

Minutes of 200th Meeting of Abington Recreation Ground Committee, held on Thursday 5th May 2016.

Apologies for absence

Katie Mannion

Sally Smith. - stepped down

Minutes of last meeting

All accepted

Matters arising other than those below

None

Treasurer's report

All members of committee received the accounts to review. Balance is healthy.

During the meeting the invoice for the Annual Safety Report was passed to Paul by hand for payment.

Annual Safety Report from Playsafety

No serious issues were reported. However, the Outdoor Gym equipment is said to 'fail to meet' the required standard. This comment has been in previous reports and has been checked with the supplier Wicksteed, who state that it is not designed for children and should not be assessed against those standards. The sign does state that the equipment is not suitable for those under 12 years of age. (For detailed response, see appendix.)

Minor issues with the gate and fence are also mentioned again, but should be resolved by a new fence. There is also a reference to the weeds and damage to grass in the play area.

MUGA fence - the netting was noticeably coming down and sticking out. The gate/door needs to be repaired or replaced.

Action:

LP and LS to read the health and safety report in conjunction with their risk assessment and compile an action list for the MUGA.

Risk Assessment

LP not entirely happy with the current risk assessment template. For the weekly assessments it is too detailed, but it was agreed that the monthly assessment had the correct level of detail.

Action required from risk assessment:

Two new seats for the toddler swings - CA to forward Kompan details to LP/LS to arrange purchase. The older yellow rocker has a cap missing – also requires purchase. PB can fit new parts.

Constitution

PB amended constitution from help from GD and PP: this revised draft was agreed. GAPC and LAPC should split the cost in line with population as before (current split 3:2 GA:LA).

The document should be reviewed when the census figures are updated. By the next census in 2021, the community is likely to be substantially bigger due to the new housing.

Children's Play area

7.1 general condition

Currently the general condition is good. Grass looking healthy, weed suppression good. The area generally looks much more appealing.

We discussed using round up gel to spot kill any forthcoming thistles.

7.2 Use of synthetic materials as ground cover

It was agreed that we would look at securing the matting already in place more securely. PP suggested we could use future S106 money for this task as it is viewed as a health and safety issue. But under the swings the matting is much older and agreed to get a quote for this area.

Action CA.

7.3 Purchase of larger gate for children's playarea

A new gate is ideally required to accommodate the grass cutter. Suggested we use Section 106 money for installing a new fence around the entire playarea and also to extend it by a few metres. We need to clarify and decide on the new size and to invite the fencing supplier Jacksons for a site visit to get quotes started. The position of the gate was debated but agreed to take advice from supplier.

Action CA

8.0 Multi-sports area

The school have sorted out their side with regard to the rabbits.

Charlie Baker has given a quote for repair the wire fencing between the multi-sport and church but needs to look at the damage noted in the H & S report, with a view to repairing it. Charlie could also deal with the excess soil.

Action PB.

The general improvement in the future of the Multi-sports area was debated.

9.0 Ground Condition

9.1 General Condition

DP put forward a quote of £200 to move the excess soil.

The person who caused the ruts offered to fix it but it was felt that the gate area needed more attention to prevent future damage. It is likely that suppliers will visit the Rec around once a year for various reasons, therefore the ruts will occur again. It was agreed that we would make the area stronger for vehicles - dig it out and fill with gravel e.g 3 x 1 tonne bags. Our budget needs to include the labour costs.

Action DP to ask for a quote for the repair of the ruts. Suggested budget of £500 maximum amount for labour costs.

The hedge at the west of the Rec (church to bridge). RC suggested reducing its height, which would encourage re-growth and allow it to bush, which in turn will encourage wildlife.

Action RC

9.2 Repair of rabbit holes

Still in progress

Discussed work needed on the area once the rabbit holes have been filled in:

- Nettles have been sprayed but now need flailing
- Grass seed to be laid in September
- Tree stumps to be removed
- There is some loose green fencing in the soil, to be removed
- Soil to be spread around, but concrete lumps to be removed, possibly used in the ruts

9.4 Churchyard fence

GAPC - Bernie and Charlie Baker are in communication about the churchyard fence (GAPC responsible for the closed church yard). Charlie Baker will fix the holes beyond the churchyard, on the Rec.

9.5 Tree overhanging GAPS garden

The tree is overhanging the GAPS garden. This tree is in the conservation area and will require planning permission. Is school or GAPS arranging this?

Action PP

9.6 School's use of the Rec

We are still awaiting a detailed plan, with measurements and precise usage of the area.

What type of fencing?

Who will fund it?

Rent?

The committee should inform school of our future plans to potentially enlarge the Multisports Area, as their plans could compromise plans for the Rec.

Action PB

9.7 Table Tennis table

KA is to fit (for £250) the plastic matting supplied by TWI.

Ca. £38+VAT to acquire Golpla pins to secure the matting.

Other business:

DP has now given up his role of cutting the grass. He was originally co-opted on to the committee as the cricket club representative. It was suggested that a new person is co-opted on from the cricket club. **Action PB to discuss with D Pimblett.**

Date of next meeting : 5th July

Appendix – statement from Wicksteed (email from Val Burton, dated 1 May 2013)

I can confirm that Outdoor Fitness Equipment cannot meet with the requirements for play (BS EN 1176) as the scope of this standard relates specifically to play items intended for use by children. Nor can it meet the requirements of EN 957 as this standard relates specifically to Stationary Fitness Equipment intended for use in supervised Gymsnasiums. These products are not intended for 'Play' as they are designed for particular exercise types. The scale and configuration of the products target an adult user, rather than children. At the time of writing there is no published standard for this type of equipment so a common sense approach should be taken and we would risk assess the equipment as being suitable for the target user group.