

# Wickersley Parish Council

## Minutes of the Recreation Grounds Committee Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022, 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), M Godfrey, N Judah, M Scott, P Whitworth

Additional attendees: A Naylor (Assistant Clerk), 1 member of the public

### 463. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr K Phillips (illness).

### 464. 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.

### 465. To approve the minutes of the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Resolved:** the minutes of the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 for the Recreation Committee were approved.

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

One member of the public in attendance raised an issue with anti-social behaviour taking place at Wickersley Park, at the rear of his property which is located on Poplar Glade. People are accessing a clearing behind the property, which has been created in the rough area behind the tree line; there have been gatherings of people, sometimes with fires lit and other anti-social behaviour, and the resident regularly hears foul language preventing him and his family from being able to enjoy their own garden.

It was suggested that this problem should be reported to the police on each and every occasion by the resident. The resident advised that he had reported it previously on a number of occasions, but no action had yet been taken.

**Resolved:** The Assistant Clerk to bring the problem to the attention of Mick Sheedy at South Yorkshire Police, in addition to reports continuing to be made by the resident.

There was discussion around potential solutions that the Parish Council and/or residents could try to implement, including a secondary fencing line, additional planting of coarse vegetation, and clearing of the undergrowth and thinning of trees etc. to open the area up to discourage use as a 'hidden' meeting place. The pros and cons of all the options were considered and a definitive course of action was not agreed. There were strong concerns around not solving the issue but just moving the issue on to another area along the boundary.

It was left with the resident to go and speak further with neighbours and come back to the Parish Council with their thoughts and suggestions.

The member of the public left the meeting.





**467. To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The action plan for the bike track at Bob Mason Recreation Ground was discussed; the Assistant Clerk is to make contact with the company who initially installed the track to arrange them to come and look to see what work is required to rectify issues with the track at present.

**468. To appoint a Vice Chair of the committee**

**Resolved:** unanimously, to re-elect Cllr Godfrey as Vice Chair.

**469. To consider any community matters from Councillors**

No matters were raised.

**470. To receive the financial update to 31/03/2022**

The following financial update was provided, detailing the end of year figures for 2021/22, pertinent to the spend of the Recreation Committee:

Wickersley Parish Council Financial Report to 31/03/2022	As at 31/03/2022	Committed to 31 Mar 2022	Total projected to 31 Mar 2022	Budget 2021-22	Surplus/- Deficit projection to 31 Mar 2022
<b>INCOME</b>					
Bob Mason Pavilion Income	1725.00	0.00	£1,725.00	2000.00	-275.00
Recreation Ground - Other Income	0.00	0.00	£0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Recreation Grounds</b>	<b>1725.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1725.00</b>	<b>2000.00</b>	<b>-275.00</b>
Wickersley Park Grants	4125.00	0.00	£4,125.00	0.00	4125.00
Bob Mason Grants	8698.30	0.00	£8,698.30	0.00	8698.30
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>12823.30</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>12823.30</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>12823.30</b>

Wickersley Parish Council Financial Report to 31/03/2022	As at 31/03/2022	Committed to 31 Mar 2022	Total projected to 31 Mar 2022	Budget 2021-22	Surplus/- Deficit projection to 31 Mar 2022
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Recreation grounds	3437.17	0.00	£3,437.17	4000.00	-562.83
Bob Mason Pavilion	1727.13	0.00	£1,727.13	1400.00	327.13
Grounds Maintenance Contract	13961.72	0.00	£13,961.72	14000.00	-38.28
<b>Total Recreation Grounds</b>	<b>19126.02</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>£19,126.02</b>	<b>19400.00</b>	<b>-273.98</b>

**Resolved:** to accept the financial update.

## **471. To discuss matters pertaining to Bob Mason Recreation Ground**

### **471.1 Play equipment:**

#### **471.1.1 Proposals for staged replacement of play equipment**

The Chair suggested that members of the Recreation Committee arrange an informal standalone meeting to discuss the wish list and plan of action in regard to the intended upgrades to play equipment at Bob Mason Recreation Ground. Given the current workload issues faced by the clerking team, this meeting will not be attended by the Assistant Clerk.

#### **471.1.2 Review of inspection report**

The play inspection report was reviewed; minor issues had been raised for monitoring and a couple of minor repairs are required. These are to be actioned by the handymen.

### **471.2 Pavilion:**

#### **471.2.1 Refurbishment works**

An update on the interior refurbishment works was given by the Assistant Clerk.

