

**Minutes of remote Recreation Ground and Open Spaces Meeting**  
**held at 6:30pm Thursday 11th February 2021**

Present: Cllr Bottwood– Chairman of meeting, Cllr Emms, Cllr Brockman and Bob Schofield.  
Apologies from Cllr Dawson due to illness.  
3 members of the public  
Clerk Carol Harbach

Cllr Bottwood Vice Chair is Chairing this meeting as Cllr Dawson is absent due to illness. This change of chair was undertaken after consultation with Charlene Slade of EALC by the Clerk, to check the legality of this meeting to take place, which was approved by EALC.

**20/51 Welcome and Apologies for absence**

Chairman Cllr Bottwood welcomed everyone to the remote meeting of the Parish Council (PC).

**20/52 Declaration of Members Interests**

Any declarations of interest will be brought up and declared as they arise on the agenda.

**20/53 Agree minutes from the last Recreation Ground meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

These were agreed to be true and accurate.  
Proposed Cllr Brockman and seconded Cllr Emms all agreed.

**20/54 Matters arising from these meetings.**

New noticeboard has been ordered and awaiting delivery. **Completed and discharged.**

Clerk to contact football club – The clerk has now received a reply from the club who are keen to go ahead with the hire. Their season runs from September to May. The club would also like to hire the community centre (CC) and use the facilities. The club were also happy to have a provisional contract until the end of this season so that both parties could evaluate and thereafter could be reviewed annually. The club did not specify any further on if they would want this hire for all day or half day but commented they would like to have Langham as a home ground.

A discussion took place and it was thought that this would be one club with a number of teams with staggered kick of times and not a tournament and would be a regular weekly occurrence.

The Clerk was asked to contact the club and to see if they would come along to the next Zoom meeting to explain what exactly they would like and how their club runs.

**Action Clerk**

Quotes for the porta cabin/bonfire clearance will be followed up by Cllr Dawson when he is back at the council. **Ongoing Cllr Dawson**

Footpath sign missing near Whybourne – Cllr Brockman followed this up and reported it on line. **Completed and discharged.**

Update of Asset Register and the Terms and conditions. **Ongoing.**

**20/55 Public Open Forum (maximum 10 minutes)**

Questions to be noted and answered at the next meeting.

A resident stated that as a result of the starting of the development site in School Road, one of the trees that has been taken down is believed to be a commemorative centenary tree that had previously been planted. It was thought that this is an opportunity to gather evidence on other trees in the area and possibly look at putting a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on the remaining trees. The PC had followed this up and were informed by Colchester Borough Council (CBC) that no trees at the site were taken down that should not have been. Someone from the CBC enforcement team had visited and inspected the site.

It was reported that there had been an accident involving a pedestrian in the car park at the Community Centre and the Community Council (CC) have looked at their insurance policy in more depth and this situation is under review. The CC wish the PC to stop using the drain as a waste disposal unit for caravans which is situated in the car park. This is a private car park and the CC will still be continuing to cooperate with the PC.

A question was raised if the PC own the car park. It was explained that the Community Centre Trustees own the building and the car park.

**20/56**

### **Committee members individual reports**

Bob Schofield asked what had happened regarding the report he made concerning the footpath sign that was missing on the footpath leading to Hornestreet. Cllr Brockman had reported this to the Highways department and the report number was 2688802.

Bob Schofield also queried the request about the road sign in Greyhound Hill. The Clerk had looked into this and read out the report from the Highways department;

Location: GREYHOUND HILL, LANGHAM. Road Type: Local Road Issue: Signing Defects

Current status: This issue has been made safe.

We have investigated, risk assessed and recorded the issue, and initial works to make it safe have been completed. A further assessment will be carried out to establish whether a permanent repair is required in the future.

Cllr Brockman– Visited a resident about 4 weeks ago who wants to move footpath 26 which is outside his house. The resident stated he would maintain the footpath and he stated he also looks after footpath 27. Cllr Brockman also stated that there is part of footpath 29 that you cannot walk and he is willing to maintain this as well. It was explained to Cllr Brockman that the PC do not own the footpath, they are owned by County Highways. Any required maintenance work needs to be reported to County Highways unless it is side hedging which is the responsibility of the landowner.

