

**Minutes of the Playing Fields & Open Spaces Committee
Held on 1st February 2010 at 7.15 p.m. in the Bush Room**

Present: - Cllrs. John Veasey (Chairman), Bernard Willcox, John Cutland, Alison Peters, Terry Hunt.
Bob Phillips (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Mike Webb.

2. Evacuation Procedure

Evacuation procedures were noted.

3. Public Participation

None

4. Declaration of Interests

None

5. Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2009 and Matters arising

Resolved: The minutes were agreed and signed by the chairman.

Matters Arising

Item 6.2 All-weather cricket strip.

The Clerk advised that the work had not been started in the autumn as the ground was very wet and we had been advised that the machinery would cause too much damage. Unfortunately during the very cold spell in early January, we had failed to arrange with the contractors to go ahead.

It was agreed that provided the work could be completed within the next few weeks, it should proceed. However, if not possibly by the end of March, we should delay again until the autumn.

The Clerk was asked to confirm the cost of the accepted quote for the work.

The work was authorised at the Parish Council meeting on 21 September 2009, item 6.2.1 as follows.

ADD Plant – to excavate and remove from site all materials - £550.00
CRK Garden Manicures – to infill with good quality top soil, level and compress surface and lay suitable turf. Cost to include spring treatments. - £1306.00

6. Playing Fields & Play Areas

6.1. Play Areas

6.1.1. Cross Hands Play Area

The renovation of the informal goalmouth areas had been completed by CRK Garden Manicures.

The play area continues to be used by both local children playing on the equipment and students from Marlwood School during their breaks. No incidents had been reported recently.

6.1.2. Lime Kiln Play Area

6.1.2.1. Playbuilder Grant

The Clerk reported that in a very recent conversation with Tina Rainey of South Glos Council it had been confirmed that Alveston Parish Council's application for a Playbuilder Grant had been approved for 2010/2011. We will receive a formal confirmation shortly but it appears that £45k has been allocated to provide facilities specifically for 8 to 13 year olds at the Lime Kiln Field. We are advised that the funds and the project will be closely managed by SG although the Parish Council will be required to play a significant part in enabling full community consultation and ensuring local requirements are met. We will be given more detail in due course but it was suggested that we should perhaps prepare by forming a specific sub-committee to oversee the initiative.

In welcoming the news, the chairman, Cllr John Veasey suggested that a formal letter of thanks should be sent to Mrs Kate Cannell whose work as a parish councillor had ensured we had a good chance of gaining the grant. The letter would be sent as soon as formal notification had been received from SG.

Cllr Alison Peters declared an interest in forming the sub-committee and was aware of several local people who had children in the appropriate age group who may be prepared to join. Cllr John Veasey also declared an interest in being a member of the sub-committee. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting as soon as possible.

PF 100201-1 Clerk to arrange a meeting to form a Council sub-committee to manage the creation of new play area at the Lime Kiln Field. Action to Clerk

Further detailed information would be given by Tina Rainey at the first opportunity but it is understood that expenditure would not be allowed on renovation of existing facilities if they are not within the appropriate age group. However, it may be possible, with Parish Council funding to combine resources with SG and both upgrade existing facilities and create a new age-related play area.

6.1.2.2. Surface Cleaning – The Clerk reported that both the tarmac surface and the safety surfaces were in need of pressure cleaning as they had a large amount of moss growing and were becoming quite slippery in wet weather.

It was generally agreed that a high pressure hose could further damage the tarmac surface which is not in a particularly good state of repair. Cllr John Veasey suggested that we should seek advice from JB Sports who are due to be on-site soon repairing the roundabout.

PF 100201-2 Clerk to discuss with JB Sports how the surface of the Lime Kiln Play Area could be cleaned. Action to Clerk

6.2. Recreation Ground

The football pitches, although obviously well used are still in a reasonable state and will continue to be monitored regularly.

The chestnut tree is due for removal on Tuesday 9th Feb, assuming there is no problem with cutting off the power supply.

6.3. Field Users

Cricket

Alveston CC Treasurer has recently contacted the Clerk and assured him that the club is alive and well and are enthusiastically looking forward to the new season starting in May. They have also offered to discuss with the Clerk options for the safety nets as they are aware that we will need to replace them before the season starts.

PF 100201-3 Clerk to discuss with members of Alveston CC options for the replacement of the safety nets and report back to the full council to enable a decision to be taken. Action to Clerk

Football

Good contact is being maintained with both clubs who will now have a significant number of cancelled fixtures to re-schedule. No issues have been highlighted.

Pre-school Play Group

The group had agreed the planting of a sweet chestnut tree with the committee chairman. The Clerk was asked to ensure that they were aware that the agreement had been made.

6.4. Grounds Maintenance Report

All hedges have now been cut and a winter mowing was completed recently around the Jubilee and Lime Kiln Fields. Additional work was undertaken to raise the canopy on the trees on the Lime Kiln field, this will allow the mower to move about under them and reduce opportunity for a location for "substance abuse" identified as occurring under one particular tree last summer.

