



**Minutes of the Recreation Grounds Committee Meeting held on
7th March 2023, at Wickersley Community Centre**

Members: Cllrs: A Bates (Chairman), M Godfrey, K Phillips, N Judah, M Scott, P Whitworth

In attendance: Cllrs: A Bates (Chairman), K Phillips, N Judah, P Whitworth

Additional attendees: A Naylor (Acting Clerk), J Whitworth (Assistant Clerk), 2 members of the public

489. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr M Godfrey. No apologies received from Cllr M Scott.

490. To resolve if members of the press and public are to be excluded from any agenda items of the meeting due to the nature of the business to be transacted. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, S1 (2))

Resolved: no agenda items are to be confidential.

491. To approve the minutes of the meeting on 18th October 2022

Resolved: the minutes of the meeting on 18th October 2022 for the Recreation Committee were approved.

492. To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 18th October 2022

None to discuss; all relevant items have been added as agenda items for this meeting.

493. To note any issues from members of the public in attendance

A member of the public, a former parish councillor, confirmed that they had 3 questions to ask.

The first was regarding how much had been spent on each park (Bob Mason Recreation Ground & Wickersley Park) in the previous 5 years, and the planned spend in the coming year. It was stated by the Chair that as a previous councillor the member of the public had in fact seen all relevant budgets and expenditure at full council meetings, however the information would be provided as requested.

Action: the Acting Clerk to provide the requested information to the former councillor in written format.

The second question posed was how many of the members of the Recreation Committee live within the parish and pay the precept for Wickersley. The Chair queried the relevance of the question, stating that all councillors with a seat on Wickersley Parish Council (and consequently the committees) met the criteria for being a parish councillor and therefore this was inconsequential.

The member of the public stated that the question was asked in respect of voting to spend parish money if the councillors do not pay the precept. The Chair again confirmed that all councillors are permitted to vote on how to spend the budget given that they are eligible to be parish councillors. The members of the committee present confirmed that 2 lived within Wickersley, and 2 outside the boundary.

The final question was around the Parish Council's reserves - if it was determined that the Parish Council is in breach of recommended levels of 'uncommitted' reserves, will the spending of the Recreation Committee be suspended (i.e. on park paths) until the reserves are back to the recommended level? The Chair advised that the reserves allocation and policy is set by the Parish Council as a whole, as is the annual budget, and not by the Recreation Committee. This would therefore be a matter for discussion by full council and any such decision on reserves, budgets and spend would have to be taken by full council, not any individual committee. It was also stated that the member of the public, as a recent councillor, was involved in the approval of the reserves policy referenced.

494. To consider any community matters from Councillors

Cllr Whitworth has had a complaint about the paths being wet and muddy, this will be discussed later on in the meeting under the agenda item 'Wickersley Park paths'.

Cllr Phillips raised the subject of volunteers, following a recent meeting on the subject, and it was stated that the recreation committee don't make use of volunteers as much as some other committees do and could they be utilised more by the committee. The Chair said that volunteers had been approached before but with little success, however the suggestions for volunteer events would be to clear the boundary areas within Wickersley Park where there is a lot of dumped rubbish, and litter picks (more so within the undergrowth than the open areas as these are regularly checked and litter picked by the handymen).

Following these discussions, it was decided to arrange a litter pick for 15th April at Wickersley Park.

Action: Assistant Clerk to organise the litter pick for Saturday 15th April.

Another suggestion was whether the committee could make use of any volunteers for a "park watch" (similarly to how the woodland committee have wood wardens). This could be considered further at a future committee meeting along with any further ideas for utilising volunteers.

