

FELTON PARISH COUNCIL RECREATION FIELD COMMITTEE

At the Meeting of the Recreation Field Committee held at Felton Village Hall on Thursday 17 March 2022 at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllrs Cruden and Sowter (Felton Parish Council), Mr Hadow and Mr Harrison

In attendance: C Lewis (Clerk), Mr Hogg, Mrs Butlin

54. Election of Chairman (following the resignation of Mrs Fiona Thornton)

Resolved: To elect Cllr Sowter as Chairman of the Committee.

55. Election of Vice-Chairman

Resolved: To elect Cllr Cruden as Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

56. Apologies for Absence – Mrs Clark, Cllr Cuthbert, Marshall (Thirston Parish Council). Mrs Thornton has resigned from Felton Parish Council and from the Recreation Field Committee.

57. Declarations of Interest – None

58. Co-option of a new Member – not required

59. The Minutes of a meeting held on 17 February 2022 were approved as a true record.

60. Finances

Electricity is supplied under a 5 year fixed rate contract. £4,000 has been allocated to the Recreation Field in the forthcoming financial year. From 1 April 2022, Thirston Parish Council will be making a voluntary contribution of £500 towards Recreation Field expenditure instead of the current arrangement based on electoral numbers. Thirston are paying a percentage share towards the current year's expenditure, and are making a donation towards the cost of the swing.

61. Play Area

Cllr Sowter reported as follows:

- a. The holes in the rear fence have been mended. No further action is required.
- b. The gaps in the east and west fences have been filled with hawthorns. Cllr Cruden donated a number of fence posts and these have been put in to replace the rotten posts. No further action required.
- c. Cllr Cruden collected two dumpy bags of premium play grade bulky bark from Travis Perkins and spread these at the play area with help from Mr Clarehugh. Travis Perkins are able to supply bark in bulk at a discount, price to be confirmed. The bark would be bagged up at no extra cost, which will be a great advantage in spreading it at the play area.
- d. Brambles continue to be a nuisance around the slide. The landscaping contract includes cutting these back, but it will be necessary to keep on top of them in between visits by the contractors.

62. Recreation Field

- a. **Drainage** – PJR Blewitts can carry out a further camera inspection but have not yet given a date. The camera can be detected from the surface (magnetic) and this will allow Cllr Cruden and Blewitts to mark the site of any blockages. The Committee discussed the risks of damage to the pipes if they are jetted and alternative options.

Resolved: Two off shoot drains to be installed on the east side of the Field by a working party while the results from the next camera survey are awaited.

- b. **Football Playing Surface** – Mr Stewart has indicated to Cllr Sowter that he is happy to topfill the various hollows with soil and to re-seed these. The Committee does not need to take any further action at present. The Committee discussed the use of weedkiller to control the broad leaf weeds and whether a new contract is needed for this. Cllr Cruden will ask some of the local farmers for a quote as their equipment would handle this work very easily. Mr Hogg offered to assist with rolling the field; Cllr Cruden and Mr Hogg will liaise to arrange this.

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- c. **Oversight of the Grass Cutting Contract** – The Clerk will ask the contractors to notify the Committee when they intend to cut the field so that work can be inspected.

63. Recreation Field Regeneration Project

- a. The Clerk is awaiting quotes for the MUGA from a number of suppliers.
- b. The Clerk has spoken to two main companies regarding waterless toilets and provided an update on the options. The Clerk will speak to Simon Vickers and Henzells for information on portaloos and slurry tankers respectively.
- c. The Clerk is in the processing of inviting tenders for the play area.

64. Recreation Field Facilities Building

Mr Hogg and Mrs Butlin attended the meeting as representatives of 1st Felton Scout Group. Mr Hogg provided an update on designs and asked the Committee if they were still in support of the project. The Committee agreed it supported the project and went on to discuss various issues which will need to be resolved, including the location of the building and water/sewerage connection.

Resolved: Cllr Cruden, the Clerk and Mr Hogg will meet at the Field to take measurements.

65. Action List

Mole traps have been removed from the Field on a number of occasions. The Committee agreed that it is necessary to keep on top of mole numbers as their hills will prevent the grass cutting from being carried out properly.

Resolved: To purchase 6 traps.

66. Items for the next Agenda

- Woodland Walk through the sloped area of riverbank to the south of the Field

67. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 28 April 2022 at 7:30pm, Felton Village Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.07pm