The redecoration works have been completed by the probation service, it was noted that this has been done to a very good standard.

There are some loose tiles in the shower area in one changing room; the Chair advised that panelling rather than replacement tiles may be a preferred option to remedy the problem.

**Resolved:** Cllr Bated to send a link to a recommended supplier for panelling to the Assistant Clerk.

A leak in the female toilets has been attended to by a plumber.

The internal doors are due to be replaced early June as part of the small project work agreed via full council.

### **471.3 Grounds:**

#### **471.3.1 Maintenance issues**

An update was given to the committee following a contract review meeting held with the grounds maintenance contractor; this included both Bob Mason Recreation Ground and Wickersley Park maintenance matters.

In summary, there are some minor revisions to be made to the contract, but these do not affect the overall pricing. It was requested of the contractor that regular monthly reports are to be provided to the Parish Council detailing the works planned and completed each month, as per the contract requirements. The Assistant Clerk is providing a template to





the contractor, which is an adaptation of the contract schedule, to allow easier tracking of works.

It was stated that the area inside the pavilion fencing requires a cut.

**Resolved:** Assistant Clerk to speak to the grounds maintenance contractor to arrange the above.

The football pitches were discussed; to allow the main two pitches to rest and recover out of season, it was suggested that the third pitch be brought in to use for friendlies and to encourage the general public to utilise this pitch for 'kick abouts' rather than the main two pitches.

**Resolved:** Assistant Clerk to speak to the grounds maintenance contractor regarding the marking out of the third pitch.

#### **471.3.2 Path provision**

An award for funding to the value of £4048.30 has been granted by RMBC Wickersley South Ward Councillors towards the upgrading of paths. New quotations for the works are to be obtained and works progressed.

#### **471.4 Other**

##### **471.4.1 Permit users**

The 2022/23 permit fee was discussed, in light of the works being carried out at the pavilion to allow usage of the toilet facilities for permit holders.

**Resolved:** to price the permit fee at £12.50 per month at present, rising to £15 per month once the internal doors have been upgraded and locks changed to provide toilet access.

##### **471.4.2 Football users**

The Assistant Clerk gave an update on football hirers for the upcoming season. All Sunday teams have expressed their intention to return to the ground for the next season. There is space to take on another Saturday team.

A problem with a previous Saturday team was discussed.

**Resolved:** to make contact with the relevant league in regard to the issues faced, to obtain their assistance if possible in rectifying the situation.

#### **472. To discuss matters pertaining to Wickersley Park**

##### **472.1 Play equipment:**

##### **472.1.1 Review of inspection report**

The play inspection report for Wickersley Park was reviewed.



The basket swing has been taken out of service due to vandalism; an order has been placed for replacement parts and re-installation, along with servicing of the roundabout and repair of a loose chain on the pendulum swing.

Other minor repairs and graffiti removal are being actioned by the handymen. Some trial work on the ground compaction issues is to be carried out by the handymen; if this proves too difficult or time-consuming then the option to outsource the repairs will need to be looked in to.

## **472.2 Grounds:**

### **472.2.1 Maintenance issues**

As per minute 471.3.1, an update was given to the committee following a contract review meeting held with the grounds maintenance contractor; this included both Bob Mason Recreation Ground and Wickersley Park maintenance matters.

There was nothing else to discuss specific to Wickersley Park.

### **461.2.2 Path provision**

The path project at Wickersley Park was discussed; this has been included in the priority planning for the Clerks - the first stage required to be completed is the putting together of the contract specification, which is to be completed by the end of November. This is to be completed by the Chair with assistance from the Assistant Clerk. Guidance on specification for tarmac paths has been obtained from RMBC to assist in the writing of the contract spec.

Once the specification is written, the Assistant Clerk will put the contract out to tender, with the process completed and order placed by 31/03/23.

### **472.2.3 Millennium meadow proposal**

The initial millennium meadow proposal was not passed by full council; a further quotation has been received from an alternative contractor which is less than the first.

**Resolved:** to amend the small project proposal/contract extension request with the new pricing.

### **472.2.4 Jubilee tree**

The proposal of planting a 'Jubilee tree', in line with the Queen's Green Canopy, was discussed. The suggestion was that this could be planted on the triangle of land next to the bowling club.

A planning condition to re-plant a tree in relation to the work carried out at Stephen Shore memorial garden was also mentioned, with the suggestion that these two items could be tied into one another.





