



**Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee.
Held at Michael King Pavilion, Recreation ground,
Main Road, Colden Common, SO21 1RR
Monday, 5th February 2024 at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllr Jacqui Hadley (Chair)
Cllr John Boyes
Cllr Hazel Crosthwaite
Cllr John Pearce
Cllr Geoff Scardthomas
Cllr Maggie Hill
Cllr Brian O'Neill

Apologies: Amanda James (Tennis Club)

In attendance Debbie Harding (Clerk)
Sophie Thorogood (Assistant Clerk)
Graham Well (Colden Common Bowls Club President)
Nigel Champion (Chairman of Colden Common Cricket Club)

REC33/23 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received as listed above.

REC34/23 To receive any declarations of interest related to subsequent agenda items

No declarations of interest were received.

REC35/23 To resolve to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 2nd October 2023

The minutes of the Recreation Meeting held on 2nd October 2023 having been circulated, were considered.

Some typographic errors were corrected. It was resolved the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting, proposed by Cllr Jacqui Hadley, seconded by Cllr Maggie Hill and carried.

REC36/23 To receive an update from the Clerk

Trees

The Clerk has ordered 14 trees from Hilliers to be planted in various locations in the village. Delivery date to be advised.

Hedges

450 Whips have been planted at the Recreation Ground Car park and Colden Common Park. A further 100 Hawthorn whips are due to arrive on Friday 2nd February. These will be planted at Bluebell Wood after the removal of the fence which has passed the end of its useful life. Volunteers who live close to the wood have offered to complete this task for the Clerk.

Wildflowers

500 Bluebells have been planted in Hazel Close by residents and volunteers.
250 Cowslips have been planted in Ash Close

Wildflower seed will be planted later in the Spring around the new whips at the Recreation Ground and on Church Lane by Green Smile.

Hedges

Iverde are coming to the end of the hedge cutting in the village. The Clerk will check the areas before the invoice is settled. The current contract expired after February 2026, and needs to be retendered for October 2026 onwards.

The Green, Playarea

Playdale came to repair the rota bounce bearing, but it was discovered that the pole it fixes to is damaged due to its age¹ and wear. The parts have been ordered and we are awaiting them to come back to site. The estimated date for the rota bounce on The Green to be repaired is w/c 4th March

The Willow Tree

The Willow Tree re-opens on the 2nd February 2024

Colden Common Park

Green Smile have tidied up the area and two skips have been filled. All but 1 set of goals have been removed from site. The remaining set will be kept as a spare for the training area.

Two picnic benches and a bin have arrived for the pump track area, and they will be concreted in shortly by Corbin Construction.

The Clerk has ordered Acco channels and crate drainage to be installed outside the shed nearest the Bowls Green so that the shed does not flood.

Bowls Club sprinkler systems

The Clerk has ordered 4 new sprinkler heads to be replaced. Two in this financial year and two on the 1st April. 4 been replaced will enable a saving on the quoted cost of £1,500 cost of replacing two sprinklers.

¹ Installed in 2010

Footpath link from Colden Common Park to footpath 11

The Clerk has once again written to the owner of the land which could provide a permissive footpath from Colden Common Park to footpath 11 in Twyford (Park Farm). The Clerk has found an e-mail address, and it is hoped this might instigate a response as previously we have sent letters.

Recreation ground

We have a persistent animal (suspect dog) digging holes in the pitch nearest the Car Park. On Saturday 20th the Clerk counted 11 holes, 10 in the pitch, one just outside the pitch. Green Smiles are checking the pitch on the Friday, but we cannot guarantee the pitch is safe for use on the Saturday or Sunday. Soil to fill in any holes is left behind the Pavilion. The Clerk deployed a wildlife camera in the hedgerow to film at night, but the distance is too far to pick up any activity.

Colden Common Park Pavilion

The Clerk and Cllr's Hadley and Boyes plan to produce a schedule of maintenance required for Colden Common Park Pavilion over the next 5 years. As it was built in 1997, it requires some planned maintenance to include hot water system, Velux windows, replacement doors and floor etc.

REC37/23 To receive any comments, updates, and questions from members of the public, sports clubs, caretakers and wardens

Colden Common Cricket Club

Nigel Champion was in attendance as the new Chairman of Colden Common Cricket Club. The Cricket Club would like the Parish Council to investigate if an outside socket can be installed for a scoreboard.

The Cricket net artificial surface needs cleaning and some of the netting needs refixing with cable ties. The Clerk will ask Green Smile if they can help with the cleaning. The Club is willing to cable tie the nets when they have their working party day before the season.

The Clerk to ask Green Smile about the most suitable place to store the site screens.

The tree canopy could do with being trimmed away from the nets.

Colden Common Tennis Club

The Tennis Club were not able to attend the meeting but provided a written report.

The Clubs numbers are steadily increasing, and we currently have 170 households as members. On 1 April 2024 it has been agreed to increase the membership for Basic Members to £45 (increase of £5 p.a.) and Advanced Members to £85 (increase of £5 p.a.) At the same time, we are raising the age that you must become a member. It is currently 7 years, but we are increasing it to 11 years and over.

The teams are doing well in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Leagues with our Ladies team currently in the lead of their division. Playing in Competitions has raised the profile of the Club and getting us more recognition.

We have on-going maintenance e.g. moss removal, new chairs and replacement of at least one net to attend to.

There has been a suggestion to have the odd BBQ in the summer after a mix-in.

