



**Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee.
Held at Colden Common Community Centre, St Vigor Way, SO21 1UU on
Monday 7th February 2022 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Richard Izard
Cllr John Boyes
Cllr Hazel Crosthwaite
Cllr Brian O'Neill
Cllr Maggs Pearson (Chair)
Cllr Shaun Byrne
Cllr Jacqui Hadley

Apologies: Sophie Thorogood (Assistant Clerk)
Cllr Maggie Hill
Amanda James - Colden Common Tennis Club

In attendance Debbie Harding (Clerk)
Geoff Edwards - CC, Otterbourne and Sporting Wessex Cricket Club
Derek Conway - Colden Common Bowls Club
Graeme Wells - Colden Common Bowls Club
Sophie Thorogood (Asst Clerk)

Rec 33/21 To receive any apologies for absence.
Apologies were noted as above.

Rec34/21 To receive any declarations of interest related to subsequent agenda items.

Cllr Richard Izard declared he is an Honorary Vice-President of the Cricket Club.

Rec35/21 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 12th October 2021

The minutes of the Recreation Meeting held on 21st June 2021 having been circulated, were considered. Some minor typographical errors were highlighted and amended.

Subject to those changes, it was resolved that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting, proposed by Cllr Richard Izard, seconded by Cllr Brian O'Neill and carried.

Rec36/21 Update on minutes from the last meeting and other matters

The Copper Beech in memory of Mark Ashthorpe has been planted on the Recreation Ground.

Some of the snowdrop bulb's planted have flowered near the bench at the bottom of Tees Farm Road. This was part funded by a resident recycling his own and neighbours' aluminium for cash.

A new memorial bench has been ordered for the Triangle. This has been funded by a family member in memory of their mother, a resident of Upper Moors Road

A similar bench has been ordered for the Recreation Ground to replace the wrought iron bench on the Southern boundary near the large oak tree. The new bench will have arms and will be more accessible for those with a disability.

A shed has been installed on the Recreation Ground to store the football corner flags and signs. It will be moved behind the Pavilion after the refurbishment.

9th Winchester are progressing plans to move the Scouts container to Colden Common Park.

A new gate has been installed at the Central Park play area on The Green.

Green Smile will be renovating the goal mouths at Colden Common Park. This is so that we can move back to having three pitches in September. Verti draining has taken place at both recreation grounds

A CIL application has been submitted for a pump track. A tender will be advertised on contracts finder shortly, subject to funding.

Whips have been planted on the land East of the footpath from Piping Close to Church Lane and Church Pond.

Trees have been planted on The Green, Valley Close and land South of Birch Close to replace trees felled. They include 4 Holm Oaks, 1 Hawthorn and 1 Common Oak.

This year sees the launch of Snowdrop Saturday. This is to promote villagers planting in the green snowdrops to colonise an area of Parish Council owned land with native spring bulbs.

Wild meadow seeds will shortly be ordered for the land East of the footpath from Valley Close to Church Lane.

An order has been placed with Idverde for wildflowers to be sown at Church Lane.

Our biennial Tree surveys are due in 2022 and will be commissioned shortly.

The fence between Yew Tree Cottage and the picnic area at the Recreation Ground is in a poor state of repair, and the resident has requested a meeting to discuss options.

No further complaints have been received in regard to getting out of the portable football goals at Colden Common Park.

The Clerk has been advised by the tenant of the land East of Highbridge Road that he will be clearing the scrub to and installing a new fence along the right of way from Upper Moors Road to Highbridge Road. The Clerk has advised HCC rights of way and asked them to inspect the position and width of the right of way line and the surface.

Rec37/21 The meeting to adjourn for public participation which takes place in agenda item below

Rec38/21 To receive any comments, updates, and questions from members of the public, sports clubs, caretakers and wardens (to include the impact of covid-19 for information only)

Cricket Club

The square was cut last week. The grounds man had a heart attack before Christmas and is signed off till February. The cricket club are hoping he will return to work, however, if a return to work is delayed, he will be available for consultancy to Committee members to complete any works required.

There is no limit on age for people to join and play for the club, although it is normally from 12, if they are big enough to play.

The square appears to have some golf club damage. The Clerk to chase the servicing of the roller and cricket mowers.

Tennis Club

Amanda James, Chairman sent her apologies with an update on the tennis club floodlights. A revised floodlighting planning application has finished the consultation period and should be determined shortly. The Planning Authority are waiting for a report from Sport England. The Environment Agency has given their support to the revised scheme. The club has received a complaint regarding the current floodlighting and have responded with the planning application link to details on the improved lighting scheme submitted.

Bowls Club

The Club had 41 member's last season. The grass has had its first cut this season.

Rec39/21 Public participation to come to an end.

Rec40/21 To consider a quotation for automatic hydraulic powered bollards at the entrance of Colden Common Park and resolve to place an order.

The current arrangement is that the caretaker locks and unlocks the gates at Colden Common Park. This arrangement is not sustainable for the future, is based on goodwill and can be affected by holidays or sickness.

The Council has been considering an automated option for some time now. Another quote has been sourced which is available for Councillors to review this evening. The cost has risen from approx. £15,000 to £20,000. £20,000 is contained in the 2022-23 budget for this purpose.

Options include continuing with the status quo, employing a private security company, leaving the gate open or placing an order for an automated bollard system.

Risk of not having a security regime at Colden Common Park includes anti-social behaviour with cars, fly tipping and illegal encampments. The negative effect on residents of Boyes Lane should also be considered. The risk of using a member of staff to lock up is lone working late at night and inconsistency.

