

Kington Recreation Ground Trust

**Charity No. 520963**.

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**Minutes of the meeting of the Kington Recreation Ground Trust**

**held at 6.00pm on Monday 12th March 2018 at the**

**Old Police Station, Market Hall Street.**

**Present:** Cllr. M. Fitton (Chair)

Cllr. T. Bounds

Cllr. J. Dennis

Cllr. F. Hawkins

Cllr. R. MacCurrach

Cllr. P. Prior (agenda item 7 – Minute ref. 028/18 - onwards)

Cllr. L. Rees

Cllr. E. Rolls

Cllr. R. Widdowson

Cllr. I. Wood-Johnson

**Apologies:** Cllr. E. Banks

Cllr. R. Banks

Cllr. C. Forrester

**In attendance**: Liz Kelso Clerk

023/18 **Apologies**

Apologies were noted from Councillors E. Banks, R. Banks and C. Forrester

024/18 **Declarations of Interests and requests for dispensation**

There were no Declarations of Interest and no requests for dispensation.

025/18 **Minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2018**

It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2018 as previously circulated be signed by the Chairman as a true record of proceedings at that meeting.

026/18 **Clerk’s Report**

There was nothing to report under this agenda item that was not addressed elsewhere on the agenda.

027/18 **Financial Matters**

(a) **Funding bids**

There was nothing further to report under this agenda item.

(b) **Recreation Ground Financial Review**

A report into expenditure for the Recreation Ground, as presented by the Clerk, was noted.

A note of the Town Council’s reserves earmarked for use by the Recreation Ground is to be confirmed.

028/18 **Kington Cricket Club**

It was resolved that members of the public in attendance, if any, be excluded for the duration of this agenda item on the grounds that discussions were likely to include commercially sensitive material.

Members noted a report on a meeting held with Kington Cricket Club together with proposals to amend the rental payable by the Cricket Club for use of the Recreation Ground. It was agreed to defer a decision on this agenda item pending sight of the most recent accounts of the Cricket Club. It was further agreed that in the interests of expediency an extraordinary meeting be convened once the accounts are available to consider this proposal further.

The meeting then returned to public session.

029/18 **Request to use metal detector on public open spaces**

It was agreed that a request to use a metal detector by an individual being a member of the National Council for Metal Detecting for the purposes of historical research be agreed. The Clerk was authorised to issue a permit for the sole use of the applicant for specified times to be agreed. It was further agreed to request that a report of any findings be provided to the Recreation Ground Trust.

030/18 **Recreation Ground Cottage**

It was noted that the new cooker hood, including all electrical and other work associated with this project has now been completed.

031/18 **Playground Inspections**

It was agreed that the contract to inspect the Recreation Ground playground be renewed with the existing inspector at a cost of £58.60 per site.

032/18 **Community Asset Transfer**

Cllr. Fitton reported on a meeting with Herefordshire Council, attended by Cllr. E. Banks and the Clerk, at which the transfer of public open spaces was discussed:

* **Kington Park/Old Eardisley Road**

The proposed area to be transferred included a strip of land not previously identified thought to be a landscape buffer strip. Although it is clear no maintenance has been undertaken on this land, it was not clear whether future maintenance would be required. Discussion had also taken place on the strip of land which might provide access to a possible development land under the Neighbourhood Development Plan which Herefordshire Council indicated they would wish to be subject to a 100% overage clause. This would be discussed further at the next meeting with Herefordshire Council with a view to reducing the overage clause to take into account ongoing maintenance costs of this strip of land.

* **Crooked Well**

It was agreed that a small triangle of land identified on Herefordshire Council’s map by the entrance to the Crooked Well site should be retained by Herefordshire Council as it is not part of the public open space. It was further agreed that discussions should take place with the owner of the land at the end of the site as it was believed that the public use this land as access.

* **Garden Close**

It was understood that the small strip of land in Garden Close is currently being maintained by local residents.

Concern was expressed at the potential ongoing costs for maintenance of all these areas.

A full report will be provided following the next meeting with Herefordshire Council which is scheduled for 20th March. It was further agreed that this be a subject for discussion with residents at the Annual Town Meeting

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032/18 **Maintenance of public open spaces**

* **Community Engagement**

It was agreed that there should be greater community engagement with regard to all three sites to be transferred and that meetings should be held with local residents. There is an active community group at Kington Park and a meeting is proposed for residents living near Crooked Well.

* **Maintenance**

Grant funding will enable the Trust to upgrade footpaths, fencing and play equipment on the new sites. Ongoing maintenance will consist mainly of grass cutting and a budget figure is being obtained for all areas. A report on maintenance proposals and staffing requirements will be provided to a later meeting.

With regard to the Recreation Ground, it was noted that moles are becoming an issue on site again, that a branch has come down into the bus company yard and further work will be required once the weather improves. It was agreed that a meeting of the Management Group be convened and a site visit arranged.

033/18 **Next Agenda**

Other than items identified above, there were no other items raised for the next agenda.

034/18 **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Recreation Ground Trust will take place on Monday 9th April at 6.00pm at the Old Police Station.

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