Colden Common Bowls Club

Graeme Wells was in attendance who is the new President of Colden Common Bowls Club. The Bowls Club has 61 members and the open day in May is hoping to attract more.

REC38/23 To review the pitch / room hire charges for the financial year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

The Committee considered the recommendation for hire rates from 1st April.

It was resolved that the Council will introduce a charge to use the cricket nets of £5 per hour which would mean the person holding the booking can ask anyone using them to vacate them. No charge would be made to the Cricket Club to use the nets.

It was resolved to adopt new hire rates from 1st April, proposed by Cllr Jacqui Hadley, seconded by Cllr John Boyes and carried.

REC39/23 To discuss the terms of Bowls Club and Cricket Club licenses in terms of use of the Neil Smith Suite for the next financial year

A discussion took place on the license agreements that are in place for the Cricket Club and the Bowls Club.

The Bowls Club have had an ambition to have a larger “club” room to accommodate visiting clubs for matches and an increased membership. The Club had a meeting with Cllr’s Hadley and Boyes to discuss the possibility of converting changing rooms 3 and 4 into such a club room. Cllr Boyes and Hadley expressed the opinion that the feasibility of using the current community spaces should be explored first. The clubs license agreements allow them 5 free uses of the main room free of charge, and the Cricket Club are happy to share use of the Neil Smith Suite on a Saturday.

The Club would like to use the Neil Smith Suite when it is not in use free of charge. The Parish Council were unable to decide on this without reviewing the Bowls Club financials as other organisations such as Scouts pay room hire. The Bowls Club will provide this information within the month and the Clerk, and Cllr’s Boyes and Hadley will meet again with the Club.

It was resolved to delegate arrangement for the Bowls Club to use the Neil Smith Suite to the Clerk, with input from Cllr’s Boyes and Hadley. Proposed by Cllr Jackie Hadley, seconded by Cllr Maggie Hill and carried.

REC40/23 To discuss the quotes received and for the improved pedestrian and wheelchair access to the Recreation Ground on behalf of the Recreation Ground Charity

3 quotations were reviewed to install two new paths and improve the non-vehicle access to the Recreation Ground from Main Road.

It was resolved to ask the Clerk to apply to the Parish Hall Trust on behalf of the Charity for funding for these works to improve access and safety to the Park for pedestrians, mobility scooters, walkers and buggies.

Subject to a successful bid for funding from the Parish Hall Trust, it was further resolved to award to the contract to Rocon Construction to the value of £20,649.22. Proposed by Cllr John Boyes, seconded by Cllr Maggie Hill and carried.

REC41/23 To update on the status of quotations for solar panels and battery storage for the Michael King Pavilion and grant applications for these works on behalf of the Charity to include the status of an application to the Parish Hall Trust

An update was given on Cllr Veck's efforts to secure funding for photovoltaic panels on the roofs of both pavilions with battery storage.

It was resolved to approve an application to the Parish Hall trust on behalf of the Recreation Charity for grant funding for the installation of photovoltaic panels and battery storage for the Michael King Pavilion. Proposed by Cllr Jacqui Hadley, seconded by Cllr John Pearce and carried.

REC42/23 To discuss the performance of the rising bollards at Colden Common Park

The rising bollards mechanics are working well. There is an issue with the electrics. The relay switch which is telling the bollards not to rise until the exit loop is switched off. A new relay switch has been ordered.

REC43/23 To review the quotes received for a new piece of play equipment on The Green, St Vigor Way

It was resolved to place an order for a Little Hamlets Merrymeet lite in Green with a replacement inclusive orbit at a cost of £29,631.90. Proposed by Cllr John Boyes, seconded by Cllr John Pearce and carried.

REC44/23 To discuss the removal of silt at Church Pond

The Clerk updated the Committee on discussions with the Environment Agency in regard to silt removal at Church Pond to increase the capacity of water that the pond can take.

REC45/23 Councillors' information and question time

Cllr Boyes asked the Clerk to report the stumps left on footpath 9 which have left a trip hazard on the right of way surface.

REC46/22 Agenda items for the next meeting

No matters were raised.

Hire rates from 1st April 2024 or new football season.

FOOTBALL			Proposed Increase	
Senior Football Pitch	£69.00	inc use of changing rooms & showers	£72.00	4.35%
Outside Clubs	£74.00	inc use of changing rooms & showers	£77.00	4.05%
Youth Team (under 16's) – using senior Pitch	£40.00	No changing rooms or showers	£41.50	3.75%
Outside Youth	£45.00	No changing rooms or showers	£47.00	4.44%
Junior Pitch	£28.50	No changing rooms or showers	£30.00	5.26%
Junior Pitch outside teams	£34.00	No changing rooms or showers	£35.50	4.41%
CRICKET - Weekend				
Seniors	£ -	No charge in return for maintaining pitch		
Seniors Outside clubs	£89.00		£93.00	4.49%
Juniors	£ -	N/a		
Juniors Outside Clubs	£39.00		£40.50	3.85%
Nets (per net) for individuals or non-village club	£10.00	Free for Colden Common Cricket Club	£10.00	0.00%
Neil Smith Suite	£20.00	p hr	£20.00	0.00%
Regular user Neil Smith Suite	£15.00	p hr	£15.50	3.33%
Michael King Pavilion	£15.00	p hr	£15.00	0.00%
Scouts	£10.00	p hr	£11.00	10.00%
Training	£ -	No charge for football training		
Fitness Groups	£ -	No Charge for fitness groups using the parks		

N.B No charge for car park, potential income from the Recreation Ground