

Abington Recreation Ground Committee

Minutes of the 199th meeting – 29 February 2016

Present: Peter Brunning, Louise Patten, Liz Sainsbury, Robert Chesham, Paul Pritchard, Dennis Tiplady, Derek Patten

1. Apologies for Absence: Julia Gunning, Sally Smith, Charlotte Adams, Katie Mannion. Some members needed to leave promptly so a brief meeting was requested!

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting: Agreed

3. Matters Arising: None

4. Treasurer's Report

4.1. PP had emailed a brief report in advance, showing the latest bank balances together with known commitments and receivables:

Lloyds Bank - Treasurers Account.	£4,596.57
- Deposit Account.	£4,540.92
- Total Cash.	£9,137.49

Amounts receivable from PCs re. Shelter contributions. £3,527.92
Invoice due to be received re. Tree Work etc. (agreed) £1,740 (inc VAT)
Once these 2 items are paid, the net adjusted cash position will be £10,925.41
It was thought that previous nettle clearance etc. was still outstanding – **RC to check**

4.2. **Updated financial regulations.** This topic and item 6 were deferred.

5. Risk Assessment Statement

L.S. and L.P. circulated a prototype risk assessment check-list, for a visual inspection once a week, and a more detailed quarterly examination. They will test it out over the next 2 weeks, after which we need a rota. **PB** will prepare this, with the following families participating monthly: Adams, Sainsbury, Patten, Brunning, Pritchard. Where appropriate, this is to be coordinated with bin emptying. It was noted that the fencing around the play area and the MUGA needs to be included. Action **LP and LS**

6. Updated Constitution

SS had updated this and it was discussed at the parish councils' January meetings. Bernie Talbot had queried some aspects of the **Constitution**, to which any new financial regulations need to relate. **LAPC clerk** was investigating the exact status of the committee in the light of revised parish council regulations and would prepare a new proposal. This topic and item 6 were therefore deferred.

7. Children's Play Area

7.1. General Condition. Satisfactory

7.2. Synthetic ground cover. Deferred. Action **LS**

7.3 Possible replacement of play area fencing and gate. CA had done some investigation and provided a brochure. The Jacksons Playtime timber fencing and

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gates were liked by all and it was felt that this should be costed out more accurately. Investigation of available grants will need to be made in the next financial year - this will need a "firm" quote for purchase & installation with first opportunity to submit likely to be mid-June. **DP/LP would measure up**, including a possible modest increase in the enclosed area.

Meanwhile PB had established that the second gate could still be opened, though it needed some work to open easily – and it would be necessary to remove the central post in order to admit the larger mower now being used. He will investigate further.

8. Multi-sport Area. Nothing to report.

9. Ground condition.

9.1. Generally good. The tree felling resulted in some piles of shredded wood to apply to muddy areas. There was wear and tear in front of the football goals. The school caretaker had done further work on the hole in the fence to make it rabbit-proof.

9.2. Work to repair rabbit holes was in hand and would be completed soon. The cost was expected to be less than £200.

9.3. The trees around the perimeter of the field have been cut back, revealing some damage to the fence on the southern side. It was agreed to accept Charlie Baker's quote of £480.

9.4. Surface around table tennis table. DP had acquired grass reinforcement but felt that we should get help laying it. Careful levelling would be required. PB and CA felt that we could do it ourselves but PB would seek advice and a quote from KA.

9.5. No further communication from school, since the meeting on 14 December, but this area had since been tidied up, with dead wood removed. As noted before, it would be difficult to provide a reasonable area as it would be difficult to relocate the storage container. *[Post-meeting note: the school has since sent an email asking about terms and availability of this area.]*

9.6. PB now has a key to the container.

10. New Equipment. It was felt that the play area fence was the next priority.

11. Any Other Business. It was confirmed that the Cricket Club would continue to mow the Rec.

12. Date of Next Meeting: The first week in May was suggested: *3, 4 or 5 May tbc.*