

NUTHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Councils Open Spaces & General Maintenance Committee meeting,
held on 2nd December 2021, commencing 7.45pm

Present: Cllr D Harber (Chairman) Cllr O Hydes (OBE)
 Cllr N Bryant Cllr W Ingram
 Cllr J Chaytor Cllr T Nelson

The Clerk to the Parish Council, Sarah Hall, Cllr P Bullen and five members of the public also attended the meeting.

OS025-21/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** there were no apologies for absence.

OS026-21/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest, as defined under the Localism Act 2011 and the Parish Councils Code of Conduct, were made.

OS027-21/22 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the [Open Spaces & General Maintenance Committee](#) meeting held on 2nd September 2021 be confirmed as a true correct record and be recommended for approval to the Full Parish Council (unanimously approved).

OS028-21/22 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman did not make any announcements.

OS029-21/22 PUBLIC SESSION

A Mannings Heath resident asked for consideration to be given to the positioning of the trees in the field behind Woodlands Walk. The Air Ambulance has landed in the field a number of times over recent years and this should be considered when the trees are planted.

OS030-21/22 PARISH SURVEY

i) RENOVATION OF THE CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

There are two options for the refurbishment of the children's play area and the Councillors discussed both at length.

a) Full Refurbishment

Remove all the equipment, replace with multi activity centre, plus other play equipment, accessible to children with limited mobility, full surface replacement. This will cost substantially more than the Parish Council currently has available and additional capital will be required

b) Partial Refurbishment

Remove climbing frame and swings, replace with multi activity centre, accessible to children with limited mobility, replace surface around these items. Retain log train (paint), rocker and slide. These will be replaced at a later date.

The Clerk and Cllr D Harber will complete and submit two grant applications on 9th December 2021. Since the Covid pandemic, grant sources are now very limited.

It was **RESOLVED** to make the following **RECOMMENDATION** to Full Parish Council:

'The committee members will endeavour to raise the capital for the full refurbishment, if this is not achieved by 31st March 2022 the Parish Council will progress with the partial refurbishment of the children's play area. In the meantime, the committee will prepare a specification and obtain three quotations for a partial replacement of the play equipment'

ii) **FACILITIES FOR OLDER CHILDREN**

In April 2021 the Parish Survey indicated that 64% of residents responding to the survey wanted the Parish Council to provide facilities for older children and adults.

The location for any facilities is extremely limited with the Parish Council only owning the village green. Two meetings have taken place with the Cricket Club to try and identify a mutually acceptable location on the village green for a basketball net and a table tennis table.

To date these discussions have not found a compromise. The Cricket Club made the suggestion that the facilities could be located on the field behind Woodlands Walk. The Parish Council has no wish to upset the Cricket Club but needs to move forward to fulfil its obligations to older children and adults.

A draft letter and map identifying the proposed location of the basketball net and table tennis table, circulated prior to the meeting, were discussed by the Councillors.

The Cricket Club needs the Parish Council's permission to alter the location and orientation of the nets and practice area and to site a picnic bench on the village green.

To make better use of the village green, the possibility of erecting goals for five a side football at the end of the cricket season was suggested by a Councillor. Another Councillor suggested stool ball.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** that the members agreed to send the letter and map to the Cricket Club. The Parish Council have requested from the Cricket Club a map showing the precise location and orientation of the proposed cricket practice area, nets and run up area plus the proposed location for the eight-seater picnic bench by 7 January 2022.

The Parish Council remains anxious to reach a compromise with the Cricket Club but reserves the right to proceed with its own plans if no compromise has been reached by 31 January 2022.

iii) **FIELD BEHIND WOODLANDS WALK**

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** The following update on the field behind Woodlands Walk:

Members of the committee met with HDC and it was agreed to plant, in conjunction with HDC, six fruit trees and install a bench. The fruit trees and bench will be positioned at the top of the field, on the righthand side (when entering the field from Woodlands Walk). This will not affect the Air Ambulance landing in the field. To be more environmentally friendly the Parish Council have suggested that the bench is constructed from recycled plastic materials.

The project is to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and it has been agreed in principle with the Head Teacher from St Andrew's School that children will assist with the planting of the trees.

A number of Ash trees in the field have Ash Die Back, HDC will arrange for these to be felled.

OS031-21/22 GENERAL MAINTENANCE OF PARISH ASSETS

i. **ANNUAL ASSET ASSESSMENT**

It was **RESOLVED** to **INCLUDE** the Annual Asset Assessment on the agenda for the Full Parish Council meeting on 15th December 2021.

Cllr O Hydes thanked the Councillors and their partners for cleaning and painting the Jubilee benches in the parish. Cllr O Hydes (Mannings Heath), Cllr D Harber (Monks Gate), Cllr J Bromley (Maplehurst) and Cllr P Bullen (Copsale).

OS032-21/221 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS TO BE REFERRED TO ON THE NEXT AGENDA;

It was **NOTED** that the members did not request for any items to be included on the next agenda.

OS033-21/22 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the next meeting of the Open Spaces & General Maintenance Committee will be held on 3rd February 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.19pm

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Chairman of the Open Spaces & General
Maintenance Committee

Date