495. To receive the financial update to 31/01/23

The following financial report was received by members:

Wickersley Parish Council Financial Report to 28/02/2023	As at 28/02/2023	Committed to 31/03/2023	Total projected to 31/03/2023	Budget 2022/23	Surplus/-Deficit projection to 31/03/2023
INCOME					
Bob Mason Pavilion Income	£2,572.50	£0.00	£2,572.50	£2,000.00	£572.50
Total Recreation Grounds	£2,572.50	£0.00	£2,572.50	£2,000.00	£572.50
EXPENDITURE					
Recreation Grounds	£3,304.48	£31.50	£3,335.98	£4,200.00	-£864.02
Bob Mason Pavilion	£1,212.57	£450.00	£1,662.57	£1,500.00	£162.57
Grounds Maintenance Contract	£10,152.54	£3,384.18	£13,536.72	£14,000.00	-£463.28
Total Recreation Grounds	£14,669.59	£3,865.68	£18,535.27	£19,700.00	-£1,164.73

It was noted that there was a good level of income against budget. The Acting Clerk advised that there was an outstanding debt included within this figure, so the recovery of this debt could affect the final figure, however this was being pursued.

There was discussion around the expenditure for the pavilion at Bob Mason, including water, gas and electricity bills. It was suggested that water saving devices be considered; the Acting Clerk advised that these were already on the taps and showers so could not be left running.

Action: Assistant Clerk to ask the handymen to let the office know if anything is left on when they attend, e.g. lights, which could affect the bills. If this is found to be an issue, the users are to be contacted to ask that they ensure everything is switched off when locking up the pavilion.

496. To discuss matters pertaining to Bob Mason Recreation Ground:

496.1 Play equipment, including review of inspection report

With regards to the minor repairs required, a quote needs to be obtained from Tim Archer at RMBC.

With regards to the safety surface/matting, this needs to be pulled up, soil put underneath or re-raked to flatten out, seeded, then the matting laid back in place. It was queried if this was something that the probation service could carry out/ assist with. Quotations from contractors are also to be obtained.

496.2 Pavilion

The pavilion is in good order. It had been previously discussed that deep cleans be carried out 3 times per season; it was suggested that actually only 2 deep cleans were needed, 1 mid-football season and 1 at the end/prior to the next.

496.3 Grounds Maintenance

It was stated that some work may be due to be carried out on the football pitches; if we are providing and charging for a facility it should be well maintained, and some areas of the pitches are looking in need of TLC. A quote had been obtained from the ground maintenance contractor for £1210 per pitch.

It was suggested that a small project bid be submitted to full council, if this was still the process.

It has recently been advised by one of the long-standing hiring teams, that the three pitches all vary in size. It was suggested that the clerking staff contact the grounds maintenance contractor to see if there is a reason for this, and to check the measurements against the FA requirements/specification.

Action: Assistant Clerk to contact grounds maintenance contractor about the sizes of the pitches.

496.4 Users/hirers (including consideration of additional pitch(es) for youth sides, and request for men's football pitch hire)

Wickersley Youth have asked if the parish council can accommodate a 9v9 junior pitch for the upcoming 2023/24 season, September to April.

It is believed that the pitch is required for a girls youth team. The acting Clerk advised that if this was the case, there may be funding available for providing a pitch in relation to increasing girls' participation. The Chair advised that he had previously looked at this but that the requirements were onerous and there was a requirement for separate shower cubicles and also floodlighting.

There was discussion around charges/fees for providing the pitch, and it was stated that quotations are required for the marking out and maintenance of the pitch in order to consider the fee structure. No posts/sockets are required as the team will provide their own goals.

RESOLVED to support the proposal in principle, subject to pricing being obtained and rates agreed with Wickersley Youth.

Action: Assistant Clerk to obtain quotation for the marking & maintenance of the additional 9v9 pitch.

There followed discussion around a men's team that had enquired about use of the ground for matches on a Sunday. At the present time there are two Sunday league teams hiring the pitches. The concern in taking on an additional team would be around parking issues.

Some stipulations would have to be made if hire was agreed, these would be to highlight parking issues and ask that they car share or walk where possible, and that if there were to be fixture clashes between the new team and either of the two existing teams, that the existing teams would take priority and the new team would not have use of the pavilion for those matches. The agreement would also be on a trial basis for the season, to be reviewed after April 2024.

RESOLVED to accept the additional Sunday league team on a trial basis for the 2023/34 season, with the above stipulations.