It was explained that to move a footpath a request has to go to County Highways, and the PC would be asked if they have any objections and for their opinions. The resident does not have the responsibility for the upkeep of any footpath unless it is any side hedging on his land or it has been formally agreed with County Highways.

The PC could put this on the PC website and Langham Locals to get feedback. The PC would then be in a position to represent the views of responders.

The PC were not sure why the resident wanted to complete this now as it has been like this for many years. The moving of the footpath could raise a lot of interest.

Cllr Brockman felt that the footpaths needed a lot of work at the moment. Any issues regarding this can be reported via Highways website.

Cllr Emms – Would report later under 20/60.

**20/57 Update of Asset Register Insurance**

This will be started between Cllr Emms and the Clerk with input from Cllr Dawson when he is fit to return to work **Action Cllr Emms and Clerk Action Ongoing**

**20/58 Recreation Ground Maintenance – updated from last meeting**

Hedge cutting – Quotes were obtained and the PC had 2 quotes from three of the contractors back.

The contract for these works was given to Bowman & Sons with the agreement of the councillors by emails. The amounts quoted were for the same amount of £250 plus VAT and to keep continuity Bowman & Sons were asked to complete the work on behalf of David Isted. This work was checked by Cllr Emms and the invoice will be submitted to the finance committee for recommendation to pay at their next meeting. This amount had already been agreed and allocated in the budget.

**Completed and discharged.**

Painting of the porta cabin will be taken up by Cllr Dawson when he return to the council. **Ongoing**

**20/59 PROW programme. P3 scheme**

Cllr Brockman put forward her thoughts on this project and why she felt it would be a good thing for the PC to take on.

There was a lot of discussion regarding this subject with both positive and negative sides of the project being looked at, including the responsibility, long term, and practical issues that go with this.

Cllr Brockman thought that taking on the P3 project was a good idea for the PC. This had been brought to the PC before and at that time had been put on hold. Cllr Thorpe had previously produced her thoughts on this project in a business plan and is happy to pass this on to councillors again.

It was noted that there was some equipment that had been obtained in the past and is available to the PC for such works.

Vote to go ahead with this P3 project

Cllr Brockman Yes

Cllr Emms No

Cllr Bottwood No

Vote not passed.

Another option on the P3 project was for Parish Councils not to set up a working group but to appoint a PROW representative that would report issues to the ProW Inspector, who would then send out a contractors to carry out the work. Cllr Brockman agreed to act as the ProW representative and to liaise with the P3 project co-ordinator to finalise this. **Action Cllr Brockman to follow this up.**

**20/60 Update on the working group for the Recreation Ground**

CLlr Emms had already circulated a report undertaken by Mrs. Shouksmith and himself on this to the other councillors and members of the committee. Mrs. Shouksmith commented that this had not yet been put forward to the LCC Finance Committee and this was due to take place on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February.

CLlr Emms asked for any comments or objections on the report.

One suggestion in the report was that a toilet block could be built on the side of the LCC building but not accessed via the building, as the CC cannot open the toilets to the public as they are not covered by their insurance. There are still a lot of discussions needed to be had on this and the other items in the report. It was raised that if the toilet block was not a public toilet, there would be a counter argument raised as to why have toilets are locked and not open for general use .

CLlr Bottwood stated that he was impressed with the first draft report and there are some items that are well worth exploring and it is very interesting. It was suggested it may need a working group to work on this in the future to look at the items and make more detailed recommendations.

CLlr Emms agreed that this needs to be considered by a wider group and agreed with the working group concept including, but not limited to, representatives from the PC and the LCC so this can be discussed further.

It was thought it might be helpful to generate a survey to ask residents what they want for this area in the future.

CLlr Emms and Mrs. Shouksmith will start looking at a working group and where it would report to. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting for an update.

**20/61**

**Items for the next Agenda**

Any other items to be added – let the Clerk know.  
Football Club representative report  
Asset Register Update  
CLlr Brockman inspector update  
Working group update

**20/62**

**Time and date of next meeting**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021 6:30pm to be confirmed with CLlr Dawson.

Meeting finished at 8:15pm

Signed .....

CLlr Bottwood

Date .....