

# Sonning Common Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee held on Monday 13 December 2021 at 19:15 in the Village Hall.

Present: Ms Boorman (chairman), Mr Rawlins, Mr Settle, Mrs Pearman, Mr Howe, Mr Stoves, Mr Collings and Mrs Varnes, Deputy Parish Clerk.

- PRC 21/058 Apologies for absence: none.  
PRC 21/059 Declarations of interest: none.  
PRC 21/060 Public Question Time: none present.  
PRC 21/061 Memorial Park.

061.01/To receive and discuss a report, prepared by the clerk and deputy clerk, of their independent inspection of the sports plateau topsoil on Thursday 02 December. To make recommendations to full council, if desired.

Mr Collings and Mrs Varnes provided members with an update on how their inspection report had been received by Aurora, the company employed by the Parish Council to manage the Memorial Park project. A video call between Parish Council and Aurora representatives took place on 09/12/21. Initial discussions were positive, they reported, and more information would follow from Aurora following their discussions with groundworks' contractor, Sport and Play.

Parish Office staff agreed to keep members fully updated on the negotiations with contractors and the remedial action proposed to address the unacceptable level of stones in the topsoil at Memorial Park.

061.02/To review the draft Decision Paper on the Future of Memorial Park, due to be considered by full Council on 20 December, and to make recommendations, if desired.

After discussion members resolved to recommend to full council that the Parish Council should adopt a 'steady state' operation, when Memorial Park opened, with minor improvements identified and developed over time, as agreed, and as resources allowed.

It was also agreed that the decision paper on the future of Memorial Park should be deferred to a subsequent meeting of full council, that information should be circulated to members in the meantime about potential options for operating the park in future and that a £10,000 budget be set aside for an opening event for the park.

061.03/Activities of the Memorial Park Working Party and any recommendations to the committee.

Mrs Pearman outlined her concerns about potential delays to the opening of Memorial Park and the remaining work that needs to be done in preparation for opening.

061.04/Progress towards appointing a contractor to supply and install lighting around the MUGA and trackway.

Mrs Varnes reported that quotations were being prepared by two recommended commercial lighting contractors for the supply and installation of lighting at Memorial Park and that one quotation had been already received.

061.05/Feedback from SODC regarding the council's landscaping proposal for Memorial Park which was submitted to the district council in November.

Mrs Varnes reported that SODC had not approved the proposed amended landscaping plan for Memorial Park. Mr Rawlins and Mrs Varnes agreed to seek further discussions with SODC to resolve the issue.

061.06/The play area installation.

Mr Collings reported that Mrs Jenkins was seeking to resolve contractual terms with the provider of the play area equipment.

PRC 21/062 Old Copse:

062.01/To receive an update from Mr Stoves on his inspections of Old Copse, including professional advice and any quotes obtained for the management of the wood.

Mr Stoves updated members on his inspections of Old Copse to date and the professional advice he had thus far received. It was agreed that Mr Stoves and Ms Boorman should seek further professional advice before devising a proposed plan for the management of Old Copse.

062.02/To discuss the delivery of an action plan for improving Old Copse.

Various ideas were discussed for improving Old Copse, involving community groups and organisations in the process. Ms Boorman agreed to approach the Green Gym to see if they were interested in helping.

Ms Boorman asked if the Parish Office had received any enquiries about Old Copse following an article in SC Magazine, to which the response was 'no'. She requested that her information paper on Old Copse be posted on the parish council's website.

PRC 21/063 Matters for future agendas.

Budgetary matters.

The meeting closed at 20:30.

Date of next meeting: Monday 10 January 2021 at 19.15 hours

Chairman: .....

Dated: .....