



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ASHURST WOOD PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE held on Tuesday 20th February 2018 7.45 pm at the Council Meeting Room.

PRESENT: Cllrs: D Loveday (Chair), R Bright, J Forbes, C Judge, B Phillips and J Samways

IN ATTENDANCE: Caroline Leet (Clerk); Ceri Evans (Handyman) **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** 6

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He noted that the meeting would be recorded.

214. Public Questions

Responsibility of

Four young people and two adults attended the meeting to give their support for the proposed basketball court extension (agenda item 11) at John Pears Recreation Ground and make representations.

The first young person said that he and a friend/his team captain, both played the sport competitively and had met with the Clerk recently to discuss the project and to mark out a mock-up at John Pears Field to see what it would actually look like. He supported the proposed size (10x15m) with two hoops. Two hoops seemed to be supported by the majority of the people asked. This would also be friendlier to families with young children who could play on one side of the court and older participants to play/practice on the other side of the court; or if someone felt a little intimidated they could use the other hoop. With the size of the court, though it was not a full size court, it was still big enough to have up to full size matches of 5x5 or 3x3 or even 2x2. The facility would be a nice addition to the area and could even open up new opportunities for example, a mini tournament at Ashstock.

One parent said that she had two boys who used the existing facility and would certainly benefit from a larger court with two hoops. The other parent spoke on behalf of her son, who apologised that he was unable to attend the meeting, but he had wanted to say that he was very grateful that the Council was even considering an improved basketball court which would also be very good for the community and Ashurst Wood.

Cllr Forbes asked is the general consensus was to have a layout with two halves as opposed to one half. One member of the public replied, yes as this allowed for two hoops which would allow two groups to play or can play a mini game. Whereas, a half court marking can only be used really for shooting. She added that it was quite a lot of money so it should achieve the best benefit. Another added, that when talking with the Clerk, she had said she had seen younger families playing on the existing single basketball facility with its single post. This proposed layout would allow the whole community a chance to play. The people he had spoken to also agreed that two halves with markings and hoops would be best. Another added that in Spain they have similar facilities where you see young people with their families on one side and older teenagers on the other side practicing; they also sometimes come together and play.

Cllr Loveday proposed in view of public attendance and interest for the basketball court extension, to bring forward item 11 to after item 6 on the agenda. Members agreed and **resolved to discuss item 11 after the formalities on the agenda and after item 6.**

215. Apologies for absence

Apologies from Cllrs Bussell and Lindsay were received and **resolved; the reasons were accepted.**

216. To receive Declarations of Interests from Members in respect of any matter on the agenda

None; though Cllr Judge advised of her son's interest in basketball, item 11.

217. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12th December 2017

The minutes were **approved as an accurate account of the meeting.**

218. Recorded meetings: to approve deletion of recording – *there were no recordings currently being held.*

219. Budget

The budget and expenditure to-date was noted; there were no questions. Cllr Phillips added that whilst the total budget for Public Services appeared over budget by £2,200, this was expenditure carried over from the previous financial year for the purchase of the defibrillator. Looking at the projected actual figures for Public Services (presented at the February Council meeting), and taking out this expenditure, the projected would be £6,100 and the budget was £6,300.

220. To receive an update on the project for the basketball court extension for John Pears Recreation Ground

Cllr Loveday said members of the public had already made representations in support of the basketball court extension and there had also been other interest and comments received. The court size we know from Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) can be only up to 153sqm. The proposed option was to have a 10x15m/150sqm court, two posts with hoop (one at each end of the court) and with the markings as per the drawing (previously circulated); this allowed for two halves of the court marked with a 4.57m throw line and arc at each end.

Cllr Phillips said that he would like to express that he was very pleased to see a number of people come to the meeting and that there was obviously a keen interest, and not from just those who had attended the meeting, but from the other people they had been talking to. He added that the Clerk had also done a lot of work canvassing people.