6.4.1. YC Car Park bank.

The Clerk expressed concern that the YC car park bank was looking unkempt and had discussed the problem with CRK Garden Manicures. Several shrubs had died and stones and soil had fallen on to the car park. It has become a bit of an eyesore and adds to the general unkempt feel to this area.

A few years ago the bank was cleared back and a lot of scrub and rubbish removed. A significant overspill onto the car park was also removed and replanted with shrubs. At the time a mulch cover was laid but because of the slope and the movement of the woodland bark it soon became something of an eyesore. Garden Manicures were asked to put more effort in this year with more regular weeding and replacement of some of the shrubs that have died. It was explained that there was little soil cover as it was mostly rock and any soil in place gravitated on to the car park tarmac.

A number of options had been discussed but unless some sort of barrier is put in place which somehow reduces the slope, we would always have this problem. A cost effective solution may be to install two rows a railway sleepers, properly fixed, along the bottom edge of the bank before the tarmac starts. This would achieve two things, firstly it would stop soil and plant growth from falling on to the car park and secondly allow a better opportunity to replenish the planting and ground mulch.

PF 100201-4 Clerk to obtain estimates for the installation of two rows of "railway sleepers" or similar at the base of the YC Car Park bank. Action to Clerk

7. Cemetery

Damage to Fence

The Clerk had reported to the committee and the police that there had been damage to a section of fence between the Cemetery car park and the footpath. It appeared that approximately 25m of fence had been torn down and posts snapped off. Mike York had removed the damaged fence and erected temporary orange fence.

PF 100201-5 Clerk to obtain estimates for the replacement of the damaged fence at the cemetery and for replacing approx 12 loose posts on the same fence. Action to Clerk

8. Correspondence

8.1. 19/12/09 – Alveston Gardens Association – Millennium Stone Garden

The Clerk explained that the letter received from Mr Frank Wells the secretary of the Alveston Gardens Association asked if the Council could make alternative arrangements for the tending of the small flower garden around the Millennium Stone. The previous arrangement, which was not recorded anywhere, was for the AGA, WI and the Over 50's club to alternate the task on an annual basis. It was felt that the people who had undertaken the task were now ageing and it was perhaps time for younger people to take over.

Last year, as the garden was clearly untended, the Clerk who was not aware of the tri-group arrangement had, with the support of the Council, asked Mr Len Clarke to take over the task. He had enthusiastically tended the small plot for the latter part of 2009 and was planning to do so in the future. The Clerk

recommended that we thank the three organisations for their efforts in the past but continue with using the voluntary services offered by Mr Clarke.

Resolved: To send letters of thanks to the WI, AGA and Over 50's Club for tending the Millennium Stone flower borders and continue with the voluntary support now being received from Mr Len Clarke

9. Any other business

9.1. Cricket Safety Nets

See item 6.3

9.2. Playbuilder Project

See item 6.1. 2.1

9.3. YC Car Park Security

This item had been referred from the Parish Council meeting 18 Jan 2010 item 7.2.

Security Chains

The Clerk distributed a paper which itemised the purchases necessary to install security chains on the two entrances to the YC car park.

The estimated cost was	chain	£85.71
	Padlocks	£108.00
	Anchors	£11.50
	Total	£205.21

Resolved: To purchase the items listed and arrange for the installation of the security chains at the YC car park.

Chain Locking

The Clerk reported that he had established the costs for late night locking at 11.00pm x 7 nights per week with an option for early morning opening at 7.00am.

Assume for 1 month at a time.

Go2Guard - £9.95 per visit

night time only 7x £9.95	£69.65 per week	cost per month	£278.60
night and morning 14 x £9.95	£139.30 per week	cost per month	£557.20

6 month contract for morning and night £18.40 per day	cost per month	£515.20
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BSGL Ltd - £9.50 per visit

night time only 7x £9.50	£66.50 per week	cost per month	£266.00
night and morning 14 x £9.95 (* night time visit @ 11.15pm)	£133.00 per week	cost per month	£532.00

Glevum Security - £10.00 per visit with no discount for contract

night time only 7x £10.00	£70.00 per week	cost per month	£280.00
night and morning 14 x £10.00	£140.00 per week	cost per month	£560.00

Local contract (employee or casual labour)

Estimate based on cemetery costs which are currently £103 per month based roughly on 20 mins per visit. Min wage is £5.80 per hour (assume additional inconvenience allowance for anti-social hours of 50%) suggested hourly rate is £8.70, each visit being £2.90.

night time only 7x £2.90	£20.30 per week	cost per month	£81.20
night and morning 14 x £2.90	£40.60 per week	cost per month	£162.40

Following brief discussion, it was decided to pursue the local option as an "in principle" task. Only if required would a contract be offered.

PF 100201-7 Clerk to seek a local person who may be able to undertake the YC car park chain locking/unlocking. ***Action to Clerk***

The meeting closed at 8.28 p.m.