

**SPORT AND PLAY COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE  
WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**Held on Monday, 7 September 2020**

**At 6.00 pm in the Virtual Meeting Room via Zoom**

**Present:**

Councillor V Gwatkin (Chair)

Councillors:	L Ashbourne	L Duncan
	T Ashby	A Prosser
	D Butterfield	R Smith
Officers:	Nicky Cayley	Democratic Services Officer
	Sharon Groth	Town Clerk
	John Hickman	Operations & Estates Officer
Others:	No members of the public.	

**SP257 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for her absence was received from Cllr Aitman.

**SP258 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting.

**SP259 MINUTES**

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2020.

There were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2020 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**SP260 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public wishing to speak under this item.

**SP261 OPERATIONAL REPORT**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Operations and Estates Officer.

A member asked why the outdoor gym at Oxlease Park was not open, as the play area was. The Operations and Estates Officer replied that it had only one entrance/exit point, the area was

relatively small and the equipment was close together. He agreed to look again at it with the Compliance and Environment Officer.

**RESOLVED:** that the report be noted and that the Operations and Estates Officer would have a further discussion about the outdoor gym at Oxlease park with the Compliance and Environment Officer to see if it might be possible to open it safely at this point in the pandemic.

SP262 **SPORTS PITCHES - AVAILABILITY**

The Committee discussed the subject of football training and agreed that 2 recreation grounds would be designated as training grounds and would not be chargeable. No training would be permitted on any grounds between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

Members also discussed the issues of bowling green maintenance and tasked the Operations and Estates officer with obtaining costs for maintenance and seeing if the clubs were prepared to hand over this maintenance.

The Committee discussed football pitch capacity and were very keen that the transfer of Wood Green school's pitches was pushed ahead. Members also requested that the ongoing dialogue with Henry Box School about the use of their sports field should continue.

**RESOLVED:**

1. that the report be noted;
2. that the cost of bowling green irrigation systems be researched and the Clubs be asked if they would be willing to hand over the maintenance of the greens to Witney Town Council and its grounds contractors- there would be an addition to the clubs' rents to offset the additional cost to the Council;
3. that the Operations and Estates Officer continues the dialogue with both Wood Green and Henry Box Schools in terms of access to their football pitches;
4. that no football training be permitted on any ground from 1<sup>st</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> July to allow renovation works and rest and thereafter training only be allowed on King George V Field and Eton Close Play area with no charge.

SP263 **FACILITIES AT WINDRUSH PLACE DEVELOPMENT**

Members received and considered the report of the Town Clerk concerning forthcoming facilities at Windrush Place. She stressed that the current situation was beyond the control of the Officers as it was very much down to the District Council commissioning an underground survey to establish the utilities in situ, as well as the burying of the overhead cables. Once this was established then the exact extent of the adventure play area could be planned.

The Committee was committed to being able to have a say in what would form part of the adventure playground.

**RESOLVED:** that the report be noted.

**SP264 FINANCE REPORT**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Town Clerk. She advised members to start thinking about projects that they may wish to see added to the budget for next year as the next cycle of meetings would begin the budget setting process. Members put forward some ideas.

The Committee also agreed to contract out the cleaning of the Leys Recreation Ground toilets in order to allow them to open and provided a regular cleaning regime in lieu of COVID-19.

**RECOMMENDED:**

1. that the report be noted;
2. that the proposal for reopening the toilets at The Leys be agreed subject to the necessary staff consultation;
3. that capital/special revenue projects for the next year include Quarry Road and Eton Close Play areas, the recycling of the Splash Park water and picnic benches for Raleigh Crescent play area.

**SP265 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** that in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted.

**SP266 PARK ROAD PLAY AREA**

The Committee received and considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the confidential report be noted and that a lease be negotiated.

**SP267 WEST WITNEY SPORTS GROUND**

The Committee received and considered the confidential report of the Operations and Estates Officer.

**RECOMMENDED:**

1. that the confidential report be noted;
2. that the recommendations as per the confidential minutes are approved.

**SP268 WEST WITNEY SPORTS GROUND - PART 2**

The Committee received and considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk.

**RECOMMENDED:**

1. that the confidential report be noted;
2. that the recommendations a per the confidential minutes be approved.

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The meeting closed at: 7.50 pm

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Chair