Cllr Forbes said that the MSDC contractor's quote was for the surface works and did not include the line marking. The Clerk clarified that the quote was for just the surface works and the white lines had been discussed separately; the section 106 money should be enough, but MSDC had said that they would use its revenue budget if needed to cover the shortfall. Cllr Loveday added that Eric Lamprell had been asked to quote to renovate the existing post and make another like for like.

Cllr Loveday asked members if they supported the proposal as per the drawing with tarmac surface, white lines and two basketball posts and hoops. Members **unanimously supported the proposal for the basketball court extension 10x15m with two hoops and line markings for two halves (as per drawing).** The Clerk was asked to instruct MSDC to proceed with the project.

Clerk

19:58 Six members of the public left the meeting.

Members discussed; they noted how popular the basketball facility at John Pears Recreation Ground was.

221. Clerk's report

The Clerk's report was received.

- a To note: the amenity mobile waste collections for 2018, Sundays 29th April and 28th October, 10.00 am – 12 noon**

Noted.

- b To note: The trees at John Pears Recreation Ground which align the tennis courts have been thinned out and reduced by Mid Sussex District Council (this was originally noted for its winter works programme for 2018/19)**

Noted.

222. To receive a report from the Handyman

There was no activity of significance to report.

- a To approve the expenditure of up to £214 to purchase a strimmer for the handyman to help with general overgrowth of vegetation clearance and replacement nylon strip set £25**

Members discussed and noted that if a petrol strimmer was to be purchased, the Council would have a responsibility to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and to carry out a risk assessment including how the fuel and oil would be stored. It was agreed that a small petrol can would need to be purchased together with the appropriate PPE: helmet, ear defenders, and gloves. It was noted that the user would be responsible to wear suitable clothing (including thick trousers) before using. Members **resolved the expenditure of up to £300 to purchase a petrol strimmer, replacement nylon strips, appropriate PPE and petrol can.**

Cllr Samways will prepare a risk assessment.

Clerk

223. Winter Management Plan

- a Update for winter 2017/18**

There was nothing to report.

- b To consider a small grit bin for the pavement at the lower end of Maypole Road and the expenditure of £99.45**

Members discussed if there was really a need for another grit bin along Maypole Road, noting the two already for that section of road: near the Maypole Inn and in the layby at the lower end of Maypole Road. The Handyman said that he had looked at the where the pavement ended and it may be possible to site a small grit bin near the hedge. Cllr Forbes pointed out that the land referred to was privately owned and was in the Neighbourhood Plan for development. She asked who had requested a bin. The Clerk replied that a resident had raised issues with ice on the road and pavement at that section. Members discussed further and agreed that there was already two grit bins in the vicinity and that there was very limited space to site a grit bin. However, they said they would reconsider and even possibly re-siting the one in the layby if the need arose.

224. To receive and update on the War Memorial grant application

The Clerk was delighted to report that the War Memorials Trust had agreed to award a grant for 75% of the cost for the cleaning and renovation works to the War Memorial and the dais. However, they would not fund the hedge cutting or the replacement bollard. The total cleaning and renovations costs were £3,280; the grant awarded was £2,460 which meant a further £820 was

needed to fund the renovations. She had spoken the WMT to enquire if the Council would be able to seek funding from other grant funding sources. The WMT had advised that so long as it was not another government funded body (as the grant was awarded via Historic England) and that the potential source was run by them first, then it should be alright. Referring the Royal British Legion (RBL), the WMT said that strictly speaking, the RBL do not fund war memorials. However, at a local level, as they do their own fundraising, it had been known for awards to be made to war memorials; the WMT had no objection if the Council was to approach the RBL. Finally, she added that there were conditions to the grant for example, it was valid for one year and works had to be carried out within that time; and the local planning authority had to confirm if planning was needed. Historic England had already confirmed that cleaning and renovations on a like for like basis are not affected by the listing of this memorial however, if works that could alter the significance of the memorial, listed building consent would need to be obtained from the local planning authority.

Cllr Phillips added that he noted that the WMT had said that no lettering repairs could be carried out unless agreed separately.

