

**CHANDLER'S FORD PARISH COUNCIL**

**ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**3 November 2014**

**Hiltingbury Pavilion, Chandler's Ford 7.00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Hughes (Chairman); Councillors Aubry, Atkinson, Boyes, Broadhurst, Cox, Foulds, Grajewski, Leslie and Pragnell.

**In attendance:** Phil Eades (Maintenance Contracts Officer) and Mr Andy Milner and Mr Paul Naylor (EBC)

**Public Participation:**

There were several members of the public present. Issues were raised regarding the play area in Fryern recreation looking shabby and a particular concern was made about the RidgeRider and children having falls from the piece of equipment and sustaining injuries. Paul Naylor the manager for Direct Services at EBC, who were contracted to inspect and maintain the play areas and open spaces, responded to the comments from the public mentioning the accident records for the equipment and that the specification and installation were correct. He also mentioned that 2 areas of safety surfacing had been vandalised and repair work orders had been processed which would be dealt with shortly.

Members of the public also mentioned a lack of seating and more equipment was needed for independent play for toddlers. 48 responses from parents asking for the RidgeRider to be removed had been received in one day. Responses were given to reassure that fingers could not get trapped under the saddle and that it had been tested by the manufacturer and it passed all the relevant safety standards.

**1 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE HOW TO RESOLVE THE ISSUES OF THE CONCERNS OF PARENTS ON THE SAFETY OF THE RIDGE RIDER AND TO INCORPORATE EXTRA EQUIPMENT FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT OF CHILDREN OF ALL AGES AT THE FRYERN PLAYGROUND.**

Members discussed the agenda item and it was noted that the handgrips had been modified by the manufacturer following earlier concerns. It was pointed out the equipment was designed for children aged 7 and upwards. With regard to the accident, it was noted this had not been recorded at the time, and the incident was only notified to the Parish Council some six weeks later.

Members discussed how the RidgeRider was designed to work. It was noted it was possible to go backwards. The equipment is in fact designed for the child to use only their own momentum and not to be pushed. In some cases this resulted in the child not returning to the top of the slope and hence going backwards.

A total of 5 reported injuries had occurred over a period of 6 years on the RidgeRider, however there were no records available to compare this with in the other playgrounds. Members of the public present indicated they had carried out research in other areas and agreed to forward their findings to the Parish Council.

The Chairman brought the issues back to the agenda item and the concerns that parents and the

perceived risk to their children. It was noted that the annual inspection of the RidgeRider had been carried out on October 7 and was found all in order. Albeit the equipment was deemed compliant, it was proposed the equipment is taken out of use until further consideration/investigations can be undertaken. A vote was taken and the consensus was to take the RidgeRider out of service by removing the saddle. Paul Naylor agreed to have it removed the next day, Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**2 APOLOGIES.**

It was noted the Clerk was ill and unable to attend this evening's meeting.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were none noted.

**4. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 6 OCTOBER AND PREVIOUSLY SIGNED AT FULL COUNCIL ON 27 OCTOBER 2014 TO WHICH THERE ARE NO MATTERS ARISING.**

These were noted

**5. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON PRIORITISATION OF PARISH IMPROVEMENTS (ANDY MILNER) TO DISCUSS AND AGREE HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS.**

Andy Milner tabled a schedule of the Future Priorities for the Community Investment Programme. Following a general debate it was agreed the schedule needs to reflect common aspirations and the top priorities for the Parish Council so that it and the area committee could work together. The balance between the priorities, developer contributions and other funding streams was discussed along with CIL and NHBS to enable the LAC to go to Cabinet and seek funding. This part of the cycle has already gone through a working group and Andy was now seeking parish input. It was noted this is a live document. It also goes to the planning department and thus helps create funding through CIL for identified priorities.

The time limit on NHBS funding was acknowledged, however there is access to other funding in the borough.

