the meeting using the following email address: [office@wimborne.gov.uk](mailto:office@wimborne.gov.uk). Alternatively, a written question can be delivered to the Town Hall by 9.30 am on the preceding working day before the meeting. Every effort will be made to answer the question at the meeting but there may be a need to obtain information from other sources and in those circumstances a written response will be provided at a subsequent time.

## RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE

**Date:** 10 December 2021

**Reference:** Item 2: Recreation Grounds Inspection

**Author:** Committee Officer

The inspection of Leigh Park Playing Field and Redcotts Recreation Ground was carried out by the Head Groundsman and the Committee Officer on Wednesday, 1 December 2021. Findings are below:

### Leigh Park Playing Field

The play areas and field were all looking tidy. The Grounds Staff have begun cutting the hedgerows surrounding the fields. Suckers are being removed from the lime trees. The Grounds Staff continue to mow the edge of the field with the Rugby Club taking care of maintenance of the pitches.

Litter at the far end of the field has improved and the new bin is being used.

The basket seat in the Adventure Playground has been fitted with new shackles, as recommended by the Play Inspection Company.



More play bark will be added to the surface in due course.

The large climbing frame in the Toddler Play Area had been thoroughly cleaned and the edging around the safety surface has been infilled with earth to encourage grass to grow, thereby reducing any trip hazard.



The safety surface around the posts to the swings has been repaired. The small roundabout was showing some signs of rotting timber. The Grounds Staff will sand this down and apply a resin to slow down further deterioration.



### **Redcotts Recreation Ground**

Some vandalism has recently taken place to the toilets. The hand dryer in the Gents has been replaced following damage and further graffiti removed on the door. The light was not working in the gents toilet and the Head Groundsman would investigate this.

Play area. The chains to the flatbed swings have been replaced.



One of the gates is still awaiting repair and an alternative contractor is being sourced.

One of the lime trees near the roundhouse is showing some signs of decay. The Head Groundsman will ask for the opinion of the tree surgeon when the trees are pollarded.



The new winter flowering cherry tree has settled in well and the Head Groundsman is keeping it well watered. It has buds on it and blossom should appear in January/February.



Some of the boards around the grass tennis courts have been removed to enable the graffiti to be painted over.

The Head Groundsman intends to keep the wild flower areas short over the winter period and will regularly rotavate the ground and remove grasses if possible. New seed will then be planted in the spring.

Following a site visit with the Chairman of this Committee, quotations have been obtained for replacing the bramble dominated hedge on the north boundary with a close-boarded fence. This work will commence in the New Year.

### **Dog Fouling**

The Head Groundsman confirmed that there had been no incidents of observing people not picking up after their dogs. A small amount of dog faeces is present from time to time, probably deposited in the evenings or early mornings when the Grounds Staff are not working. Unlike the Dog Warden, the Grounds Staff are taking an ad hoc approach and therefore regular patrols are impracticable.

### **Allotments – South of Leigh Road**

The allotments have been rotavated by Dorset Council and the Grounds Staff are marking each allotment out with pegs and string in accordance with the layout plan. The process of letting these is now underway.

A report on the allotments will be included in all future Recreation Ground inspection reports.

## **RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE**

**Date: 10 December 2021**

**Reference: Item: 3 – Use of Glyphosate**

**Author: Committee Officer**

This item was discussed at the meeting on 24 September 2021 and the Committee supported the use of Round Up (or a similar product) in limited circumstances where it was deemed necessary. This was in accordance with the practice adopted by Dorset Council, details of which were given at the meeting in September.

However, following the meeting, Wilding Wimborne (see Appendix 1 to this report) and other environmental groups were outraged that glyphosate was still to be used and the Town Clerk made the decision not to use the chemical pending reconsideration by the Committee. It has not been used for many years.

Given the strength of feeling apparent within the local community it is recommended that, as a matter of policy, the Town Council does not use glyphosate in the future.

To Wimborne Town Council

Wilding Wimborne is deeply concerned that the Recreation and Leisure Committee of Wimborne Minster Town Council approved on 24th September 2021, that “ the ground staff can use a weedkiller, that has been approved, in certain areas, ...”. The committee meeting discussion beforehand indicated that the weedkiller would be Roundup, which is a glyphosate, and that the areas would be around Wimborne, including the wildflower area in Redcotts Park.

EU approval for glyphosate has recently been found to be based on flawed evidence from the industry<sup>1</sup> and it is believed that it is toxic to insects including bees<sup>2</sup>, which are in a rapid and severe decline in the UK. The number of managed honeybee colonies in the UK fell by 53% between 1985 and 2005 (Potts et al, 2010)<sup>3</sup> and wild honeybees are thought to be nearly extinct throughout the British Isles (Carreck, 2008). Bumblebees and solitary bee diversity have declined by 52%.

