



Kings Worthy Parish Council

Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities committee meeting held on Monday, 03 April 2023 at 19:30 held in Kings Worthy Community Centre, Fraser Road

Attendees

Councillors: E. Fish, D Lawlor, C Smith, T Stannard, S Waters

Clerk(s)

None.

Minutes taken by Cllr Smith (R&A).

Members of the public

Three members of the public were present.

County & City Councillor(s)

None.

RA/23/053 - Election of Chairperson for the evening

The Vice-chair, Cllr E. Fish chaired the meeting.

RA/23/054 - Apologies

Cllrs. M. Hallisey. Apologies were accepted by all members.

RA/23/055 - Public Question Time [Please note that this is the only time that the public are able to speak and is limited to 5 minutes per subject]

Two members of the public raised concerns regarding the lack of maintenance on a former hedge at Lower Broadview, between their property and Parish Council land. Councillors had visited the site and after considering the issues agreed that the vegetation had outgrown its original intended height and should be cut back. Due to the prolonged decision making period, the committee agreed work should be undertaken as soon as possible provided a careful search is undertaken which confirms the absence of active bird nesting.

Actions: Clerk to obtain a quotation to top the hedge to a height of approximately 3m.

The issue of anti-social behaviour and drug dealing was raised: it had been reported to the police and Neighbourhood Watch. Councillors suggested referring this to our Police Community Safety Officer and the Kings Worthy Beat Officer. Cllr Waters offered to become the Committee's liaison officer for PCSOs.

Action: Clerk to add to the agenda for Full Council meeting.

A third member of the public requested a response to the request from a parishioner for a specific burial plot for his wife. Councillors advised that this had been discussed and agreement reached at the March R&A meeting.

Action: Cllr Fish to ask clerk to confirm this decision in writing to the former parishioner before Easter.

RA/23/056–To agree and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 09 March 2023

Members agreed two amendments to the March minutes:

- Item RA/23/34 – the agreed amendment to the January R&A minutes is as stated in the February minutes (the manual adjustment to the paper copy of January’s R&A meeting minutes had contained erroneous additional information that had not been agreed by committee members).
- Item RA/23/050 was incorrect. Councillors had approved the use of Church Green for a Fete on Monday 8th May (not Sunday 7th May).

With the above amendments agreed, the Vice-Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting.

RA/23/057 –Matters arising from the meeting held on the 09 March 2023

- Church Green Bollards –The Vice Chair had been unable to meet the Clerk as previously arranged to confirm the amended position for the bollards. The committee confirmed its decision as shown on the annotated photograph and asked that M.R.S services be instructed to install the bollards without delay to ensure the security of Church Green.

Action: Clerk to instruct M.R.S services as soon as possible.

RA/23/058 – Eversley Park play area tender -update

The works had started on site today. Ava Recreation have erected temporary protective fencing around the playground and trackway to protect the path/grass across the park. The new play equipment had also arrived today together with picnic benches.

The planning application (solely for the higher play tower structure) is now live on the City Council website. There were no objections from the WCC Landscape Officer but the WCC Tree Officer had asked for an Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement in line with BS 5837 before commenting.

Action: Cllr Smith.

RA/23/059 – Fraser Road play area – update including potential alternative equipment

Now that there is drier weather, the committee requested that surface cleaning take place at this play area as soon as possible.

Action: Cllr Fish to follow up with M.R.S services asap.

Replacement play equipment now needs to be ordered. The clerk requested assistance with compiling tender documents for a competitive quote. Councillors asked for more details about the likely value of the insurance claim and details of the previous playground equipment in order to compile a brief for replacement items.

Action: Cllr Stannard to ask Clerk for details and to write a brief for the new playground equipment.

RA/23/060 - Grounds maintenance contract tender process

Cllrs Smith and Stannard confirmed they would be part of the working party. Cllr Fish would join if needed. Cllr Miller-Hall, as a member of Finance committee, would also be asked to confirm.

Given that the new contract needs to be operational by September, the Group agreed to meet first week of May with the aim of publishing tenders by mid-June.

ACTION: Working group to arrange to meet.