Cllr Bright said that Gwynne Shuttleworth had indicated to him that the local RBL would possibly provide a grant for the War Memorial. Cllr Forbes mentioned that the Council held £500 in the reserves and that she thought the Council should pay the deficit. Cllr Loveday added that the bollard could be considered using the road safety reserves, but was not on the agenda to discuss. The Handyman said that he would look at the hedge and could cut that back. The Clerk said that the hedge encroached on to the supporting wall at the back of the sandstone dais and was causing the damage to the wall and that she would need to liaise with the resident before the hedge could be cut.

Clerk

Members agreed that it would be a shame for the project to be delayed because of the shortfall. Noting the £500 in the reserves if needed, Members **agreed** that work should commence as soon as possible and asked the Clerk to:

- contact the Contractor and instruct them to commence work subject to MSDC confirming planning permission was not needed
- to request support towards the shortfall from the local RBL branch
- **resolved the expenditure of up to £3,280 which included the grant of £2,460 from the War Memorial Trust payable upon completion of the work**

Clerk

225. Mid Sussex District Council have requested the views from members for removing part of or all of the hedging around the children's playground area at John Pears Recreation Ground

Cllr Loveday said that Cllr Belsey had raised this and the issue with visibility in to the children's playground at John Pears Recreation Ground. Members discussed and agreed that the hedge was an issue and **agreed three of the four sides of hedging at the playground should be removed, leaving the side to the car park protected by the hedge.** It was noted that current chestnut post and rail fence would need to be made dog proof. Cllr Bright added that the hedges should not be removed during the bird nesting season.

Clerk

226. Dog waste bins

a To review the frequency of dog bin collections

The Handyman had monitored ten of the villages' dog bins over a four week period. The results showed that all of the bins were well used. It was noted from the report that none of the bins had overflow issues.



b To consider increasing the frequency of collections to some of the bins and if so, to approve the additional expenditure per bin of £138 per year (or £2.41 per week plus 10% admin fee)

Members agreed that as there were no current issues to maintain the service as it was and not to increase the collection frequency for any of the bins. However, this was not irrevocable. The Handyman was asked to keep an eye on the dog bins and to report any future issues.

Handyman

227. Ashurst Wood Junior Football Club

a Request options to be considered regarding storage for their nets for John Pears and storage at the Pavilion

Members discussed the storage issues Ashurst Wood Junior Football Club (AWJFC) had with its nets and were sympathetic with the lack of storage facilities; however, they agreed that the Pavilion did not have the suitable space to provide storage for goal nets and other equipment. Cllr Judge said that currently the team mangers stored the nets, footballs and other bits at their homes. Cllr Forbes recalled that MSDC had previously been approached about outside storage solutions, but had objected. Members had no objections in principle for a suitable outside storage unit near the Pavilion perhaps, at the back in the tree area. The Clerk was asked to liaise with MSDC and AWJFC, but that AWJFC should make the request themselves to MSDC.

Clerk

b Request views on the possibility of replacing the 9x9 football pitch with a slightly larger pitch to accommodate the U13s and U14s (who currently have to play at the Kings Centre, East Grinstead). This may also include the use of roll on/roll off goals

Cllr Forbes pointed out that there had been no complaints received about the 9x9 football pitch since it had been at John Pears Field, only during the initial consultation. The only complaints were a few about parking, but nothing recently. Cllr Loveday added that roll on/roll off posts would be an improvement. Members had no objections to the change of pitch size to accommodate U13s and U14s and agreed it was great use of the land.

Clerk

c To note the date of its Annual Awards barbeque event: Saturday 9th June
Noted.

228. Any items for reporting or inclusion on future agenda

To consider appointing a representative to oversee the maintenance of the Council building.

Cllr Loveday noted that since the recent tree work at John Pears Recreation Ground, there was now a gap from the car park into the trees where a vehicle could gain access on to the field. There also remained a gap near the car park playground entrance and footpath. The Clerk was asked to advise MSDC and request new bollards.

Clerk

229. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 15th May

Meeting closed: 20:39

Chairman.....

Date.....