

CHANDLER'S FORD PARISH COUNCIL
ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

8 JUNE 2015

Hiltingbury Pavilion, Chandler's Ford 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Hughes (Chairman); Councillors, Atkinson, Aubry, Boyes, Broadhurst, Foulds, Leslie and Scott.

In attendance: Duncan Murray (Parish Clerk), Phil Eades (Maintenance Contracts Officer), and Cllrs Duguid and Grajewski

Public Participation: There were no members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES

These were received from Cllr Pragnell.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No members of the committee made a declaration of interest.

3. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11 MAY 2015 AND SIGNED AT THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 20 MAY 2015.

The minutes were noted.

4. CONTRACT MAINTENANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Officer reported the vandalism at Suffolk Drive Junior Play Area and an attempted break-in at the Hiltingbury Pavilion when the handle came off when an attempt was made to pull open the door, having tried to force it.

A couple of matters previously brought up were closed off which included the anchor points/shackles next to the MUGA at the Fryern Recreation Ground and the suitability of tape to repair steel reinforced climbing nets where there were no sharp edges protruding. Members mentioned self-amalgamating tape and heat shrink materials as potential alternative materials.

The continuing issues with PSS as the recording and reporting system were discussed and that it was the architecture of storage and out-of-synch handsets (software) problems that appeared to be the root cause and that these were no apparently in-hand and a far more reliable service should be expected by mid-July. A summary report was shared with Members covering the period March through May 2015. Whilst significant disappointment with the service was recorded it was also noted that the Parish Council was doing far more than other councils in ensuring the safety of its Play Areas.

5. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE TENNIS COURTS RESURFACING QUOTATIONS AND TO AUTHORISE OFFICERS AS TO HOW TO PROCEED.

It was noted that any underspend on the project would leave funds that would return to the NHBS overall allocation for the area and not be lost to the Parish.

The four quotes obtained by the Tennis Club were noted as not being like-for-like in specification or content.

The Clerk, in conjunction with Cllrs Scott and Duguid, was therefore requested to draw up a specification to be able to work from and determine what was included in each quote, the guarantee period and undertake due diligence tests to bring back to the Council as early as possible. Cllr Atkinson offered to look over financial reports on suppliers if it would be of assistance.

6. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE CHARGING FOR TENNIS/ PROPOSED BUSINESS PLAN FROM THE TENNIS CLUB.

The Clerk was asked to brief Members on the topic and primarily reported that he felt a secure access system would be necessary to protect the improved asset and that a modest charge could be made for the swipe card/key.

Members discussed the proposals that had been received by the Clerk and it was agreed that there was insufficient information to inform a proper debate, but that an input of views would be beneficial to the process.

There was significant support voiced for the provision of free tennis to youngsters, potentially at set times such as holidays, weekends and just after the school day. There was also interest in the provision of 2 courts being free and 2 being set aside for bookings. Members were also concerned that the new courts needed to be secured to protect the courts once they had been improved and help to maximise the new surface's lifespan. It was suggested that students on university sports courses would be potentially suitable for supervisors as they had to undertake some work experience as part of their courses.

7. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE COST FOR THE PLAY AREAS REFURBISHMENT QUOTATIONS AND WHETHER ADDITIONAL FUNDS SHOULD BE VIRED INTO THE BUDGET IN THIS FINANCIAL YEAR AS PER THE BRIEFING NOTE OR WHETHER TO SPREAD THE COST OVER TWO FINANCIAL YEARS OR AGREE TO FUND THE REFURBISHMENT BY PRIORITY.

The Clerk briefed Members on the quote that had been received to date and that the costs would use the whole of the budget for play areas for the year and more. He asked for input as to how the Members wished to progress. He also commented that he had only found two refurbishment companies within a reasonable travelling distance and that the second quote should be received within a week. The need for a third quote was agreed and Cllr Boyes said he had information on file that he could give to the Clerk.

Members commented that there were good reasons to undertake the work on all eight playgrounds in the year and that residents deserved the best play areas that could be

justified. It was also clarified that the first quote had both non-essential and essential works itemised so that overall expenditure could be prioritised. Expenditure on refurbishment work up to the proposed cost of the first quote was agreed in principle and it was commented that funds should be available to cover works that were required.

8. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL BENCHES AT FRYERN PLAY AREA AND RECREATION GROUND

It agreed that 2 additional benches should be provided one in the Play Area and one in the shade. The Clerk and the Chairman agreed a budget of up to £2,500 for purchase and installation that was within the limits set by the Financial Regulations. The Clerk was also asked to enquire whether EBC had any unused benches in store which would be cheaper than sourcing new ones. It was also commented and agreed that there was inadequate seating at many Play Areas.

9. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THAT FENCING CONTRACTORS SHOULD BE WRITTEN TO WITH REGARDS TO THE PARISH COUNCIL'S MESH FENCING AT THE HILTINGBURY RECREATION GROUND AND REMINDED THAT IT IS CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO REMOVE IT OR CUT ANY OPENINGS IN IT WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT.

The issues about the erection of closeboard fencing and the installation of gates onto the recreation ground were discussed including those of potentially establishing rights of way by cutting through the Council's chain link fencing. It was agreed that not only should the contractors be written to, but also residents whose properties backed onto the Hiltingbury Recreation Ground. It was also agreed that those gates that already existed should have a 12 month licence agreement entered into that lapsed once the resident moved. It was also agreed that the cost of such a licence should reflect the work and costs to produce such a licence.

10. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE WHETHER OR NOT AN AIR AMBULANCE CLOTHES BIN SHOULD BE LOCATED IN THE HILTINGBURY PAVILION CAR PARK.

Members discussed the request and decided on a vote of 2:7 against that, due to the historic issues of vandalism and arson, regrettably they could not authorise an Air Ambulance Clothes Bin.

11. TO NOTE THE CREATION OF AN ACTION/UPDATE REPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE'S DECISIONS.

The Creation of the Action List Report was noted.

12. MATTERS TO BE TAKEN FORWARD TO THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT AGENDA.

The finalisation of the quotes and recommendations for the resurfacing of the tennis

courts and refurbishment of the play areas so that both projects can be agreed and progressed.

The broken branch in the Eagle Close allotments was mentioned and confirmed as being in-hand. The possibility of s106 monies for additional benches in play areas was also mentioned as well as Garden Share and the planting of additional trees.

The next scheduled meeting was confirmed as 10 August 2015 at the Hiltingbury Pavilion. That being the conclusion of the business the meeting was closed at 9.00pm.

Chairman.....