# Pangbourne Parish Council logo

PANGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

GROUNDS COMMITTEE MINUTES

At a meeting of the Grounds Committee held at Pangbourne Village Hall on Wednesday 20 September at 7.30pm.

Present: N. Goodwin, J. Higgs, I. Walker, B. Elkin (Clerk), L. Antonio (Asst Clerk)

Apologies were noted from: C. Roberts, J. Power

Not present: G. Child

MoP: None

# Section 1 – Procedural

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|  |  | **Action** |
| **GR/302** | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE |  |
|  | C. Roberts, J. Power |  |
| **GR/303** | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST |  |
|  | JH is a member of the Bowls Club. |  |
| **GR/304** | **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** |  |
|  | The minutes of the last meeting held on 7 June 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record. |  |
| **GR/305** | **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS, MATTERS COMPLETED AND MATTERS ARISING ON THE MINUTES** |  |
|  | * **Cemetery Car park** – clerk has meeting with CR on 25/09 to discuss. | **Clerk** |
|  | * Meadows **Clearance work behind changing rooms** – quote received from Shield for additional bins. Clerk to review and progress if acceptable. | **Clerk** |
|  | * **Meetings with sports teams –** meeting with Tennis Club to discuss terms of lease is taking place soon (date tbc). Clerk to source templates and identify all relevant financial responsibilities relating to the Pavilion prior to the meeting. | **Clerk** |

# Section 2 - Decision Making

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|  |  | **Action** |
| **GR/306** | **TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON PLAYGROUND RESURFACING PROJECT AND AGREE NEXT STEPS** |  |
|  | Assistant Clerk provided report on progress with project.   * Outcome of planning application is expected on 29 September. * A grant of £10,000 has been received from National Lottery Community Fund towards the costs of the project – to be spent by 07/09/24. Greenham Trust has agreed to match any contributions to the Good Exchange up to £20,000.   The total project costs (including the pole replacement work) will be £108,069 including VAT. Clerk reported that there are sufficient funds in the current CIL reserves to cover the net costs, but there will be no allowance for any unexpected works and the VAT expenditure will need to be met until it can be reclaimed. Clerk reported that there may be a Developer CIL payment due in the next few months which would help with bridging these costs but WBC had not been able to provide any information. There is also the possibility of a WBC Members Bid grant – deadline for applications is 31 October.  Assistant Clerk then presented a summary of the three tenders received for installing the new surface. Each company was offering slightly different colour options but overall the quote from Abacus for black wetpour with colour on high wear areas around equipment was the most economical option. In addition Abacus had carried out a full site survey, provided the most detail in their quote and had demonstrated a clear understanding of the access limitations of the site. It was agreed that they should be selected to carry out the work.  Clerk suggested as a final assurance, Abacus could be asked to provide references and a check could be done with the API (Association of Play Industries), the accreditation body.  The work to replace poles will be carried out by Playdale, due to their warranty on the poles. The aim will be to schedule the pole replacement immediately prior to the main project so that the surface will not need to be temporarily reinstated around the new poles. The Committee acknowledged that this may lead to the playground needing to be closed for longer if there are any scheduling issues.  At the request of the Assistant Clerk, Councillors agreed to be available during the works to help manage any issues that might arise.  **RESOLVED to recommend** to Council that the resurfacing contract be awarded to Abacus Playgrounds Ltd (subject to outcome of planning application) and that the work to be scheduled, in agreement with contractor, for no later than March/April 2024.  In order to avoid delaying the project until after the next Council meeting, this recommendation will be put to an Extra Ordinary meeting of the full Council, provisionally scheduled for Tuesday 26 September. |  |
| **GR/307** | **TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR RABBIT CONTROL MEASURES AT RECREATION GROUND** |  |
|  | A request has been received from Pangbourne Adult Football Club for action to control the rabbit population on the Recreation Ground. The chicken wire on the fence along the railway line (installed by Network Rail) has become compressed and is no longer fit for purpose.  Assistant Clerk contacted Network Rail to request repairs/replacement of the chicken wire but they have said that due to a high number of requests, they ‘are only completing work that is safety critical’, so will not be offering any assistance. Assistant Clerk walked around the Recreation Ground with Evergreen Rabbit Control. There were a few runs visible in the hedge line adjacent to the track and under the bowling green hedge but no signs of burrows in the grass itself. Evergreen could provide a one-off rabbit control measure in the hedge line, but their advice was that the burrows would simply be re-populated by rabbits from the meadows, Meadow Farm and the railway line. |  |
|  | AGREED to monitor the situation and gather more information on the level of damage being caused. | Asst Clerk |
| **GR/308** | **TO REVIEW COSTS OF REPAIRING ALLOTMENT FENCE AND AGREE NEXT STEPS** |  |
|  | The Committee reviewed photographs of damage to the allotment fence. Assistant Clerk reported that two sections of the fence, measuring approximately 5 metres and 12 metres, have been damaged. It would appear that the damage might be being caused by cattle.  There was a discussion with regards to the need for the fence in terms of protecting allotments from wildlife. |  |
|  | A contractor has been asked to provide a quote for replacing the sections of fence, but these costs were not available in time for the meeting. The Committee agreed that in the first instance, Sulham Estate should be asked for support in protecting the boundary, as any new sections of fence may be simply be damaged again. | Clerk |

# Section 3 - Updates from working groups, councillors and committee members

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|  |  | **Action** |
| **GR/309** | TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY WORKING GROUPS OR OUTSTANDING ACTIONS |  |
|  | None. |  |
| **GR/310** | ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY OR RAISED BY COUNCILLORS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING |  |
|  | None. |  |

# Section 4 - Closure

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|  |  | **Action** |
| **GR/311** | **CLOSURE**  There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.  Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 18 October 2023. |  |

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