

Sonning Common Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee held on Monday 08 November 2021 at 19:15 in the Village Hall.

Present: Ms Boorman (chairman), Mr Rawlins, Mrs Pearman, Mr Howe, Mr Stoves and Mrs Varnes, Deputy Parish Clerk. Mr Cann attended in an ex-officio capacity.

PRC 21/052 Apologies for absence: apologies were received and accepted from Mr Settle.

PRC 21/053 Declarations of interest: none.

PRC 21/054 Public Question Time: no public present.

PRC 21/055 Memorial Park:

055.01/To consider and make recommendations to full council on a landscaping proposal for Memorial Park (papers attached). This proposed plan is based upon the approved landscaping plan for the park – prepared for the Parish Council by landscaping consultants Terra Firma and approved by South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC).

After discussion members resolved to support the landscaping proposal, which included some modifications to the approved landscaping scheme, except for a proposed hedge on the eastern boundary of Memorial Park.

Mrs Pearman proposed that new planting on the eastern boundary should be restricted to trees initially and that the landscaping of this area should be reviewed in Spring 2022. Members resolved to support Mrs Pearman's proposal and recommend it to full council.

Further discussion took place on applying to SODC for approval to modify the approved landscaping scheme. It was agreed that the hedge on the eastern boundary should be included in the application to SODC to revise the scheme and that another application could be made to remove the hedge subsequently, if desired.

055.02/To receive updates from Mrs Varnes on the planned handover of Memorial Park from Sport and Play (groundworks' contractors) to the parish council and the lighting planning application for the park.

Mrs Varnes advised the committee that an initial walkaround to inspect Memorial Park prior to handover - involving the contractors Sport and Play and Aurora along with Mrs Pearman, Mrs Snowden, Mr Collings and herself - was scheduled to take place on Monday 22 November. There was no update from SODC on the progress of the lighting application.

055.03/To receive an update on the Memorial Park Play Area public exhibition (Sonning Common Village Hall, Saturday 06 November, 10am-1pm).

Mrs Pearman reported that the exhibition was well attended with many positive comments received about the proposed play equipment.

055.04/To receive any updates and recommendations from Mrs Pearman on behalf of the Memorial Park Working Party.

No additional updates and recommendations were received.

PRC 21/056 Old Copse:

056.01/To receive an update from Ms Boorman and Mr Stoves on the management of the council-owned part of Old Copse and to make recommendations to full council, as appropriate.

Mr Stoves reported that he planned to inspect Old Copse in the company of a tree surgeon to assess the work and costs involved with managing the woodland. He agreed to report back to the committee on this.

He also reported that a lot of litter was evident in the council-owned part of Old Copse.

Mr Rawlins suggested that it would be a good idea to map the trees in Old Copse.

Ms Boorman agreed to prepare an action plan for Old Copse to include a plan of the woodland and initiatives to tackle the litter problem, which might include voluntary help from the village community.

056.02/To receive an update from members on a proposal to create a new woodland on the brownfield, former war-time camp site west of Old Copse.

Ms Boorman said she had written to the owners of the site but had not had a reply.

PRC 21/057 Matters for future agendas: none.

The meeting closed at 20:35.

Date of next meeting: Monday 13 December 2021 at 19:15.