Wilding Wimborne has worked hard with Wimborne Minster Town Council and the community to develop an environmentally sensitive non-toxic way of controlling weeds. This was an important step for the town to take to support the severe decline in bee populations, and we consider this recent decision a backward step and ask you to re-consider.

We are keen to work with the Town Council and support the important work it does to make Wimborne Minster a lovely place to live. We would welcome the opportunity to have stronger links with the Town Council. We believe that it would have been helpful if the committee had sought advice from Wilding Wimborne before going ahead with this decision. There are many ways to manage wildlife gardens, and one simple solution is to use yellow rattle which is parasitic on grasses which choke the flowers.

This decision will be deeply unpopular with the population of Wimborne and we would therefore welcome a constructive discussion as to the best way forward.

In summary, we request that this decision be reversed, and that this is confirmed in writing. We ask that, until there is a reversal of the decision, any use of glyphosate in Wimborne be documented and made available to the public.

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Linda Bunting*

on behalf of Wilding Wimborne

With endorsements from:

Planet Wimborne - Paula Van Breda & Rosemary Lunt  
Minster Environment Group - Alison Francis & Robert Pearce  
Wimborne War on Waste - Sarah Wise & Maria Roe

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> July 2021. A new scientific analysis finds that most of industry’s studies provided to EU authorities to prove glyphosate’s safety, did not meet basic international scientific standards as set by the OECD. [Article here.](#)

<sup>2</sup> Abstract of, Battisti et al, 2021, Is glyphosate toxic to bees? A meta-analytical review, [here](#).<sup>3</sup>  
Abstract of Potts et al, 2010, Global pollinator declines: trends, impacts and drivers, [here](#).

## RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE

**Date:** 10 December 2021

**Reference:** Item: 4 – Redcotts Recreation Ground – Request For Defibrillator  
(Min 67 – 24.09.21)

**Author:** Committee Officer

Members will recall that this item was discussed at the meeting on 24 September 2021.

The Bowls Club were subsequently approached to ask whether they would consider moving their defibrillator to an outside wall of the Pavilion so that it was accessible to all users of the Recreation Ground. The Chairman of the Club has responded to say that they would consider repositioning it externally but that it would need to be kept in an appropriate cabinet. He has also queried who would cover any cost for vandalism and replacements parts.

The defibrillator at the Bowls Club is a Defibtech Lifeline AED. It would require a cabinet suitable for outdoor siting and this would include a heating plate and full insulation. The cabinet can come either with a coded keypad or can be left unlocked. If the coded keypad lock is installed, then the specific lock code should be registered with the local ambulance service who can direct people to it in an emergency if needed during a 999/112 call. The cost of the cabinet would be in the region of £500.

One resident who lives adjacent to Redcotts Recreation Ground has made me aware that another local Town Council has an agreement with South Western Ambulance Service for the provision of a defibrillator for a 4 year period. The approximate cost of this for the four year period is £1,800.

At the meeting in September 2021 I was also asked to obtain details of all accessible defibrillators within Wimborne Minster. Unfortunately, there does not seem to be a central register of these – there are several websites but each relies on owners of defibrillators to register them on the website so the system is not robust. However, so far as I am aware, 24 hr accessible defibrillators are located at:

The Masonic Hall, Cornmarket  
The Allendale Community Centre, Hanham Road  
Waitrose

The Committee's options would appear to be:

1. Pursue the option of moving the Bowls Club defibrillator and to pay for the supply and installation of a suitable cabinet as well as accepting responsibility for ongoing maintenance.
2. Purchase an outdoor defibrillator at a cost of approximately £1,700.
3. Explore the provision of a defibrillator with the South Western Ambulance Service.

## RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE

**Date:** 10 December 2021

**Reference:** Item: 5 – Pollarding of Lime Trees – Redcotts Recreation Ground

**Author:** Committee Officer

The lime trees at Redcotts Recreation Ground were last pollarded in 2020. Both recreation grounds' lime trees are pollarded biennially.

Quotations have been obtained from tree surgeons and the prices submitted are as follows:

Contractor 1:	£ 950.00
Contractor 2:	£1,000.00
Contractor 3:	£1,300.00

All quotations provide for the removal of arisings.

Unless there is any dissent, the Town Clerk will accept the lowest quotation from Dorset Arborists.

**There is sufficient money in the Contract Work Budget to carry out this work.**