496.5 Bob Mason bike track

We have placed the order with the contractor for the work to the bike track and path, and the work is due to start in April, date TBC.

Action: Acting Clerk to chase for a confirmed start date for the project.

It was stated that we need to consider the longer term maintenance of both the bike track and path. A suggestion was made by the contractor to stockpile any leftover material from the works, for any future maintenance requirements. It was advised that a maintenance plan would be priced up for the council to consider.

Action: Acting Clerk to follow up and request that the quote be sent through for the maintenance plan/contract.

496.6 Bob Mason paths

As above; the bike track and path are to be completed at the same time.



497 To discuss matters pertaining to Wickersley Park

497.1 Play equipment, including review inspection report

The play equipment in the park is beginning to need some maintenance. Some items have been identified for action by the handymen, including repairs/servicing to the gym equipment, with other items needing an external contractor to action.

There are areas of safety matting which require attention – quotations are to be obtained for this work.

It was stated that spoil arising from the works to the park paths (as and when this goes ahead) could potentially be utilised to infill under the bank slide where the ground has worn, if the material is considered suitable.

RESOLVED to order a replacement bin for the one closest to the play area which has extensive rusting.

Action: Assistant Clerk to obtain price for repairs to pendulum swing chain and to order a replacement bin.

497.2 Grounds maintenance, including maintenance requirements around perimeter

We have received two quotes to date, the cost of which are outside of the budget if all work was to be completed at once. It was decided to go back to those who have quoted to provide an amended quote for the 2m strip clearance along the boundary and to price for just those trees that are leaning or damaged, etc.

497.3 Wickersley Park paths

The original estimate on which project budgets were based was £33,000. Subsequent discussions with contractors have identified that due to high price rises of materials etc. since then, the initial £33,000 budget may not be sufficient to get all the paths completed.

There could be an option to separate out the two paths and just do one of them at this stage, if doing both was out of budget and unachievable at this stage.

A full tender process needs to be carried out due to the amounts involved in the contract. The question of whether both paths or just one of them is done would then have to go to full council if prices received were out of budget.

497.4 Wickersley Park solar lighting

The solar lights were discussed, it was asked whether these could be claimed for through insurance. The Acting Clerk advised that the insurance route hadn't been investigated to date so this will be looked in to. Alternatively, the Police Crime Commissioner grant is to be looked in to, to see if we could apply for funding through that.

Action: Assistant Clerk to look into the possibility of claiming for the vandalised solar lights on insurance. If this is not an option, to look in more detail at the Police Crime Commissioner grant.

498 To consider any general correspondence

The Parish Council has been contacted asking about litter in Wickersley Park; as per minute 494 of these minutes, it has been agreed to organise a litter pick to take place on 15th April.

The Chair asked if RMBC might provide a skip for removal of the large, bulky items dumped within the boundary vegetation; it is not thought that a skip would be provided by RMBC however the Assistant Clerk will speak with Wayne Munro-Smith to see what RMBC would or would not collect as part of the arising rubbish collection following the litter pick. The bulky items do need to be pulled out and disposed of in one way or another.

A request has been made from the Events Committee to see if Recreation would wish to take on the teddy bears picnic. This was discussed and it was suggested that this would be better directed to woodland, given that the event takes place in the Gorse.

Action: Assistant Clerk to feedback to Events and raise with the Woodland Committee.

There was also a request from the Events Committee to see if Recreation wished to take on the scarecrows event. This was discussed and it was stated that the committee would be happy to take this on if they could be provided with more information around requirements, allocation of budget, etc. The Assistant Clerk advised that funding has been applied for and granted previously from RMBC Wickersley North Ward Councillors, but this was not guaranteed.

A request has been made with regards to hire of Bob Mason Recreation Ground for a children's football camp in the school holidays.

RESOLVED to agree to the hire for the purpose of a football camp, provided that weekends are avoided/there is no clash with football fixtures.

499 To note dates of remaining 2023 committee meetings:

Tuesday 6th June
Tuesday 12th September
Tuesday 5th December

The meeting closed at 20:15

Signed
(Chair)



Date 25/07/2023