



Kington Recreation Ground Trust

Charity No. 520963.

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Minutes of a virtual meeting of Kington Recreation Ground Trust held on Monday 12th April 2021

Present: Cllr. R. Widdowson (Chair)
Cllr. E. Banks
Cllr. R. Banks
Cllr. T. Bounds
Cllr. J. Cooke
Cllr. M. Fitton
Cllr. J. Gardner
Cllr. R. MacCurrach
Cllr. D. Redmayne
Cllr. E. Rolls
Cllr. I. Spencer

In attendance: Liz Kelso, Clerk

020/21 **Apologies**

Apologies were noted from Cllr. T. Bennett and Cllr. F. Hawkins.

021/21 **Declarations of Interests and requests for dispensation**

An interest was noted from Cllr. R. Banks for agenda item 7 as a member of Kington Fishing Club. There were no requests for dispensation.

022/21 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1st March 2021 were confirmed and the Chairman authorised to sign the Minutes as a true record of proceedings at that meeting.

023/21 **Clerk's Report**

The Clerk's report, as attached to these Minutes was noted.

024/21 **Quotations for landscaping work**

The Clerk reported that it is proving difficult to get quotations for the work on Crooked Well so there was nothing further to report on this agenda item.

025/21 **Cycle Stands**

It was agreed to apply for free cycle stands, including installation, for the Recreation Ground to be installed adjacent to the Memorial Gates. It was noted that there may be an opportunity to apply for further cycle stands in other locations within the town although permission from the landowner would be required.

026/21 **Fishing**

Following a request from a member of the public, it was agreed not to permit fishing from the Recreation Ground on safety grounds.

027/21 **Memorial Benches**

Members considered whether to permit one single bench to be installed in the Recreation Ground in due course as a memorial to all those in the Town who have died through Covid. It was agreed in principle to permit this, subject to further consideration at the appropriate time with regard to final location.

028/21 **May Fair**

Members agreed and welcomed the proposal that the May Fair returns this year but on a later date of 28th – 31st July.

029/21 **Exclusion of the public**

It was agreed to exclude members of the public in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (3) on the grounds that the next agenda item might contain information of a confidential nature.

030/21 **Staff Matters**

Members noted and agreed a report from the Clerk with regard to changes in staff reporting lines in the future and agreed that the Clerk continue investigation of this agenda item.

031/21 **Items for the next agenda**

The following items were agreed for the next meeting:

- Work on Recreation Ground Cottage
- Development of facilities for wallball within the Recreation Ground

032/21 **Date and time for next meeting**

The next meeting will take place at 6pm on Monday 10th May 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed.

Chair

Kington Recreation Ground Trust
Meeting to be held on Monday 12th April 2021
Agenda item 4: Clerk's Report

This report covers items for information which are not addressed elsewhere on the agenda:

1. Impact of Coronavirus on the Recreation Ground

Throughout this last lockdown period the Recreation Ground and associated play areas and public toilets have remained open. Reports in the press indicate that many beauty spots and public open spaces are reporting increased use of the space but with it, increased litter. Whilst the Recreation Ground continues to welcome more members of the public, I am pleased to report that litter bins are being well used and are full most days but with little in the way of additional litter just thrown on the ground.

Government guidelines indicate that additional cleaning of any public space should be undertaken, particularly areas such as public toilets, play areas etc. The ground staff are continuing to clean these areas and are provided with additional PPE to do so but are unable to offer the level of cleaning indicated by the guidance and a sign to that effect has been placed in the toilets and the play areas. Keeping windows and doors open in the toilets has resulted in birds nesting inside this year, which brings its own cleaning issues!

The cancellation of various activities on the Recreation Ground during the previous year has impacted on income generation but it is hoped this will improve once coronavirus restrictions are further relaxed.

The return to groups of up to six being able to meet outdoors means that the Recreation Ground Management Group can now meet outdoors for a walk through the Recreation Ground with a view to identifying any work that might be required.

2. Memorial Gates

The memorial gates are looking a little tired and will be repainted by the Recreation Ground staff in the coming weeks.

3. Banking Arrangements

Closure of the HSBC accounts for the Trust has proved problematic with the initial instruction to the bank being rejected (after several weeks) on the grounds that the signatures on the closure request were considered to be not in line with the bank mandate. The request was resubmitted and again not actioned so a formal complaint has been raised. HSBC has now confirmed that the accounts will be closed and remaining funds transferred to Unity bank as requested as a matter of urgency and an apology has been received.

4. Recreation Ground Cottage

There has been nothing further to report on the work required on Recreation Ground cottage as a result of other commitments.