**Resolved:** to check the details of the planning consent and discuss with the Chair of the Environment Committee to see if these two projects can be combined.

**473. To note dates of remaining 2021 committee meetings**

The remaining scheduled dates are as follows:

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October

**474. To discuss ongoing anti-social behaviour, including:**

**474.1 Consideration of the relevant points from the proposed ASB action plan, taken to the last full council meeting**

*'g) We will ask each of our service committees to review our security and management arrangements for the areas they manage to assess what further action can be taken.'*

This was considered in relation to both Wickersley Park and Bob Mason Recreation Ground.

Solar lighting has recently been installed along the main path in Wickersley Park to improve visibility and therefore security on darker mornings and evenings. CCTV is also being looked in to for Wickersley Park as part of the wider anti-social behaviour work for the Parish Council and this will be further considered once feasibility and costs are known.

Reporting of anti-social behaviour to the Police is ongoing as and when the Parish Council is aware of such instances.

*'h) We will consider how we might engage with our local residents who live close to our recreation grounds to find ways to monitor the grounds and for local residents to act as our eyes and ears, perhaps in the style of a neighbourhood watch.'*

Again, this was considered in relation to both Wickersley Park and Bob Mason Recreation Ground. It was felt that it would be more appropriate for a letter to be issued to local residents in the areas surrounding the recreation spaces, to advise them of the correct reporting lines for any crimes or ASB witnessed. It needs to be stressed that it is the Police who are the main point of contact, rather than ourselves.

**Resolved:** to issue a letter to nearby residents advising of the process for reporting any crimes and ASB to the Police. They may also report to us, in addition to the report to the Police, for our information, but that the first step is to report directly to the Police.

*'i) We will specifically review access policies with regard to our recreation grounds.'*

Both Wickersley Park and Bob Mason Recreation Ground are public spaces and therefore need to remain open for public use.





Vehicular access to Bob Mason Recreation Ground is already prohibited by the gates remaining locked outside of agreed hire/usage by football teams and other organisations.

Access to Wickersley Park car park was discussed; the car park at this location is not currently locked. Discussions were had around the pros and cons of having a locked gate at this location.

**Resolved:** to maintain an open car park at Wickersley Park.

**474.2 To discuss recent reports & incidences of ASB at both Wickersley Park & Bob Mason Recreation Ground**

The most notable instance of ASB has been at Wickersley Park, with damage to some of the solar lights installed by RMBC. One was previously replaced at a cost of £450, but further vandalism has since occurred.

**Resolved:** to revert the issue back to RMBC for an anti-vandalism solution.

**475. To incorporate actions arising from the full council meeting on 16th May 2022, as follows:**

**475.1 To consider the requests for provision of CCTV at Wickersley Park**

Viability of CCTV installation and quotes are currently being looked in to by the clerking team. Until more information is available, this cannot be effectively considered.

**475.2 To consider the issue of access (step height) of the small slide at Wickersley Park**

Issues have continued to be raised by park users regarding the height of the first step being excessive and difficult for youngsters to reach.

This issue has been referred back to the supplier previously, who advised that the distance to the step was designed as an age filter as the equipment is intended for use of children 3+ years ("this piece of play equipment has been designed for 3+ because the bottom step is 400mm from the ground which is designed as an access filter to stop younger children getting on it").

This response was discussed again by the committee, and it was pointed out that the distance from ground to the first step is much bigger than that between the two steps, and between the second step and the platform. It was also stated that the bottom step is more than 400mm from ground level – it has been measured by a user at approx. 24" (which is almost 700mm).

**Resolved:** to discuss the issue of the step to the small slide further with the supplier to find a solution to the problem.

**475.3 To review the policy of locked gates at Bob Mason Recreation Ground**

This discussion was prompted by recent reports of on-street parking issues from a nearby resident. The locked gates policy was discussed, including the potential alternative issues invited should the gates remain open.



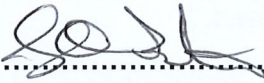
The current policy has been in place for a number of years, with the gates remaining locked with key access for those hiring the grounds for football or other organised activities, where the number of vehicles arriving at the site is increased.

It was felt that the mitigation of anti-social behaviour and other problems, by the gates being locked, outweighs the problem of on-street parking.

**Resolved:** to maintain the current policy of locked gates.

**The meeting closed at 20:15**

Signed  
(Chair) .....



Date .....

18/10/2022