The quote from Barker and Geary is for automated bollards which are normally used in a residential setting. As they will only go down in the morning and up in the evening it is considered by the installation company that they are suitable. This solution will not have the ability to tell us who had accessed the park. They will go up and down on a 7-day timer which can be programmed per day of week. It is envisaged it will be a set opening time in the morning, but the evening locking would depend on what activities and bookings are at the park.

The quote does not currently allow for an exit loop.

The Clerk obtained a quote from a security company so this option could be considered by Councillors. An indicative cost was quoted as £15 per visit, £30 a day. Over a year the cost will be approx. £10,920. This option was ruled out on cost.

It was unanimously agreed to place an order with Barker and Geary for automated bollards at Colden Common Park at the cost of £19,431.27 plus Vat.

The order will add on the cost for an automatic exit loop.

Proposed by Cllr Richard Izard seconded by Cllr Byrne and carried.

Rec41/21 To consider quotations to extend the cricket nets by three cages for each bay

The Clerk presented 4 quotes to the Council to consider for extending the cricket cages and netting by a further three cages per bay.

No quote allowed for skirting and it was agreed that skirting was not necessary.

It was resolved to place an order with Boyd Sport & Play Limited t/a sportsequip.co.uk (quote d) subject to a satisfaction reference to

- Supply and deliver galvanised 48.3mm OD cricket cage components comprising 9 ground sockets, 9 uprights, 15 top rails, and 9 clamp fittings.***
- Supply and deliver 3.5mm braided knotless cricket netting, 3 pieces each 4m x 11m, and roof 11m x 7.5m.***
- Provide labour, travel, and concrete to cut existing cricket surface in positions required, excavate, dispose spoil, set 9 sockets in concrete, assemble cage extension linked to existing frame, fit netting, reinstate carpet around uprights***

At a cost of £5,807 plus VAT

Proposed by Cllr Shaun Byrne, seconded by Cllr John Boyes and carried.

Rec42/21 To update on the refurbishment of the Recreation Ground Pavilion

A new sketch with the change of position of the internal toilet door was presented at the meeting. The kitchen layout is indicative at this stage. It was agreed to not decide on the cupboards to be built to house the tables and chairs until later in the project.

The Clerk ran through the electric layout. Spurs for the hand dryers and water heaters for the toilets will be in the loft space. A supply will be provided for the external defibrillator box and spurs will be provided in the kitchen in case at a later day an oven and hob are required. 4 electric heaters will be supplied. The incoming main electricity supply will be moved on Monday, 28th February 2022 and relocated in the tennis club room.

The Clerk and project manager are exploring the possibility of having the outside toilet on an automatic timer to lock and unlock.

The floodlighting and the outside lights will be on a timer and a motion sensor. If they are required to be on all the time (for instance in case of a winter election) the timer can be overridden.

A member of the public has raised an issue regarding disabled access to the Recreation Ground from Main Road. Currently the footpath to Orchard Close starts in the car park, but often a car is parked at the start of the tarmac footpath which means a wheelchair must travel over the grass to get to the footpath. If another footpath were to start from the middle of the car park this will alleviate the issue. This matter will be considered as the project progresses.

Rec43/21 To update on the installation of the illegal encampment prevention at the Recreation Ground

The contractor is ready to start as soon as the refurbishment project comes to an end.

Rec44/21 To review the performance of the hedge cutting contract for the financial year 2021-22 and resolve to approve the 4-year extension as per the tender process.

The recent hedge cutting completed by Idverde was discussed. Councillors were happy with the level of service and the quality of the works.

It was resolved to extend the hedge cutting contract for an additional 4 years, as detailed in the tender process. Proposed by Cllr John Boyes, seconded by Cllr Jacqui Hadley and carried.

Cllr Maggs Pearson suggested that we take photographs of the hedges this year as a record of the standard of the work to compare against future years. The clerk will action this.

Rec45/21 To review the feasibility of a replacement springer on the triangle

A wet pour base on the on the triangle has been missing a springer/rocker for many years. This year's budget made a provision of £1,000 to replace it.

The Clerk has been researching a replacement. The current base does not meet the current recommended fall area. The base cannot be made larger due to slope.

As a springer/rocker is already provided in the fenced toddler play area on the Triangle, it was resolved to not replace the springer/rocker and remove the base. Proposed by Cllr Maggs Pearson, seconded by Cllr Jacqui Hadley and carried.

Rec46/21 To discuss current grounds maintenance contract which ends on the 30th of June 2023.

To discuss any recommendation changes to the specification

To agree the tender process timeline

The existing contract was for 5 years and is due to end on the 30th of June 2023. With inflation, it is likely that the cost will increase for the next tender period.

So that any additional costs can be budgeted for, the Clerk recommends the following

- That the contract specification remains the same, with adhoc additional works being outside the main contract¹ as required and ordered by the Clerk.
- That the contract is advertised on contracts finder for 6 weeks with a closing date of 30th November 2022.
- The contract will be for 1 year with a further four-year 9-month extension on performance.
- The contract will give an opportunity for increases after year 1 based on RPI inflation rates.

It was agreed that the tender document will make a provision during the contract period for the successful contractor to have use of a storage shed at Colden Common Park. This will not be for sole use; the Parish Council and its nominated contractors will have priority for storage in this area and will have unrestricted access to it. Any equipment stored in this area will be at the Contractors own risk and own insurance.

It was resolved that the Clerk will proceed with advertising the grounds contract tender as per the current specification on the timescales as details above. Proposed by Cllr Maggs Pearson and carried.

Rec47/21 To review the pedestrian access into the Recreation Ground from Main Road and resolve if any remedial works are required.

This item was discussed under item REC42/21.

Rec48/21 To agreed items for the next agenda

Signage outside the Colden Common Park Pavilion

¹ Some minor changes will be made