

**CAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 6.30PM IN THE COUNCIL SHOP**

**PRESENT:** N Ledoux (Chair), D Andrewartha, B Powell, D Pritchard, M Stevens

**APOLOGIES:** P Dutfield, D Jones, J Fowles, M Clifton, J Sherman, D Cornell

**IN ATTENDANCE:** R Lewis (Stroud valleys project), S Hanman (Clerk)

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**RL.11.72.      To receive Apologies for Absence**

Apologies as listed above were received and accepted

**RL.11.73.      To receive Declarations of Interest**

None received

**RL.11.74.      To Accept and Sign Minutes of the Meeting of 13t July as a True and Correct Record**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chair

**RL.11.75.      To receive any questions, statements or submissions from members of the public in attendance or from any Councillor in respect of any agenda item in which he/she has a Prejudicial Interest**

None received

**RL.11.76.      To note matters arising from the Minutes and not covered by agenda items for Information Only**

None raised

**RL.11.77.      To receive update from Stroud Valleys Project on the Rackleaze site management and development**

Richard Lewis provided an update of work on the Rackleaze site and members visited the site which they found to be interesting and informative. It was agreed that a route through the area for the proposed cycleway could benefit both projects. The possibility of acquiring additional land on the other side of the river in respect of the cycleway was also discussed, with the possibility that SVP might then manage both sides, and that the site might be designated a Local Nature Reserve. An article for the next edition of the newsletter would be prepared by R Lewis to provide more information to the public. It was felt that the Parish Council needs to be more pro-active in promoting the cycleway and agreed that Full Council should be asked to allocate this aspect of the project to R&L Committee, with P&H Committee to continue to consider the highway and planning aspects. The matter would also be considered by Finance & General Purposes Committee when considering future budgets.

**RL.11.78.      To note correspondence received**

Various advertising material for play equipment had been received

**RL.11.79.      To receive and comment on budget report and consider any amendments**

The current budget position was noted and agreed (report attached)

**RL.11.80. To agree information for September newsletter**

It was agreed that short articles on the following should be prepared by individuals as noted:

- Rackleaze – Richard Lewis
- Dog Fouling – Cllr Ledoux
- Allotments – Deputy Clerk to be asked to prepare a report
- Woodfield play equipment - Clerk

**RL.11.81. To consider ways to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012**

An appeal for ideas from the public had been issued in the last newsletter. Only 1 positive response had been received, suggesting that public donations are sought towards the cost of a suitable event and that the new hospital might be named in honour of the occasion or some item of equipment purchased for the hospital and named accordingly. There had also some negative responses, expressing a view that public money should not be spent on this at all, with some very anti-monarchy views also expressed.

It was agreed to write to the PCT with the suggestion of naming the hospital, although it was believed that the name had already been agreed. Full Council would also be asked to consider naming the Resource Centre building in honour of the occasion. Council would also be asked to consider purchase of a commemorative coin for local children.

**RL.11.82. To consider provision of activities for young people pending production of a strategic plan for youth work in the area**

This was deferred until it is clearer whether current activities will be sufficient.

**RL.11.83. To progress application for Village Green status for land at Woodview Road**

It was noted that the designation process can take around 2 years. The Clerk would complete the application form, referring to Committee if necessary.

**RL.11.84. To consider provision of new dog bin at Woodfield**

It was noted that the current bin has rusted through and contents were falling out. It was RESOLVED that authority be delegated to the Clerk to purchase a suitable replacement.

**RL.11.85. To consider maintenance and improvement works to the skatepark at Jubilee Field**

Various quotes had been received for painting and/or blasting the ramps back to bare metal. There had been some conflicting advice with regard to the extent of the work needed, including taking back to bare metal and any need to address the ramps sinking in to the tarmac surface. This year's professional safety inspection of the area did not identify these issues as a hazard. Some of the young people themselves had approached the council requesting resurfacing, and this week's site visit confirmed that the surface is now very poor. It was agreed to ask local contractor Ian Walkley for a quote for both blasting back to bare metal and re-painting, accepting that he would need to subcontract the blasting, but noting that his quote for re-painting was lower than that received from the blasting contractor. Advice would also be sought from the District Council, which maintains similar facilities. A budget ceiling of £2,500 was agreed for all works, with the Clerk authorised to proceed, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair.

**RL.11.86. To consider future management arrangements for the Jubilee Field and facilities**

Further discussion with the clubs on this issue had been planned for this week's scheduled meeting of JPlay. However, this meeting had to be abandoned as none of the club representatives were able to attend. A site visit did take place and the changing room units were inspected – a good deal of work had been done by Bulldogs on the unit they use, including repairs to and lagging of plumbing. These units were now looking very tidy and should be ready for use, pending confirmation of electrical safety. The unit used by Everside, however, was in poor condition –

showers had been removed from the walls (as they are not used) but electrical wiring left exposed, toilets had been used despite there being no water supply and the rooms were generally messy and untidy.

It was reported that automatic light switches were not working correctly and there were some concerns with regard to the electrical work done last year – checks would be made with invoices, warranties etc. Severn Trent had visited and were quite positive with regard to installing separate meters – they would confirm shortly and, if this is feasible, there would be no charge. However, before this can be done, the plumbing in the ‘Everside’ unit needs to be checked and repaired if necessary, including the replacement of a section of piping in the meter cupboard, which has been completely removed. A response was still awaited from the electrical supplier with regard to separate meters for that supply. However, it now appeared that the existing meter situation would enable bills to be apportioned between the separate units.

