

**COLDEN COMMON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 7.30PM. IN THE**  
**PAVILION, RECREATION GROUND, MAIN ROAD**

**Present** Cllr Richard Izard  
Cllr Steve Badham  
Cllr Jo Anstey  
Cllr Patrick Hunter

Cllr Jean Bligdon  
Cllr Paul Bryant  
Cllr Nick Goddard  
Cllr Viv Stevens

**Apologies** Cllr Maggie Hill  
Cllr Mike King

Cllr Ron Hancock

**In attendance** Debbie Harding (Clerk)  
10 members of the public

Vanessa Kitt (Asst Clerk)  
Steve Hewlett (Asst GTO)  
Roger Atkinson (GTO)

**REC40/13 TO ELECT A CHAIR FOR THE MEETING**

In Cllr King's absence, it was resolved to elect a chair for this meeting.

***Cllr Jean Bligdon proposed Cllr Izard to chair the meeting, seconded by Cllr Anstey and carried***

**REC41/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and listed as above

**REC42/13 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013**

In the absence of a proposer and seconder who attended the last meeting it was agreed to approve the minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> June at the next meeting. Clerk

**REC43/13 TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A member of the public spoke about his concern over footpath 12 which is the footpath from St Vigor way to Church Lane. Vegetation which has grown over the adjacent houses boundaries (Whitebeam) has been cut back by the householders and thrown back over. It needs tidying up. The Clerk and the GTO will meet with the member of public and make a plan for its removal. Clerk  
GTO

Advice will be taken on the maintenance required to preserve the fish bench which has been donated by the Environment Agency and placed in the woodland area near North Pond. GTO

**REC44/13 UPDATE ON MINUTES, CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS NOT INCLUDED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA (for information only)**

PC44/13/1 – Update on the repair of the new skateboard ramps

The contractor has replaced one of the damaged ramps, but another ramp has a crack on the side and around one of the rivets. The Clerk has reported this issue and will continue to manage the equipment under the guarantee.

PC44/13/2 – Recreation ground footpath

The contractor has viewed the cracks in the footpath at the Recreation ground. The contractor has explained that the movement of the clay is the reason for the cracks. The contractor has advised the Council to fill the cracks with sand. Cllr Bryant suggested filling the cracks with bitumen. The Clerk will speak to the contractor and report back for the next meeting.

Clerk

### **REC45/13 COLDEN COMMON FOOTBALL CLUB (CCFC)**

PC45/13/1 – A discussion was led by Dave Hadfield regarding the current facilities and maintenance of the pavilion. Very little has been done in way of maintenance since 1978 and now it is now in a poor state of repair.

CCFC are being put under pressure by the FA to meet the required standard for grounds grading. The Club has been in existence since 1950. David Hadfield has been involved with the club for 37 years and he and a team of others have worked with great love and passion, not only with the football team but to maintain the Football pitch and the surrounding grounds on the Recreation Ground.

Bryan Clarke (Vice- Chair and ground grading officer) and George Mason (Chairman) from the Puma Engineering Hampshire Premier Football League in which CCFC play gave details on the recent ground grading audit. A copy of the requirements was circulated.

Cllr Izard added at this point the complication of the pavilion being the asset of the Recreation Ground Charity and not the Parish Council, and the covenant of the land which states it should be not used for football.

George Mason confirmed that the Hampshire Premier football league is required to work to a step 7 “standard” which is set by the FA. They are under pressure to raise the quality of the facilities. Some match funding is available.

The improvement at the recreation ground to meet the standard are :-

Technical area, Dressing room size, spectator toilets, No separate showers for each team, lack of hot and cold running water. Additional requirements are specified for a Step 7 advanced ground.

The Club have been aware of the shortfall in standards for approx. 3 months.

Cllr Anstey asked what proportion of the players lived in the village.

The figures were not available, but David Hadfield it is not unusual for players to travel to various villages to play football. And having a Step 7 league in the parish is an advantage to young players coming through the Colden Common Youth Football Club.

A discussion took place on the possibility of moving the club to Boyes Lane. It is believed that the existing facilities at Boyes Lane meet the standards. Some issues that would need addressing if a move took place would be managing fixtures in April

and September to avoid clashing with the cricket. Ensuring no impact on CCYFC. CCYFC play on a Sunday and on a different size point, so at this stage no problems were foreseen, although a representative from CCYFC asked to be kept up to date.

It was resolved that the Clerk and the Grounds staff will meet David Hadfield at Boyes Lane to review the facilities against the specification given and bring back the matter to the next meeting, together with any expenditure that is required (if any) for approval by the Parish Council.

The FA will audit grounds in December and the shortfalls need addressing by then.

### **P 46/13/1 COLDEN COMMON TENNIS COURTS**

16/13/1 – The Clerk led a discussion on the current tennis facilities on the recreation ground and the possibility of various ways to provide investment and future management. The Clerk spoke about one model for consideration being a Tennis Association who might lease or operate under license the courts on behalf of the Parish Council. Such a model exists in Twyford see <http://hunterparktennis.co.uk/>

The association installed the courts at Hunter Park and raised money via Membership and match funding from grants.

It was resolved that two members of the public who currently use the courts would attempt to establish an appetite for a similar scheme for Colden Common and this would be an agenda point for the next meeting.

### **P 47/13 TO RECEIVE REPORTS**

Roger Atkinson introduced Steve Hewlett the recently recruited Assistant groundsman. Steve was welcomed by all.

The cricket square is currently being renovated and top dressed for next season.

Roger and Steve will be working through the Play area inspection reports over the coming months.

Vanessa Kitt reported that the Bowling Club finish on the 20<sup>th</sup> and with cricket now finished the football season is just starting.

Brian Reeder, Footpath Warden reported that he has walked 31 footpaths between May and August and had reported 3 broken stiles and one nasty tree down on the path from Brambridge to Highbridge road. The Clerk has already reported this matter to HCC Rights of Way.

Derek Brunger reported that the allotment are running ok and will be meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> October for rent collection from 7pm to 7.30 and a meeting from 7.30 in the Community Centre.

Derek would welcome the trustee to inspection the allotments and the Clerk will circulate some suggested dates. Clerk

**P 48/13      TO RECEIVE THE PLAY EQUIPMENT SAFETY REPORT AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS**

The Play area annual safety inspection has only just been received.

Clerk

All issues are very low or low risk from a health and safety point of view.

The report highlights quite a lot of general maintenance that is required such as wood work, painting, cleaning, new signage etc. The Clerk will work with the grounds team to put together an action plan. The Clerk is keen to see if working parties could be promoted and managed to enhance ownership of these areas by villagers (of all ages) and not just the Parish Council.

**P 49/13      TO COMMENCE DISCUSSION ON AN AUDIT / MANAGEMENT PLAN ON HOW THE VILLAGE TO INCLUDE OPEN SPACES, TREE SURVEYS AND FOOTPATHS AND HOW THIS MIGHT BE ACHIEVED.**

A discussion took place on the merits on separating areas such as North pond, Church Pond, and Bluebell wood into the responsible of a stand-alone committee/advisory group.

The benefits of such would be to facilitate and attract additional volunteers who do not wish to take part in the formal meeting structure of the Parish Council. Meetings separate from the recreation committee would ensure would be more focused on environmental issues and management issues.

It was agreed that the Clerk to prepare a detailed structure and terms of reference and it to be brought back to the Recreation Committee for discussion and recommendation to the Full Parish Council.

Clerk

**P 50/13      TO CONSIDER A CONFIDENTIAL MATTER WHICH IS EXEMPT UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (Admission to meetings act) 1960 – To discuss the terms and conditions of license for the use of Colden Common Park Pavilion – Little Wizards Pre-School**

Please see confidential minute.