



Kington Recreation Ground Trust

Charity No. 520963.

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Minutes of the meeting of the Kington Recreation Ground Trust held on Monday 1st July 2019 at the Old Police Station, Market Hall Street.

Present: Cllr. R. Widdowson (Chair)
Cllr. E. Banks
Cllr. T. Bennett
Cllr. T. Bounds (from item 3 onwards)
Cllr. J Dennis
Cllr. R. Griffiths
Cllr. M. Fitton (from item 5 onwards)
Cllr F. Hawkins
Cllr E. Rolls
Cllr I. Wood-Johnson

In attendance: Liz Kelso, Clerk, Mary Tolhurst Assistant Clerk
Two members of the Public

073/19 **Apologies**

Apologies were noted from Cllr. R. Banks

074/19 **Declarations of Interests and requests for dispensation**

There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensation.

The Clerk presented the Health and Safety report, as attached to these MInutes. Since this report was drafted, the public meeting convened by the local policing team has taken place and a verbal report was noted on the results of that meeting. Posters are to be put up encouraging people to call the police on 101 to report anti social behaviour.

Members discussed various options to deter anti social behaviour and vandalism at the Recreation Ground, including the possibility of motion sensitive lights in areas such as the children's play area and the shelter. CCTV cameras were again suggested although it was noted that regulations regarding CCTV installations by "relevant authorities" such as the Town Council/Recreation Ground Trust were much stricter than installations by householders and potentially fraught with issues relating to data protection, registration and the value of any evidence gathered. The Clerk will discuss this further with the police for consideration at a later meeting.

081/19 **Items for the next agenda**

The following items were identified for the next meeting of the Trust:

- Vandalism and anti social behaviour
- Recreation Ground budget
- Timber left on the river bank
- Recycling bins
- Update on the Asset Transfer of green spaces

082/19 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Monday **7th October 2019** at 6.00pm in the Old Police Station.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.45pm

There have been a number of incidents over the past month which impact on the health and safety of those using the Recreation Ground:

- Quantities of broken glass have been found in the morning on several occasions in the shelter and in and around the children's play area
- The black shelter has had graffiti on the shelter which the groundsman has painted over to remove
- A panel has been damaged in the shelter
- The toddler swing seats in the children's play area have been damaged several times and the central restraining part of the seat has been unscrewed and removed
- Dog faeces has been allegedly smeared down the slide although subsequent examination suggests this might be bird faeces
- The legs of the slide are no longer attached at the bottom. It is unclear whether this is as a result of vandalism or wear and tear but both legs now swing free of the ground.
- The bolts on the gates to the play area have been removed so that the gates swing free

On Friday 21st June, after viewing the play area and in discussion with the groundsman, it was felt that the issues within the play area represented an unacceptable hazard to small children and the play area was shut and the gates padlocked.

This action generated adverse comment on social media, particularly the next morning when there were also allegations of litter, used condoms and cans of cream being left on the Recreation Ground. As it happened, there were representatives from the Chamber of Trade in the Rec. on Friday night to protect the equipment installed for Wizfest the following day. They were not responsible! The Groundsman reports that the allegations of used condoms were incorrect.

The Clerk posted a note on social media explaining that the play area was closed for safety reasons yet still the bolts and chains were cut off over the weekend and there were reports of children in the area once the groundsman had cleaned the slide. It is highly unlikely that the removal of the chains was the work of children.

As a result of the adverse comments on social media about the police presence in particular, the police have called a community meeting on Thursday 27th June at the Old Police Station.