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WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of an informal meeting of the **RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE** via video link held on **FRIDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2021 at 10.00 am.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO LINK

Cllr A E Roberts – Vice-Chairman and in the Chair
Cllr P Bache
Cllr C A Chedgy
Cllr L C Hinks
Cllr M Hopkins
Cllr D J March
Cllr W J Richmond
Cllr K F Webb – Ex-Officio – Chairman of the Council
Cllr C L Butter - Ex-Officio – Vice-Chairman of the Council

MEMBER NOT PRESENT

Cllr S K Bartlett – Chairman

OFFICERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO LINK

Assistant Town Clerk
Committee Officer

105 **RECREATION GROUNDS INSPECTION REPORT**

The Committee Officer submitted for information 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.

The report covered in detail all current issues relating to the recreation grounds.

The Committee Officer further reported that the car park gate at Leigh Park had recently been adjusted to make it easier to open and close for users.

The Committee Officer also reported that the decaying lime tree at Redcotts Recreation Ground, mentioned in the report, had been felled following advice from a tree surgeon amid safety concerns.

The Vice-Chairman reported that there were two bricks missing from the Blind Road raised bed and that the shrubs planted there needed some attention.

The Vice-Chairman requested that Dorset Council be asked to clean the footpath near to the scout hut and deal with its unevenness. Cllr Chedgy reported that the Town Clerk had written to Dorset Council about the uneven footpath being a trip hazard and had requested that it be rectified.

Cllr Chedgy mentioned that the concrete around the manhole covers near to the Pavilion be repaired. The Committee Officer responded that she was already aware and was taking action.

106 USE OF GLYPHOSATE (Min 66 – 24.09.21)

The Committee Officer submitted a 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 report summarised the strength of negative feeling that had been expressed to the Council following its recent decision to use glyphosate in limited circumstances.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Town Clerk that glyphosate be not used by the Town Council.

TOWN CLERK'S DECISION – to approve the Committee's recommendation.

107 REDCOTTS RECREATION GROUND – REQUEST FOR DEFIBRILLATOR (Min 67 – 24.09.21)

The Committee Officer submitted a report, 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 report listed the options available for the supply of a defibrillator at Redcotts Recreation Ground.

It was agreed that the Council should proceed with negotiations with the Bowls Club with a view to moving the defibrillator currently sited in their premises to an outside wall accessible to the public. The Committee Officer was requested to ask the Bowls Club for details of its defibrillator maintenance arrangements.

TOWN CLERK'S DECISION – to proceed as suggested by the Committee.

108 POLLARDING OF LIME TREES - REDCOTTS RECREATION GROUND

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

The report set out three quotations from tree surgeons used by the Council in the past.

The Committee was minded to approve the quotation from Contractor 2, in the sum of £1,000. Although this was not the cheapest price he had provided very good service in the past.

TOWN CLERK'S DECISION – to accept the quotation from Paul Hanwell in the sum of £1,000.

The meeting closed at 10.21 am.

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

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 industry¹ and it is believed that it is toxic to insects including bees², 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)³ 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

¹ 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.](#)

² Abstract of, Battisti et al, 2021, Is glyphosate toxic to bees? A meta-analytical review, [here](#).³
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.