

Minutes of the Village Green Working Group Meeting

These are the draft minutes to be approved at the next meeting

The meeting was held on Monday the 15th June on line at 8.00 pm.

Participants:

Keith Brooks - Working Group Chairman

Gill Goodwin – WOTHabs representative

Alistair Aitchison - Football Club representative

Cormac Neeson - Cricket Club representative

Apologies:

Gavin Jones - Whitchurch Primary School representative, Lesley Prater – Community representative

1. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
2. Football Club update - the football training on the village green has started again following the lockdown caused by the pandemic with appropriate social distancing. There are three groups run by Cormac Neeson, Alistair Aichison and Alex Hilton of different ages. This provides much enjoyment for the younger people and gives them a real sense of purpose so important these days when they can get easily disillusioned and bored. A real asset for the village. The football club has also arranged for some 4.5 metre high nets to be placed behind the goal adjacent to the field. This follows some criticism that too many footballs were going astray into the adjacent field. We have had a problem with rubbish being left behind by people using the field and the football club have arranged with the PC to provide a bin in the car park which they will look after. Hopefully this will encourage people to drop off their rubbish on the way out - there is also one at the top of Muddy Lane if they leave by that exit.
3. Cricket practice is back in the nets but not matches yet as we are waiting for guidance from the government. Some of the nets are delapidated and need removing – this is planned for the future. Also there is an urgency for the availability of a tea hut and pavillion both of which are run down and so we are getting quotes for the work and will be asking the Parish Council for a contribution.
4. The maintenance of the village green has been significantly reduced by the current lockdown but we hope to resume with work parties carrying out jobs around the village green. There is work to do around the edges of the car park and also around the nature area where the children play. The school children derive a great deal of pleasure from using this area, learning about nature, in a safe environment. As they come back to school in August this will be done in the near future. It was agreed that we would contact Alexa Duckworth-Briggs at the Green Team to organise work parties for the forthcoming year. We were congratulated on removing the concrete posts in the road leading up to the school. There are new benches which have been

installed to replace those broken by unknown persons and a new tree by one of the benches which replaces the previous one which was vandalised. As we do have anti-social behaviour on the village green we decided to recommend that a proper sign is placed at the entrance to the village green say on the gate saying: 'Please treat this area with respect, use the bins provided or take your rubbish home with you. The use of illegal drugs, unauthorised alcohol consumption and lighting of fires or unauthorised barbecues is not allowed. Please clear up any dog mess and place in the bins provided on either of the exits to the Green.' This will inform people what we expect from those using our village green.

5. The roller needs to be removed from in front of the gate and not used in future as a security measure as it is a valuable piece of cricket club equipment. The Parish Council should consult the Police regarding how best to protect the village green against intrusion and carry out any recommendations that they advise.
6. We also agreed that it makes sense that the Parish Council should pay the water bill for the village green, since it is a village community asset. It was also noted that providing access to the water to the Allens is a goodwill gesture that would hope to be reciprocated in having access to the paddock to retrieve balls. Keith has read the meter and calculated we have used £40 approximately since February.
7. It was actioned that I would put together our recommendations in an email to the Parish Council.
8. The next meeting will be in February 2021.

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