

Minutes of the 195th. meeting of the Abington Recreation Ground Committee

5 May 2015

The meeting was preceded by an inspection of the recreation ground including items recommended for repair and general condition of the ground.

Present – Peter Brunning, Robert Chesham, Derek Patten.
Louise Patten, Charlotte Adam and Sally Smith

1. Apologies for Absence. Paul Pritchard, who had sent a summary of the financial statement and Dennis Tiplady

S.S. said that both David Hefford and Kirsty Battom wished to resign from the committee. It is expected that David Hefford will be replaced by another member of Great Abington parish council, but it was felt that a replacement for Kirsty Battom would be useful and it was decided that S.S. would put an entry in the village magazine asking for a volunteer who would be interested in the purchase of equipment for the ground **Action S.S.**

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting. Agreed

3. Matters Arising. None other than those covered below

4. Treasurer's Report

4.1. The year's financial report showed that we had spent none of the money allocated for tree work or grass cutting. The grass cutting had been done by the cricket club, but we have not been billed for this. However, the insurance bill was much larger than we had anticipated mainly due to the extra equipment on the ground. The total budget is still within the expected limits, allowing us to plan for future purchases if these are supported by external grants.

4.2. The communication giving new arrangements for more local auditing from 2015-2016 is being reviewed by the parish councils.

5. Children's Play Area

5.1. One of the swings has had the chains lengthened by P.B. as it was too high for some of the younger children

5.2. The plaque acknowledging the grant towards the new play equipment is now in place. It was agreed to send a photograph of this to the sponsors. **Action C.A.**

6. Liaison with the School

6.1. L.P. suggested that the school headmaster could arrange for court marking to be done by Linton Village College. P.B. will discuss this when he has a meeting with the headmaster. **Action P.B.**

6.2. A request for help with the school swimming pool was thought to be outside the responsibility of the committee

7. Multi- sport Area

D.P. will replace or repair the worn boarding at the edge of the court. **Action D.P.**

8. Ground Condition

8.1. L.P. will contact some-one to deal with the problem of rabbits and moles on the ground. **Action L.P.**

8.2. Many areas of the ground need strimming and spraying with weed killer. This now needs to be done urgently if it is to be effective. It is thought that P.P. has quotes from contractors to deal with this. P.B. said he would contact P.P. to get the quotes and then contact the committee to agree the one we wish to use. **Action P.B.**

8.3. It was agreed that the cricket club will be asked to continue to cut the grass on the main field, while the play area will be strimmed with weed control treatment as mentioned above.

9. Result of Safety Inspection

The recent RoSPA inspection showed no major accident hazards, but said that some loose **nails in the remains of the youth shelter** needed removing and that the matting under the swings is sufficiently uneven as to allow children to trip on this. It was thought that these problems could be dealt with by the committee. The inspection also mentioned that the gap between the gate into the play area and the fence is large enough for a child's finger to become trapped. This is a recurring problem which we have found difficult to correct.

Future Purchases

10.1. C.A. is applying for a grant towards the purchase and installation of the outdoor table tennis table, and is ordering the picnic tables **Action C.A.**

10.2. By now we had been joined by three boys who are skateboard enthusiasts. They gave the committee valuable advice on the type of skate park that they find most useful and that would also suit less experienced skate boarders. D.P. volunteered to look at skate boards in Great Chesterford and Fulbourn and S.S. will visit the one on Jesus Green in Cambridge. C.A. will get some quotes. **Action D.P., C.A. and S.S.**

11. Any other business - none

.12 Date of Next Meeting

Monday July 13th. 2015, 7.30 in the village institute