

Langham Parish Council
Recreation Ground and Open Spaces
Meeting
17th May 2023 7pm Langham Community Centre

Present: Cllr Thorpe, Cllr Ogawa, Cllr Armstrong Bob Schofield

Attendees: No members of the public were present.

22/150 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Cllr Thorpe welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were accepted on behalf of the Parish Clerk, Carol Harbach who was unwell.

22/151 Declaration of Members Interests

None raised. Any declarations may be brought up if they occur through the meeting.

22/152 Agree Minutes from the last Recreation Ground meeting 19th April 2023.

These had been previously circulated and were agreed to be a true and accurate copy. Proposed by Cllr Armstrong seconded by Cllr Ogawa all agreed.

22/153 Matter's arising from the last meeting.

Tree Preservation Officer update to be carried over to next meeting in lieu of the presence of the Parish Clerk.

All other items for the last agenda under Matters Arising are covered under their respective categories below.

22/154 Public Open Forum (maximum 10 minutes)

Questions to be noted and answered at the next meeting.

No public present.

22/155 Summer village event – Kings Coronation event

Whilst a huge amount of time and effort had gone into organising the event, the good old British weather conspired to spoil things. The afternoon tea event was well received and attended. As the weather deteriorated during the day, this had a direct impact on the number of attendees.

We had a slight challenge in erecting the marquees on the Friday before the event in so far as we only had sufficiently sorted infrastructure for two marquees. The organising committee were offered another marquee by one of the event attendees on the expectation that this was ex-gratia.

Unfortunately we subsequently received an unbudgeted bill of £250 which now has to be paid.

Additionally we received a complaint that the hall had not been cleared sufficiently before the nominated deadline. It would appear that a degree of 'shared learning' was needed here. In so far as Langham Parish council were kindly given the hall hire as free of charge. This in turn meant that there were not terms of hire provided or signed to communicate that the hall had to be cleared by a certain time. Unfortunately this too was exacerbated by the cleaner also arriving quite early too.

There were additionally 20+ black bags of rubbish recovered off the field and briefly stored in the portakabin before being disposed of by Cllr Thorpe by using a skip she had on hire anyway.

It was also agreed that the Caretaker helping out with lighting was above and beyond expectations. Again not having had hire conditions LPC the use of the lights and PA systems had not been anticipated the net result was nobody was around to assist with setting these up.

It was agreed by all present that Cheryl would receive a thank you and in due course Brewers too will be thanked for their work in yet again ensuring the Beacon was lit safely.

The scouts also helped out with organising and Cllr Ogawa was going to chase up the Scout Leader as there was still an outstanding financial gift to be paid to the scouts from the firework event last year.

Bob Schofield said that after the event, during the dismantling of the marquees the infrastructure poles were marked with tape to help differentiate them. Additionally and subsequent to the Coronation event, Bob had allowed a 'private hire' loan of the marquees which resulted in them being returned fully sorted into their respective sizes such that we should now have 3 complete marquees.

AP Cllr Ogawa to chase Scouts.

22/156

Bonfire event update

Cllr Thorpe shared a 'first cut' of the suggested 2023 Bonfire event budget based around a straight uplift on the elements used to build the 2022 budget. This was for discussion rather than agreement as others present may well have items which were excluded from last years event. Particular focus on those areas which were provided Free of Charge last year.

When discussing what the line for Health and Safety banner meant, nobody seemed to be able to confirm what this was.

AP Cllr Thorpe to ask John Palmer

Bob Schofield advised that he still had the old banners which we could easily just change the dates. A discussion took place that any potential sponsors for this year would want to see their names on the banners. However, if we did

not get sufficient sponsors to justify the expenditure for new ones, the existing ones would provide a 'Plan B'.

Lighting and PAT testing was discussed. Roger Hobday's son did this last year. Cllr Ogawa would check if he would do so again.

AP Cllr Ogawa

We discussed fair rides at length. These were £1500. We will look to book again. Cllr Ogawa outlined that we could no longer get the 'deal' previously offered to Bob Schofield.

AP as Cllr Ogawa had the contacts from the Coronation event, she would follow up and try to book them again.

Cllr Ogawa also raised the issue of the bar and how this may work this time. Last year it was served by volunteers as part of John Palmers 'extended family'. We discussed what beers, etc were required. Cllr Ogawa would raise with Jack Rabbit and was happy to give the Committee a list of other items bought and sold last year with a view to using the breakdown for this year.

The number of volunteers was raised as a big risk in so far as last year we had 30.

