



**Minutes of the meeting held of the NORTHWOOD RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE held
in the
Town Council Office, 13 Denmark Road, Cowes on Monday 19th November at 7.05pm.**

Present: Councillor D Jones (Chairman)

Present:- Councillors Banks, Brown, Ellis, McGregor and Walters

Also invited and attended were Mr N Apsley (local resident) and Mr J Goldsmith (Northwood Cricket Club) who were co-opted onto the sub-committee without voting rights.

7 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Fuller

8 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received

**9 MINUTES
RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September may be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

10 SKATE PARK

At the last meeting it was discussed that no-one appears to be using the Skate Park or MUGA after 8pm. The local P.S.C.O. has confirmed this. The facilities are both on the same circuit, so cannot be switched off individually. After discussions around the safety of the general recreation ground users and the minimal cost of the electricity it was :-

RECOMMENDATION: That the lights would remain switched on until 9pm each evening.

11 PLAYBUILDER PARK

Following last month's meeting, reports of the weekly inspections from the Isle of Wight Council have been received for the period 27/03/12 – 14/8/12. There has only been one reported problem with the logs on the mound coming loose, which were then repaired. It was confirmed that this has been an issue previously, and after some initial maintenance by the providers of the logs, it appears that this may be an on-going infrequent occurrence. The annual fee paid to the Isle of Wight Council cover both the inspections and any necessary repairs. They have not provided a list of how much is left in the repairs budget. There is still a problem with mud up both

sides of the slide and at the bottom of the zip wire, although neither the IW Council nor ROSPA have indicated this is a safety issue. Also nothing in the report about the seat of the zip wire being an issue. After much discussion it was decided that:-

ACTION:

- a) **Request the next three months of reports from IW Council**
- b) **Check again with the IW Council about the problem with the seat of the zip wire, and talk to the makers of that piece of equipment to see if there can be a modification.**
- c) **Request a break down of the cost of the annual contract with IW Council to establish how much is left for any future maintenance.**

12

M.U.G.A.

The MUGA is still being very well used, by families of all ages.

There was a request to hold some cricket coaching sessions using the facility. This generated a lot of discussions about both the lease and the grant money used to fund the project. Unfortunately, the facility has to be used for "open access". Lee Matthews (Recreation and Public Space Manager, IW Council) became involved in the discussion and provided a very useful compromise. The coaching sessions could be held on a regular basis, but the court cannot be booked, so if there are other users, the coaching sessions could take place on the open tarmac area between the Skate Park and the MUGA. Since this happened, Jon and Ashley Goldsmith have had to withdraw from the coaching sessions for the time being due to other commitments. Jon updated the council advising that the sessions were hoping to be started in January for a trial period, possibly Friday evenings from 4pm to 6pm for Key Stage 1 and 2 students in the local primary Schools. Discussion took place about a sign but this was dismissed as the IW Council would have to give permission. A wicket could be painted onto the outside of the MUGA fencing which would enable the tarmacked area between the MUGA and Skate Park to be used if there were other users of the MUGA at that time, but this could not help to retain the tennis balls (which would be used for these sessions). It was also discussed that there may already be clubs/ groups of young people using the facility on an informal basis as they appear to have matching shirts and playing an actual game. It was also reported that often there was football being held on one end of the court and basketball on the other. The "open access" does not appear to be producing any conflict. Lee Matthews had informed the council that the facilities at both West Wight and Seaclose are also open access and coaching does take place on a regular basis with no problems.

RECOMMENDATION: That the MUGA can be used for regular cricket coaching sessions but cannot be booked as it would conflict with the open access policy.

After the agenda items, the Assistant Town Clerk gave an update on the installation of the outdoor gym which is now complete and the opening will be on Saturday 1st December.

Also Nigel asked if we could discuss the entrance of the Recreation Ground. This is becoming very dangerous particularly with all the white vans that park there. It was

confirmed that CTC had been in discussion with IW Council and had agreed for double yellow lines to be installed along both side of the entrance to increase the visibility.

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk to contact Kevin Burton (Highway Department IW Council) to enquire when the double yellow lines are to be installed.

It was also mentioned about the Basket Hoop being broken on the MUGA. The Assistant Town Clerk advised that this has been replaced by the contractors under warranty so at no cost to the council.

Items for the next agenda: Should there be a list of byelaws at the entrance to the Recreation Ground?

Date of next meeting: Monday 18th February 2013 at 7pm.

Meeting ended at 8pm.

CHAIRMAN