

PADDOCK WOOD TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ESTATES COMMITTEE held on Tuesday
17th December 2019 at the Day Centre, Commercial Road, at 8.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr D. Boyle, in the Chair
Cllrs R Atkins, R. Moon, R. Turk, E. Thomas

APOLOGIES Cllrs B Hill, D Sargison, M Flashman.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs C Stewart, Deputy Clerk, Mr K Butler Estates Manager

ES69 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were none.

ES70 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
To APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2019.
These were approved and signed by the chairman.

ES71 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES
(a) ES62 (a) Green Lane - Following a site meeting the tree contractor has advised that due to proximity of the electricity pylon Network Power will need to be consulted before he can carry out the coppicing work. A site meeting took place on Tuesday 17th December 2019. UKPN advised that the wrong team had been called to the site meeting as the line in question are high voltage. Another site meeting with the correct team is being arranged.

(b) ES67 - The items put forward for consideration for 2020/2021 have been included in the draft budget for approval at the Finance meeting on 13th January 2020. This was noted.

ES72 PADDOCK WOOD CRICKET
Following on from the October Estates meeting Paddock Wood Cricket has responded to the Chairman's request for further information. Members discussed the response and noted that 22 of the questions were still 'to be confirmed'. There was discussion of the following points:

- The ground is not available for playing cricket of any sort until after mid-May which is the end of the football season and after mid-August when football resumes.
- The information submitted by Paddock Wood cricket would not fulfil that required by the Council's grants policy as there is no financial information or evidence of membership.

- The Chairman suspended s/o (standing orders) to ask the PW Cricket representatives when the rest of the requested information might be available, and they advised that some of it might be available by the February estates meeting. s/o were reinstated.
- Other sports groups that are supported by the council and use its pitches are properly constituted clubs with memberships, constitutions, and minuted meetings and AGMs.
- The Council has a long-standing commitment to football matches and events on the Memorial Field.
- KCC Cricket have advised following a site visit that the area previously marked out for cricket was never a proper wicket and without a complete re-lay would never be suitable for hard ball cricket. The cost of re-laying a wicket is substantial and has not been budgeted for.
- Play on such a wicket would not be possible until at least a year after construction works were completed.
- The decision had been made by PWTC some years ago to cease maintaining the wicket as there was no local cricket club to play on it.
- PWTC have made the decision to build a Community Centre on the edge of the Memorial Field. A wicket cannot be reinstated until after that project is completed and even then, would have to be moved from its previous location.
- Councillors expressed concern that cricket is being used as a way of stopping the Community Centre project but that evidence of a properly constituted club with members would allay that fear.
- s/o were suspended, and PW Cricket were asked why they were not approaching other local clubs to use their pitches and play matches. PW Cricket stated that they could not do this unless they had a commitment from PWTC to the future of cricket on the Memorial Field.
- s/o were reinstated, and the Chairman advised that only soft ball non-competitive cricket could be played on the site and that he was willing to propose that:
- The Council in principle support the continuation of softball cricket on the Memorial Field subject to their being no conflict with commitments to other bookings. He suspended s/o to ask PW Cricket if they wanted this. They asked for time to consider and the meeting was paused for them to go outside and discuss this. Upon their return they stated that they did not want this.
- s/o were resumed, and the Chairman closed the discussion on the matter and said that it would be on the agenda again for the February meeting.

ES73
(a)

PLAY AREAS

(ES63) Quotes have been received to replace the fencing at St Andrews play area with metal bow topped fencing.

Members are asked to approve the contractor.

Contractor A £7527

Contractor B £5791

Contractor C £7543

Cllr R Moon proposed, and Cllr D Boyle seconded that Contractor B should be approved. Unanimous.

(b) Replacement Play equipment

Three items of equipment to replace the old basket swing at St Andrews Play area have been suggested by Contractors. A survey has been posted on social media and circulated to Scalliwags, Rainbows & Youth council. An overwhelming majority of respondents supported the rocking horse. Cllr D Boyle proposed, and Cllr R Atkins seconded that the rocking horse should be installed. Unanimous. The budget of £12235 for this plus the new metal fence is available and is made up from Estates reserves and a sum made over to PWTC by Play Paddock Wood.

(c) To note the update on the Action plan from the Annual Inspection earlier this year. This was noted and the outstanding item (wet pour) would be updated at the February meeting.

ES74

CEMETERY

The Council has been approached by a resident who has a Harris Hawk that has retired from being a pest control bird in London. It was used for chasing pigeons.

Permission is being sought to exercise the bird in the open part of the cemetery. The council has been advised that it is no threat to pets or wildlife. Its presence, however, may deter the rabbits which frequently eat the flowers and dig in the cemetery.

Cllr D Boyle proposed, and Cllr R Atkins seconded that the decision should be delegated to the deputy clerk subject to a successful site meeting with Cllr Moon with the applicant. Unanimous.

ES75

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Monday 10th February 2020.

CHAIRMAN