

WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the **RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Wimborne Minster on **TUESDAY, 24 MAY 2022** at **19.34 pm.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr S K Bartlett – Chairman
Cllr D Burt
Cllr L C Hinks
Cllr W J Richmond
Cllr C L Butter - Ex-Officio – Chairman of the Council
Cllr D J March – Ex-Officio – Vice-Chairman of the Council

OFFICERS PRESENT

Acting Town Clerk
Administration & Committee Officer

19 **PUBLIC SESSION**

There were no Members of the public present.

20 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr A E Roberts, Vice-Chairman
Cllr C A Chedgy

21 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

22 **RECREATION GROUNDS INSPECTION REPORT**

The Chairman 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.

The report covered in detail all current issues relating to the Town Council's recreation grounds.

The Chairman asked that the Grounds Staff be thanked for the additional work that they had been undertaking to assist the maintenance of the Cemetery.

Cllr March requested that the Wimborne Minster Town Council sign at Redcotts be cleaned.

The Chairman requested that the officers write to the Leigh Park Community Centre to request that the gate into the carpark is always padlocked at night to deter unauthorised vehicles from entering.

VANDALISM AT REDCOTTS RECREATION GROUND

The Administration & Committee Officer reported on a number of issues that had occurred at Redcotts Recreation Grounds in the last two to three weeks including damage to the football goal posts, table tennis table and a break in at the store behind the toilets.

She further reported that she had had a conversation with the local police sergeant last week and that subsequently the police had visited Redcotts and spoken to the youths present at that time.

The Administration & Committee Officer read out an email that had been received from a resident of Redcotts Road, a redacted copy of which appears as **Appendix B** to these Minutes. Cllr Hinks also confirmed that residents were feeling intimidated by youths in the Recreation Ground.

The Chairman suggested that further contact be made with the police to discuss a strategy to limit vandalism in the future and advice on engagement with the young people.

RESOLVED that the officers contact the police to discuss ways to minimise future vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the Town Council’s recreation grounds.

The meeting ended at 20.04 pm.

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

RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Date: 24 May 2022

Reference: Item 4: Recreation Grounds Inspection

Author: Cllr Shane Bartlett, Chairman

The Redcotts Recreation Ground inspection was conducted by Cllrs Roberts and March and they have highlighted various things as listed below. Later in the evening Cllrs Bartlett and Roberts conducted an inspection of Leigh Park Playing Fields and their findings can be seen in the report below.

It is acknowledged that the Ground Staff have over a recent period been engaged in additional work concerning the upkeep of the Cemetery. This has been necessary in order to keep on top of the maintenance of the cemetery, but it has come during a time of vigorous vegetation growth due to the weather conditions that are prevalent at the moment. This has had a negative impact on our recreation grounds which is understandable, it would nevertheless be welcomed to have an idea of when the vacant post at the cemetery is filled and our ground staff can return to a more normal working regime. Their efforts during this difficult period are appreciated.

Cllrs Bartlett and Roberts inspected the new skateboard facility at Parmiter and engaged with two young people who use the facility regularly. They informed the Chairman and Vice Chairman that the graffiti recently reported had been removed by the perpetrators at the insistence of the regular users of the facility. It would appear with support that we may be able to encourage and support the correct model we would like to see on this asset with the children taking ownership of it and taking care of it.

With regards to bonfires in the vicinity the young people spoken to will get the message out that taking branches from trees is not acceptable and will encourage that practice to stop. Sadly, a mature tree on the site has been ring barked and again the message was relayed that this must not happen. It felt like a very positive engagement on which we hope to build.

The allotments at Parmiter are looking to be in full flourish now and many are very advanced in layout and design and planted out. There is apparently a very good and healthy community spirit developing with the allotment holders. Rabbits continue to be an issue and there were reports made of children gaining access to the site but no complaints of any anti-social behaviour or vandalism which was pleasing to hear.

It was observed at Leigh Park that the community centre building is currently undergoing installation of solar roof panels. The roof panels were stacked on end and easily accessible through the gate, the security fencing was not adequate to provide a secure area for overnight storage which came as a surprise and the ladder

to the roof was also easily accessible which gives concern for health and safety issues.

Redcotts Recreation Ground

- 1) Railings and gates at Victoria Road entrance need painting.
- 2) The Roundhouse floor needs repairing.
- 3) Concern over wildflower beds not reaching their potential and differing method used by Dorset Council, including the lack of weed killer being used to prepare the beds.
- 4) Convolvulus, Sycamore and Bobby Buttons are invading the hedges.
- 5) The wall planting bed area at Cemetery Road end needs to be planted out.
- 6) The play area is suffering with weed growth appearing through the matting and ferns growing in the vicinity of the play tunnel.

Leigh Park

- 1) A metal post at the road entrance has been hit by a vehicle causing it to bend and needs straightening.
- 2) The wood chipping in the play area needs to be raked back into position below the play equipment and swings.
- 3) Table tennis table is not level and is in need of painting and refreshing.
- 4) There was a lot of rubbish in the play area and on the playing fields so a litter pick up should be prioritised.
- 5) The nets protecting the small children's play area needs repairing as rugby balls being kicked could find their way into the play area.
- 6) The anti-climbing fencing needs attention and securing at the small children's play area.
- 7) Metal posts in the small children's play area need to be removed, it is a mystery where they have come from.

> On 23 May 2022,

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> Dear Cllr Bartlett,

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> I write to you in your capacity as the Chairman of the Recreation & Leisure Committee expressing my concerns of the escalating environmental antisocial behaviour occurring in Redcotts Recreation Grounds.

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> As a resident of Redcotts Road, my family and I enjoy the recreation grounds daily and have a strong rapport with the Grounds Team and other regular users. We appreciate the variety of individuals and groups who use the grounds and feel we have been tolerant to minor incidents and indiscretions over the past nine years.

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> Sadly, over the last few weeks I have seen an increasing trend of antisocial behaviour occurring in the grounds including;

> · Drug use

> · Street drinking

> · Loud & offensive music

> · Rowdy behaviour including shouting, swearing & fighting

> · Vandalism

> · Littering

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> I have attempted to positively engage with the regular group of instigators on a number of occasions however was recently verbally abused when requesting that three male youths stop damaging the table tennis table, which was subsequently broken in two a few days later.

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> Apart from adding unnecessary clean-up & repair tasks to the excellent grounds team I feel that the vandalism and intimidating behaviour centred around the roundhouse is affecting the wider community causing anxiety, annoyance and avoidance of one of Wimborne's great recreational grounds.

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> I understand that this issue has been reported to the Town Council already, however I am hopeful that the Recreation & Leisure Committee may proactively seek to take crime prevention measures potentially through increased lighting and CCTV monitoring of the roundhouse area, further police patrols with youth engagement in the evenings or more radically, removal of the roundhouse completely.

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> With thanks for your consideration and regards,

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