We also discussed the issue created last year by parking. This needs to be addressed separately to prevent repeating the gridlock.

Bob Schofield said that hired fixed metal fencing was better than the plastic Fencing used last year in terms of Health and Safety. A discussed followed whereby it was agreed that Cllr Thorpe would seek to check safety recommendations at such events and if there were specific types of fencing mandated by HSE.

AP Cllr Thorpe

After the above discussions it was obvious that the Bonfire event for 2023 should be the subject of a separate meeting and working group. It was agreed that we put out a plea for volunteers and convened a separate meeting to discuss the bonfire event in more detail. A date was set of Wednesday 31st May 7.30pm.

Cllr Armstrong agreed to put a note on the website and Langham Locals.

AP Cllr Armstrong

22/157

Opening Event for play area

Kompan had previously indicated they would supply 'goody bags' for children for the opening event. Cllr Thorpe agreed to contact Kompan and asked what the process and timeline would be.

It was also discussed in terms of when we may do the opening. Discussions were around late June or late July. Discussions took place around possible

dates and concessions we may seek to invite. Once dates were set we would invite the school and pre-school subject to timings. We agreed to 'aim' for Saturday 1st July subject to confirming above enquiry ref 'goody bags'.

AP Cllr Thorpe to contact Kompan ref 'goody bags'.

22/158 Benches for play area

The discussion around benches were left as ongoing subject to design implications and available budget.

This agenda item also morphed into a discussion about potentially relocating one of the existing rubbish bins to open up space for benches and additional play equipment. We were awaiting quotes from Kompan for both.

The emptying of waste bins in the play area was also discussed. Our village contractor normally puts waste out for collection on Mondays.

Unfortunately, one of the downsides of the popular nature of the play area is the increased waste potentially needing more frequent collections. This needs to be watched and monitored moving forward.

22/159 MUGA Responses

This is still in abeyance subject to the outcome of the surveys necessary to determine possible distances that a cricket ball may travel and its potential impact on fencing height. Once the cricket survey was completed we can resurrect the prospect of the MUGA and get vendors to re-submit pricing.

22/160 Signage at Recreation Ground

Bob Schofield had recovered the signs removed by the contractors when installing the new fencing. He had arranged to have them remounted on wooden plinths. There followed a discussion around how these would be mounted and concerns were raised around potentially compromising the integrity of the gates/fencing if the signs were fixed by drilling. Bob Schofield was going to investigate options to fix them to avoid drilling the new gates or fence.

AP Bob Schofield to investigate fixing of signs which did not involve drilling the new gates/fence.

22/161 Gate locks/chains play area/recreation ground

As a result of the safety report, Bob Schofield had sourced locks to address the 'ask' of the inspector to lock the double play area gates when not being used for vehicular access. It was also agreed that whilst there was a risk of unwanted visitors entering the main playground, that we would reinforce the padlocks on the main wooden double gates by a metal rope and combination lock.

Cllr Thorpe to address the latter.

AP Cllr Thorpe to source metal 'rope' and security combination padlock.

- 22/162** **Cricket update**
All Stars dates had changed online from the dates originally advised to LPC. As LPC had not been advised of this change Cllr Thorpe to ask the organisers why this was and to ask them to confirm accordingly.
AP Cllr Thorpe to write to the All Stars organiser and ask as above.
- 22/163** **Pre-School Expansion of play area**
Cllrs Armstrong, Thorpe and Bob Schofield had met with the Pre-School Manager to discuss the aspirations to extend the play area of the Pre-School. The discussions identified that the expansion was required to provide an area of garden for the children to use. It additionally identified that the majority of the area they were looking to use was actually owned by LCC and not LPC. The LPC representatives involved recommended that the Pre-School took the request back to LCC with specific dimensions and locations to get their thoughts as the impact on LPC land could not be fully determined until such time as final dimensions and location were known.
AP Langham pre-school
- 22/164** **Football Pitch Hire**
We need to be able to react with yes/no quicker this year to any approaches for hire of the football pitch. One (local) club has already been in contact and we are actively progressing this.
- 22/165** **Items for the next agenda**
Green container update. Bob Schofield said that the roof had already been fixed but there was also lots of rust around the front of the container making it open to the elements. Bob felt that this could be fixed relatively easily and would arrange to get a quote to the Clerk from Brewers.
AP Bob Schofield to get a quote.
- 22/166** **Chairman closure of meeting.**
We agreed that there would be a specific bonfire focussed meeting on the 26th June 7.30pm

Being no further items the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.21