

Great Waltham Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on Monday 4th September 2023 at the Pavilion, South Street, Great Waltham at 7.30pm.

1. Chair's Welcome

Chair: Martin.
Cllrs. Jackson, Gilbert, Jenkins, and Page.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Bradley and Cllr Palmer.

3. Declarations of interests (existence and nature) regarding items on the agenda and to consider any dispensations required to transact the business on the agenda.

Cllr Jackson – Allotments.

4. Public Participation session with respect to items on the agenda or any items that they wish to bring to the Councils attention.

No members of the public present.

5. Update on available plots on Brook Mead and Bury Lane.

Brook Mead x 2b, 2c, 2d, 1, 11, 17, 18A, 23, 25A
Bury Lane x 2 (A/B/C), 3 (A), 5, 6, 7, 13.

It was noted that the overall number of allotment holders has fallen.

It is hoped that an allotment open day planned for October will encourage new allotment holders.

6. Report on Playground Inspections.

No major issues raised by the inspectors.

7. Report from Allotments Supervisor.

Some issues were raised around some strimming around the plots and some plot holders not keeping their possessions on their plot.

It was reported that the new allotment maintenance contract covering strimming and covering plots is working well.

8. Updates on the Action Tracker.

The action tracker was reviewed with actions.

9. Review progress and outstanding actions on the recreation grounds inspection tracker.

The full spreadsheet was reviewed. Many defects were cleared as a result of the Howe Street multi play installation and it was noted that several more could be cleared by the replacement of some items.

Resolution: Update the recreation inspection tracker with any extra work and repairs.

10. Review the HAGS Presentations held on 18/07/23 and 04/09/23, discuss and agree the next steps.

A visual proposal was reviewed that would create new play area zones and make full use of the Great Waltham recreation children's playground. It was agreed that other providers should be given an opportunity to quote for the full project. Public engagement sessions will be considered to gain support for the project and to ensure users views are captured.

There was a discussion on potential financial routes to achieve the project including the creation of a public community interest group so that additional funding streams could be explored.

Additional working party meetings to be called to review other suppliers and their outputs. It was noted that this project will breach the threshold of the public finance regulations of £25,000 and need to be issued on contract finder.

11. Review the committed spent list for proposed replacement recreation items and recommend any changes ahead of the October F&GP meeting.

The items were reviewed, and it was felt that the list needs to be reviewed and updated before the next meeting.

Resolution: Capital items to be sent to the Clerk to be added to the list for budgeting purposes.

12. Review the Ford End recreation ground path works and seat installation.

It was reported that the path from the car park to the picnic area has been completed and the bench is being installed. It was pleasing to read the positive comments that have been received on Facebook on the new inclusive path.

13. Review the Play in the Park event held on 16/08/23.

It was reported that the 2023 event was better managed by Chelmsford City Council. 171 young people attended across the day. The Great Waltham Up Up and Away Playgroup undertook a tuck shop and drinks from the Pavilion. It was agreed that in future there should be better advertisement for the drinks and sweets available from the playgroup to inform parents before the event.

The inflatables were well used and recommended to be used again in 2024. It was also noted that the Parish play equipment was well used.

Overall the numbers were up on 2022 where we had 186 young people attend over the 2 days .

Resolution: Recommendation that the Council budgets for one full day in 2024.

14. Review recent vandalism at Great Waltham Recreation Ground and review measures taken to prevent youths climbing on the Pavilion and container roof.

Recent anti social behaviour and vandalism was discussed with the following actions agreed and noted:

- Police have been contacted by Great Waltham Parish Council (GWPC) when they were alerted to a situation.
 - On 17/8/2023 they did not attend (either because of other priorities or as only one call to report).
 - On 21/8/2023 – did attend the scene and searched the area but did not apprehend anyone.
- Police advice encourages witnesses to report incidents/crimes when they are in progress (with details of the activity and numbers and descriptions of individuals involved), and to obtain photos provided it is safe to do so. Witnesses reporting incidents can quote reference 507/17-08-2023 or 792/21-08-2023.
- GWPC will continue to report incidents when it becomes aware of situations.
- A post on Facebook has been made to draw parents' attention to the issue and the police's ongoing interest in the matter.
- GWPC will be contacting the community policing team at Chelmsford to get their advice on what further actions we can take and to understand the level of support and action we can expect from the police.
- GWPC has removed the post boxes which are being or could be used to gain access to the roofs.
- GWPC has installed 'Do Not Climb Structures' warning signs.
- GWPC is investigating the possibilities of installing physical deterrents on the roofs.
- The guidance from our insurance agent is "There are no requirements within the policy or advice we can provide in terms of how to prevent individuals from accessing the roof of the pavilion and containers. [If you know how they are able to do this they] suggest [we] put preventative measures in place if possible. [Our] Insurance policy simply requires

that the Council take all reasonable precautions and follow Health and Safety advice from HSE”.

Recent vandalism resulted in the following:

2 shutter cabinets damaged – replacement cost is £195.42.

1 bench damaged at Great Waltham and a rubbish bin pulled out of the ground.

15. Agree grounds maintenance requirements ahead of the upcoming contract tender process.
Previous decisions will see the inclusion of Pump Green, North End and the some hedges at Bury Lane allotments.

Resolution: Clerk to run the tender process.

16. Agree the process and scope of the next tree survey.
The previous tree survey recommended a further survey during the winter months of 2023/24. For reasons of consistency and previous good service it is recommended that Writtle Forest Consultancy carry out the next survey.

Resolution: Add Howe street to the next survey and note any subsidence to local dwellings.

17. Consider and agree to recommendations for removal and possible replacement of the bench at Howe Street Recreation Ground'.
Despite best efforts to extend the life of the bench it was agreed that it should be replaced.

Resolution: Item to be in the budget of replacement items.

18. Discuss and agree recommended strategy for maintenance of goalposts at the Recreation Grounds.
Obtaining quotes to shot blast and powder coat the goal posts at the three recreation grounds are on-going and the issue of relocating the goals to different areas of the recreations grounds was discussed.

Resolution: Clerk to contact Chelmsford City Council parks department on a price per set of goal sockets being.

Members – Gilbert, Martin, Jenkins, Palmer, Jackson, Bradley and Page.

21:46 – Meeting closed.

Will Adshead-Grant. Clerk to the Council.