It was noted that the two clubs had still not reached agreement with regard to outstanding contributions from Bulldogs towards utility costs. It was agreed that it would not be sensible to instigate a new management agreement, with apportioned costs, until this is resolved. It was therefore agreed that an offer should be made to Everside FC for the Council to act as an intermediary with Bulldogs to try to resolve the issue. It was also suggested that changing responsibility for bills from Everside to Bulldogs, with Everside to reimburse their share, might also help.

If this issue can be resolved, Committee at its next meeting would further discuss future arrangements for the management of these units and the field facility in general. The proposal is that the units are separated (hence new meters) and allocated separately to each club, who would then be responsible for maintenance, bills and so on. However, Council would need to be convinced that they will, in fact, be managed appropriately under such an arrangement. There remains the issue of management of the field in general, in particular site security and measures to improve this and to hold relevant people/clubs accountable when this is not done. The level of rent payable for use of the facilities (if any) would also need to be determined.

**RL.11.87. To consider other Jubilee Field Maintenance and Development issues**

- i. To receive update on anti social behaviour, litter, damage etc and agree any actions** – Although it had been quite a quiet summer in general, despite an increase in anti-social behaviour around, rather than in, the field, there had been recent reports of young people on the roof of the changing rooms. It was agreed that signs warning of a weak roof and advising use of crawling boards should be erected. There had been some minor vandalism, and litter remained a problem, but there had been less broken glass and no major damage. The level of ASB around, and occasionally within, the field was however a concern for the Police, as this had been more serious, including damage to cars in the area close to the field, and the arrest of a young man within the field for possessing a knife.
- ii. To consider application of funding under Sport England’s Protecting Inspirational Facilities scheme** – Reference was made to information on the Sport England website ([www.sportengland.org/inspiredfacilities](http://www.sportengland.org/inspiredfacilities)). It was agreed that this looks very promising with regard to possible provision of new modular buildings for changing rooms, but would require both match funding and the co-operation of the clubs. The bid would have to be made by the Council as owner of the facility, but would require the co-operation of the clubs in terms of development plans, evidence of need and so on. There would have to be evidence to show that new changing rooms would improve sporting opportunities, in particular for the post-16 age group. It was agreed to proceed with a bid, if the necessary support from the clubs is forthcoming. Letters would be sent to both clubs explaining that the Council is prepared to make the bid, and has some match funding available, but that nothing will be done unless the clubs contribute the necessary supporting information.
- iii. To consider purchase of new goal posts** – Everside FC had asked the Council to consider the purchase of new goal posts for the field, on the basis that these are used by the general public, not just the clubs. This matter was deferred as it was felt that the club should demonstrate their commitment before any further expenditure is made.
- iv. To consider improved grounds maintenance** – There were various grounds maintenance issues, including weed growth around the toddler play equipment and deteriorating grass surface on the football pitches. It was agreed that a site meeting be held with the contracting to look at the area in general and discuss how issues might best be addressed.

**v. To Note any Comments from Users of Jubilee Field and Agree Actions**

None present

**RL.11.88. To receive regular inspection reports for play areas and open spaces and agree any actions**

No major issues reported.

It was felt that the inspection strategy should be reconsidered, together with contracts for the Handyman and Grounds Maintenance, both of which would need to be re-tendered within the next 2 years. It was possible that the Council might move towards direct employment of staff, instead of using external contractors. The possibility of including inspections within the job description for the Deputy Clerk, once her hours increase in April 2012, would also be considered.

**RL.11.89. To Note any Issues Relating to Allotments**

- i) To consider any applications for structures and note planning implications** – One application for shed at Upthorpe received – details were provided and it was RESOLVED that this should be permitted.
- ii) To consider inspection reports and agree any actions** – Inspections had been completed and reports were noted. The following actions were agreed:  
Woodfield – Write to tenant of plot not being cultivated (Plot 11)  
Ashmead 2 – Tenant previously warned about non-cultivation had now left. Plot 10 tenant would be warned re. non-cultivation.  
Upthorpe – Several plots were under-cultivated and the site in general was quite untidy. Letters would be sent to all tenants requesting that they remove unnecessary materials from the site, tidy away hosepipes etc. They would also be reminded that produce grown on allotments must be used for the tenant and his/her family only, not sold commercially (this following reports that an allotment tenant had been selling door to door). The Handyman would be asked to remove pieces of broken glass from the gateway and to complete the marking of the rear boundary at Plot 1.
- iii) To consider eviction in respect of non-payment of rent** – As the tenant in question had now voluntarily vacated the plot, this would not be necessary.
- iv) To confirm arrangements for hosting of South West Allotment officers Forum** – This was discussed at Full Council and arrangements agreed were considered satisfactory. The Forum would be asked for advice about the positive and negative aspects of forming allotment associations to manage allotment sites.
- v) To note and comment on any further allotment issues** - The potential for use of remaining space at Ashmead 2 allotments would be considered at the next meeting.

**RL.11.90. Any Other Urgent R&L Matters for Information or Referral Only**

It was noted that the Memorial Hall Management Committee had been unsuccessful in getting Tesco to fulfil their undertaking to cut the hedge. It was appreciated that they have no legal obligation to do this, but considered that, having agreed to do the work, they should have completed the task. The Management Committee would not arrange for the work to be done.

Reinstatement of land at Cam Green following Severn Trent works would be checked, together with the condition of the goal mouth. This area would be discussed at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8.50pm.