



AYLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **RECREATION & FACILITIES COMMITTEE** meeting held on **Tuesday 15th**
August 2023 at 19.00pm at Aylesham House

SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

1. Those Present

Cllrs K. Sutcliffe (Committee chair); L. Prescott; G. Armstrong; D. Garrity. Acting Assistant
Clerk N. Purcell

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr B. Oliver- Work Commitments

3. Councillor Information

Declaration of Interest- None

Changes to Register of Interest- None

Granting of Dispensation- None

4. Public representation- (Notified to Clerk in advance of the meeting, agenda items only)

None

5. Park Inspections Issues Log

Clerks hold a spreadsheet of all issues reported during the weekly area inspections, to enable monitoring of when things require actioning. This was discussed with councillors. Many items on the list are highlighted in the Annual Play Area Inspections carried out by Safeplay.

6. Snowdown Recreation Ground

6.1 Feedback from site visit

Councillors agreed that the play area at Snowdown was looking well kept, besides the noted cracked toddler swing. Council is aware that the s106 funding will need to be spent this financial year- and is earmarked for play equipment only.

6.2 Projects

Resolved: it was proposed by D. Garrity and seconded by G. Armstrong that the clerks obtain brochures for play equipment and investigate options to suggest to council on what play equipment the s106 money could be spent on. Also, to obtain quotes for a new picnic table/bench.

Outcome: all in favour, motion carried.

6.3 Annual Inspection & repair quotes

There were no immediate 'high risk' matters identified on the annual inspection for Snowdown Play Park. The committee considered the quotes for all 'low risk' items identified on the annual inspection report.

Resolved: It was proposed by D. Garrity and seconded by G. Armstrong to proceed with the quoted replacement of the cracked cradle swing seat at £239+VAT

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried.

7. Attlee Avenue

7.1 Feedback from site visit

During the site visit, council noted the presence of garden waste fly tipping.

7.2 Projects

Council discussed that there were no planned projects for this area at present as the area is imminently due the installation of the new playground and landscaping. Clerks will check for an update of the CCTV.

8. Aylesham Skate Park

8.1 Feedback from site visit

Council noted that the skate park is looking tidy, except for the occasional bits of litter.

8.2 Projects

Council discussed the possibility of replacing the wooden skate ramp surface with metal, as this could reduce the regular maintenance and repair costs moving forward with a more hardwearing material. Although not likely to be achieved from this year's budget- council could consider the costs in preparation for the 2024/25 budget setting in November.

Resolved: It was proposed by G. Armstrong and seconded by D. Garrity that the clerks investigate how much it would cost to change the surface material of the ramps to metal.

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried.

8.3 Annual Inspection & Repair quotes

There were no immediate 'high risk' matters identified on the annual inspection for the Skate Park. The committee considered the quotes for all 'low risk' items identified on the annual inspection report.

Resolved: It was proposed by D. Garrity and seconded by G. Armstrong that council proceed with the quoted 'at height inspection' for both the Cable Runway (Zipline) and the Cantilever Swing. At £95.00 each item. Totalling £190+VAT.

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried

Council discussed the possibility of re-installing the hammocks in the teen shelter but decided to leave them for now.

9. Market Square

9.1 Feedback from site visit

There were several items council noted during their site visit:

- Damaged flower bed boxes
- Christmas tree area in poor condition, both ground and fence
- Chipped edges to the war memorial stone base
- Brick missing from paving behind memorial.

Resolved: It was proposed by G. Armstrong and seconded by D. Garrity for the clerks to obtain repair quotes for all items listed above, for consideration.

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried.

9.2 Projects

Council discussed the possibility of having a live Christmas tree planted in the future. At this stage council are just considering options for the future. Council noted that there would be things that need consideration such as other events in the square throughout the year, and maintenance/watering of the tree.

Resolved: It was proposed by L. Prescott and seconded by D. Garrity that the clerks obtain prices for the purchase of a live Christmas tree, for consideration in the future.

Outcome: all in favour, motion carried

9.3 Tree Survey Quote

The tree survey for the Market Square is Due. Clerks have obtained a quote for £795+VAT.

Resolved: It was proposed by G. Armstrong and seconded by D. Garrity to proceed with the above quote.

Outcome: all in favour, motion carried

9.4 Fence Repair Quotes

The clerks have sought quotes for the repair or replacement of the damaged railing at the Market Square.

Out of the three companies contacted, one could not acquire the same railing as currently in place so unable to help, one company acknowledged the quote request but didn't come back with a quote, and the third company quoted £578.09 Incl. VAT.

Resolved: It was proposed by G. Armstrong and seconded by D. Garrity to proceed with the above fence repair quote of £578.09 incl. VAT.

Outcome: all in favour, motion carried.

10. Flags -item to be referred to Full Council as per the Terms of Reference to the committee.

Cllr Prescott submitted a report which was circulated to the committee. Cllr Prescott believes that the wrong flag is being flown on St Patrick's day. Councillors discussed at length, with councillors having independently researched flags prior to the meeting. The current flag flown is the Tricolour flag, which was purchased at the request of a resident in 2017. Council discussed that this flag is representative of the whole of Ireland. Cllr Prescott disagreed.

Clerk advised that if the committee decide to consider the flag being changed- it would need to be referred to full council.

Resolved: It was proposed by L. Prescott and seconded by D. Garrity that the matter of changing the St Patrick's Day Flag be referred to full council for consideration.

Outcome: 2 votes in favour, 2 against. The chair therefore has the casting vote and voted against the motion.

Cllr Prescott also submitted a report stating he believes the American Flag should be flown on 4th July to represent those in the village with American Heritage links, such as the Bruderhof Community at Nonington.

Resolved: it was proposed by L. Prescott and seconded by G. Armstrong that the matter of adding the American Flag to the parish council's schedule be referred to full council for consideration.

Outcome: 2 in favour, 2 against. The chair therefore had the casting vote and voted against the motion.

11. Land Hire Application: St Peter's Church Remembrance Day Service

All required Documents have been received from St Peter's Church for the hire of Market Square to include use of electricity for the PA system, on 12th November 2023 for the Remembrance Day service. All documents have been checked prior to the meeting and circulated to councillors.

Resolved: it was proposed by D. Garrity and seconded by G. Armstrong that permission be granted for the application as detailed, to include the use of electricity for the PA system.

Outcome: all in favour, motion carried.

12. D-Day 80th Celebrations

The 6th of June 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings. Council may wish to consider marking the occasion. Council discussed the possibility of involving or supporting community groups that may be planning something.

Resolved: it was proposed by G. Armstrong and seconded by D. Garrity to take the matter to full council for consideration.

Outcome: all in favour, motion carried.

13. Next meeting date

Tuesday 19th September 2023

-Meeting Closed 20:07-

It has been agreed by the Committee that these minutes are a true and accurate record.

Signed.....

Date.....