It was noted that whilst individual requests could be taken forward those agreed by Council would carry greater weight. Further exchanges took place during which it was agreed that Westmoreland Way was the oldest of the play areas in the parish. Climbing walls were mentioned in terms of traversing the wall rather than it being a matter of height. This was considered an issue of principle rather than detail. It was however agreed that a common list of objectives was desired; noted the £100k Priority 1 for Lincoln Valley did not necessarily accord with PC requirements and as such members enquired how it would work and who would have the casting vote.

It was noted that currently five of the Members of the Asset Management Committee were also members of the LAC, which included a total of 8 Borough Councillors. This should help ensure

that priorities could be brought together for the benefit of all wards.

It was noted Members were about to submit a list of their individual aspirations which would be included in a spreadsheet, administered by the Parish Clerk, for subsequent discussion and agreement. This could then be forwarded to the LAC and Andy Milner for future consideration. It was also noted that the Parish Council's own list should not preclude it from sourcing its own funds and seeing projects through on its own cognisance. Comment was also passed on the list with the LAC being fluid and that the working group at the LAC could obviously move items up the list to attract other funds.

Members then went through the list with Andy Milner point by point and either agreed with the list or not. Each member proposed their own idea/aspiration and a vote was taken accordingly. It was suggested a Fryern upgrade could take precedence over Lincoln Valley. Andy Milner took on board Members' comments and reworked the list for the LAC to reflect the Council's thoughts and added new suggestions that would require confirmation by Full Council.

## 6. MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS OFFICER REPORT:

- **draft Streetscene Service Level Agreement and appendices for endorsement;**  
 Members discussed the document having received a briefing from Mr Eades with regard to review date, trees, also tennis courts as being specified and the length of grass in general amenity areas. Debate on the length of grass was balanced against the document that had been reviewed by the Clerk and Paul Naylor, costs arising from additional cuts and review dates. Following a show of hands the Clerk's recommendation to the committee that: ***"the draft SLA is adopted as it stands and that a recommendation of a continuation of contract with Streetscene for the municipal year of 2015-2016 due to budgetary needs, whilst the Parish Council agrees its future direction and aspirations for grounds maintenance works."*** Was unanimously adopted and would be recommended to Full Council.  
 A Member commented that the SLA should include reference to the agreed Planned Maintenance Programme and that the PC should adopt a pragmatic approach during the year 2014/15, monitor the outcome and modify accordingly.
- **building compliance work completed and underway;**  
 The officer's report was accepted that fire extinguisher checks and services completed, all extinguishers now compliant; lighting and fire system checks have been completed, faults with emergency lights etc at Hiltingbury Pavilion reported to EBC as the current owners; visual PAT inspections carried out on portable appliances; issues at Fryen Pavilion identified in the buildings report rectified using Clerk's and Chairman's authorisation under Financial Regulation 4.1; and building report on Hiltingbury Pavilion in draft form will be completed by December's meeting of the Committee.
- **to report on completing playground equipment safety training.**  
 Mr Eades reported on his play area training and that hazards and risk in play areas was an inherent part of the philosophy in presenting challenges to children, which was to be encouraged, but emphasised it had to be managed.

**7. FRYERN TRO UPDATE, PLANNING CONSENT FOR COMPOUND.**

The planning consent for the compound has been received. The process for obtaining quotes for the proposed TRO was progressing.

**8. HILTINGBURY RECREATION GROUND TRANSFER UPDATE.**

The Land Registry issues were reported as continuing.

**9. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE FEE STRUCTURE FOR THE RENTAL OF RECREATION GROUNDS BY PERSONAL TRAINERS TRAINING ON A SMALL AND LARGER GROUP BASIS.**

After some discussion it was decided to defer this item to the next meeting.

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

Aspirations list from councillors, the Fryern TRO update, Hiltingbury Lakes and the RidgeRider.

**The next meeting date of the committee was confirmed as 8 December 2014.**

That being all the business the meeting closed at 9.26 pm.

Chairman.....