

Whiteley Parish Council

Recreation and General Purposes Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the above Committee held at Meadowside Leisure Centre, Whiteley on Wednesday 22nd June 2011 at 8.03pm.

Parish Council Committee members present: Pat Thew (Chairman), Lydia Sullivan (Vice-Chairman) Roland Diffey, Mike Evans.

Parish Councillors Colin Bielckus and David Jenkins; one member of the public, Parish Clerk Nicki Oliver.

1. **To receive apologies for absence** Vivian Achwal, Pat Wright.
2. **To receive declarations of interest regarding agenda items** None.
3. **To adjourn meeting to allow participation by members of the public**
Resident Keith Slack asked whether the Committee was aware of the cost of hiring grounds maintenance equipment. Mr Slack also asked when the trampoline in the Rosemary Gardens play area would be removed. The Chairman answered the questions during the relevant agenda items below.
4. **Meeting resumed to consider the following agenda items:**

4.1 To receive an update on Area K issues (Chairman) **The Area K management contractor has confirmed it will service a grit bin if one is provided. It was agreed to recommend to Full Council that it purchases a grit bin for Area K.**

4.2 To receive an update on the sculpture bench project: installation of plaque (Clerk) **Plaque has been repaired and is awaiting installation.**

4.3 To receive an update from the Skatepark User Forum (Chairman/Clerk) **Defer until ownership of the skatepark is devolved to the Parish Council.**

4.4 To note any outstanding play area repairs and landscape maintenance issues please **The Chairman advised that the trampoline in Rosemary Gardens will be removed shortly. The contractor carrying out the French drain work for WCC has been permitted to deposit the spoil on the conservation area bunds, these are to be graded, topsoiled and re-seeded as part of the work.**

4.4.1 To receive update on repairs to timber sculpture benches. (Chairman) **It was agreed to seek quotes for a more robust repair of Eric the footballer sculpture.**

4.5 To consider request for floodlighting to Meadowside MUGA/tennis courts for use by local junior football teams and local organisations. **Nothing further to report.**

4.6 To receive update on management plans for the Meadowside conservation area (Chairman/Clerk) **Defer until land devolved to the Parish Council.**

4.7 To receive update on proposal for an outside gym area for Meadowside **It was agreed not to proceed with this proposal and to remove the item from future agendas.**

4.8 To receive update on project to install a bench in Marjoram Way (Chairman) **The bench is in place, item to be removed from future agendas.**

4.9 Proposal to investigate the possibility of a Parish Council led event in 2011 such as a fete, following the success of the WAG and the Whiteley Energy Weekend (Cllr Sullivan) **Cllr Sullivan is working on a proposal. Cllr Bielckus is working with British Land and Whiteley Village to arrange a firework night, likely date 30th October. Extensive promotion will be needed if the event goes ahead.**

4.10 To receive update on devolution of open spaces and future management plans (Chairman)

4.10.1 Proposal to employ Hedleys Solicitors to carry out legal work for the transfer of the land, estimated charges £2,500 + disbursements. Details circulated to members. **Agreed to employ Hedleys.**

The Chairman circulated a discussion paper looking at the potential costs for the Parish Council to directly employ a groundsman. It was agreed that the capital and revenue costs would be excessive and that tenders should be sought from landscaping contractors to carry out the work. The Clerk circulated a draft specification and contract terms and conditions for comments.

5. **To identify any unmanaged risks within this committee's remit** Continue to monitor. A full risk assessment will be required for the devolved areas in due course.
6. **Review effectiveness of communication, development of links with other community organisations and support for local democracy through making information more widely available** Continue to monitor.
7. **Recent correspondence/ reports from meetings attended of relevance to this committee**

The Chairman and Clerk met with WCC's solicitors on 8th June to discuss information requirements for both parties.

The Chairman, Council Chairman and Clerk met with WCC to discuss the existing and future management of the football pitches. Notes circulated to members.

Meeting closed 9.10pm