RA/23/061 - Tree works / General Maintenance

- Tree inspections including land at Hinton Fields – An inspection had been undertaken and a report submitted by the Arboricultural Consultant. Councillors agreed to view two of the trees recommended for felling prior to final approval of the works. Providing there are no issues it was agreed to accept the recommendations.

Action: Councillors to review on site before the close of this week and confirm by email.

- Hinton Park improvement including potential engagement with parishioners – Sunday 16th April from 2pm was set for the open afternoon with members of the Worthys Conservation Volunteers supporting Parish Councillors. The event would be publicised to neighbouring residents to encourage interest in the Park.

Action: Cllr Smith to publicise, carry out risk assessment and arrange details for the afternoon.

RA/23/062 - Fence around the lower football pitch

Councillors had visited the site to view the condition of the current fencing and agreed that it was in need of replacement. An alternative, more durable type of fencing was requested such as weldmesh which will not unravel like existing chain link.

Action: Clerk to be asked to progress quotes for replacement fencing.

RA23/062 - Church Green Bollards

Item covered in RA/23/057 above.

RA/23/064- Football pitch maintenance - including closure dates for pitches

The Clerk advised that pitch bookings are made en bloc and individual matches not confirmed until a week prior. In previous years, the pitch was closed at the end of the season to allow for maintenance. The committee agreed their preferred date would be 21st May to minimise disruption to the football teams.

Action: Clerk to inform all those booking the pitches, of the intended closure date, as soon as possible and confirm with Green Smile.

RA/23/065 – Paths at the cremation area – options

Councillors had visited the site to determine possible phasing of any remedial works to the paths. It was agreed that all the paths would need re-surfacing at some point to ensure the burial ground became more accessible. Advice would be sought regarding surfacing type and method to avoid damage to the existing trees. At least two drop kerbs would also be required.

Action: Clerk to investigate surfacing options and report back to R&A.

A query was raised regarding the absence of the bollard at the burial ground entrance. A socket had been installed with a view to keeping one entrance gate open, allowing level access for pedestrians.

Action: Cllr Fish to ask Clerk for an update.

RA/23/066 - Confirmation of permission to inter ashes in a previously agreed burial plot

Following an email request from a former parishioner, to have the ashes of herself and her husband interred in her father's burial plot, the committee unanimously agreed to the proposal.

Action: Clerk to confirm the decision to the correspondent as soon as possible.

RA/23/067 – Lengthsman visit – programme of works

Cllrs Smith and Fish had produced a proposed seasonal schedule of work. This would be circulated to all committee members for review.

Action: Cllr Smith.

RA/23/068 – young adults gathering in Eversley Park play area

As discussed in item RA/23/055 above, Cllr Waters offered to become the Parish Council liaison officer with our PCSO.

Action: Clerk to add to agenda for next Full Council.

RA/23/069 – King's Coronation celebrations.

Members agreed to a memorial plaque for the Coronation bench.

Opening the new playground after school on Friday 5th May (pending a successful sign-off by the Health and Safety Inspector), was agreed.

Suggestions for the naming of the re-opened playground were being invited from the school, and a notice will be advertised on our social media platforms. Competition@kingsworthy-pc.org.uk will be used for submission of ideas. This email address will be monitored but not used for responses – an auto-reply to this effect will be set up. Emails will then be forwarded to the Committee Chair.

Action: Clerk to set up and forward emails. Comms group to advertise via SM.

RA/23/070 – Review of Burial Ground charging structure.

Cllr Fish will bring further information to a future meeting of R&A. Charging information from other Parishes is proving more time consuming to collate than originally anticipated.

Action: Cllr Fish

RA/23/071 – Items for inclusion in Council communications

Update on works at Eversley Park playground including naming competition and intended opening.

Litter pick and Hinton Park open afternoon dates.

RA/23/072 – Clerk’s Notices

- WCC had requested use of the football pitches in Eversley Park for a children’s holiday club. The committee agreed to this request.

Action: Clerk to confirm with WCC.

RA/23/073 – Chairman’s Notices.

None

RA/23/074 – Items for discussion at the next Meeting – 4th May 2023

Finalise plans for the opening of Eversley Park playground.

The meeting closed at. 21.15.

Signed:

Date: