

CAPEL PARISH COUNCIL
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Falmouth Place
Five Oak Green
Kent. TN12 6RD
Tel: 01892 837524

**Minutes of a meeting of the Recreation Ground & Allotments Working Group held virtually
at 19:00hrs on Tuesday 16 July 2024**

Present: Cllrs Saunders (Chair), Mackenzie and Patterson

In attendance: Louise Goldsmith, Clerk, Cllr. Mackonochie and 1 member of the public (entered 19:40hrs).

Minutes

358. 1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

An apology for absence was received from Cllrs. Malpas and Sawyer and Sophie Peers from the Five Oak Green Community Gardening Group and the reasons for absence were accepted.

359. 2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

It was resolved that the Minutes of the Recreation Ground & Allotments Working Group meeting held on the 21 February 2024 be signed as a true and accurate record.

360. 3. **COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS:**

None.

361. 4. **ADJOURNMENT TO HEAR FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

A member of the public asked about the Parish Council's plans for hiring out the football pitch on Sundays.

362. 5. **FRIENDS OF FIVE OAK GREEN RECREATION GROUND**

A representative from the Friends of Five Oak Green Recreation Ground has advised that the Charity is due to have an Annual General Meeting shortly and may decide to close down. The Main aim of the Charity was to build the playground which is now completed. Despite applying for numerous grants for a bike track the Charity has not been successful.

363. 6. **FIVE OAK GREEN COMMUNITY GARDENING GROUP**

There was no update.

364. 7. **RECREATION GROUND**

a) To discuss the annual and monthly inspection reports

The Clerk reported that Capel Groundcare has repaired the shrunk areas of wetpour that were presenting the biggest risk. There were no other items of concern on the monthly inspection report. The Clerk advised that the annual RoSPA inspection is due to take place this month.

b) Outdoor Gym Project

The Clerk reported that Full Council had approved the signing of the grant funding agreement following the successful application for grant funding from the FCC Community Foundation for the sum of £24,978.01 for an outdoor gym. The FCC Community Foundation has now given permission for the contractor to be instructed. The Clerk has contacted Wicksteed and a contract for £24,978.01 (excluding VAT) is to be raised. Wicksteed hope to install the equipment during late September or early October 2024 and have agreed to one payment which will be due 28 days after the installation is complete.

c) CCTV: To receive an update

The Clerk advised that the CCTV system is now fully working. The Clerk has submitted an application for a grant of up to £3,500.00 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to partially fund the installation of CCTV in the allotments. A quote of £5,639.00 (excluding VAT) has been submitted by the CCTV contractor. It was noted that the proceeds of the sale of the container will be used to support the cost of the project if the application is successful.

d) Bi-annual Tree Survey

On Thursday 11 July 2024 the Clerk and Cllr. Saunders inspected the trees identified as requiring remedial works in the recent tree survey. The total cost of the remedial works is just under £4,000. It was noted that £4,000.00 has been allocated in the budget for tree works this financial year and £4,000.00 which was not spent in the last financial year could be made available. However, Cllr. Saunders suggested that additional works are required and that quotes should also be sought to reduce the size of the row of trees adjacent to the village hall and to trim both sides of the row of trees between the football pitch and the MUGA. Cllr. Saunders has been advised and offered to remove some of the lower branches on the five commemorative oak trees which should assist with their growth. It was agreed that the Clerk should seek an additional quote for all the works and request a quote from Living Forest for the extra works mentioned above.

e) To consider a request for a memorial tree and bench for Rev Holman

Cllr. Saunders and the Clerk met with Graham Rolando from the Capel History Group on Thursday 11 July 2024. Capel History Group would like to purchase a memorial bench for Rev. Holman who donated part of the recreation ground to the village in 1932. It was suggested and agreed that this memorial bench could replace one of the two benches just outside the Parish Office and to move both benches away from the village hall. The Capel History Group would like to also plant a tree. A couple of locations were discussed at the meeting and it seems that the preference would be to plant a tree to replace the copper beech tree that needs to be removed adjacent to the allotments. It was suggested that a species of tree is chosen than can tolerate wet ground.

f) Football Club Rentals:

It was noted that Simla no longer wish to hire the football pitch leaving just one football club. Cllr. Saunders suggested that the Parish Council should approach the organiser of the league to see if they were aware of anyone looking to hire a pitch on a permanent or ad-hoc basis. It was also mentioned that the outcome of the condition survey of the roof could affect the availability of changing rooms.

365. 8. **ALLOTMENTS**

a) To receive an update on the status of the rentals

The Clerk reported that plot 12b now has a tenant. Plot 2b and plot 14b remain vacant.

b) Plot 14b to discuss the future of the plot

It was noted that plot 14b is affected by flooding in the winter months. At the suggestion of the Clerk it was agreed that raised beds could be installed on plot 14b and rented out individually. As the cost is likely to be prohibitive it was agreed that the Clerk should investigate what grant funding might be available for this project.

c) Pump: To receive an update

It was noted that the Clerk is regularly checking the water levels in the well. Both pumps are working but have been put out of action as the water level in the well was too low. The Clerk is due to check the water level again this week and will re-open the pumps if the water level in the well is high enough.

366. 9. **CAPEL VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK**

a) Signage in the car park

It was agreed to postpone a decision about a proposal to replace the signage in the car park until the condition survey of the village hall roof has been completed. It was agreed that if

major works are required to the village hall roof that it would not be advisable to replace the signage until the works are completed.

b) White lining in the car park

As above.

367. 10. **PUBLIC TOILETS**

a) To discuss the condition of the hand driers

The Clerk reported that the hand driers in both cubicles are very rusty and unsightly. Cllr. Mackonochie offered to find out what substance could be used to remove this rust rather than replacing both driers.

b) Proposal to install baby changing tables

Members discussed the Clerk's suggestion to install baby changing facilities in both cubicles. It was agreed that a horizontal table could fit under the main window in each cubicle. Cllr. Patterson mentioned that the Church has recently removed its baby changing facilities and that one or two changing tables might be available. The Clerk advised that the estimated cost of a new baby changing facility is approximately £400.00 plus installation. It was agreed in principle that this would be a good idea. Cllr. Patterson offered to find out if the baby changing tables at the Church were still available and the Clerk will obtain some quotes for both new facilities and the installation which will need to be considered by the Finance and Resources Committee.

368. 11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting is due to be held virtually at 19:00hrs on Thursday 14 November 2024.

With no further business the meeting closed at 19:52hrs

Signed: Dated: