

SHERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Playground Committee Meeting held at 8 p.m. on Thursday 8th September 2011

Present: Dr. C. Brooke (Chairman of the Playground Committee), Mr. R. Newman (Chairman Shere Parish Council), Mr R. Andrews, Mr. B. Cohen, Mrs. S. Nielson, 6 members of the public and the Clerk Mrs. L. Childs.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Parish Councillor John Tenner.

Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial interests – Dr. Brooke declared a personal interest as she is a founder member of the Shere Village Nursery which uses the Shere Play Area on a regular basis.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2011 were **APPROVED AND SIGNED** as a correct record.

A short adjournment was held to enable the Public to raise any issue relating to an item on the agenda.

Some members of the public stated that they had only recently found out that a meeting was being held to discuss the installation of a skateboard park on Goose Green, Gomshall.

The Chairman explained that, at the June meeting of Shere Parish Council's Playground Committee, it was proposed and agreed that the remit of the Committee would be extended to look at the provision of recreational facilities for older children. This was partly in response to a request to the Parish Council earlier in June. She stated that over the last few years providing recreational facilities for this older age group has been a common theme for villages of our size up and down the country and projects such as these are fully supported by the police. She confirmed that the meeting had been lawfully advertised and the agenda item was headed *consideration of future projects* as no actual scheme or site had, as yet, been considered by the Playground Committee.

The meeting restarted.

Financial Report – The Committee received a report from the Responsible Financial Officer/Clerk details of which are shown below:

Playground Projects - Balance £6,741.63

Playground Maintenance - £9,688.14 less cost of repairs to cross scales and new rubber handle bars.

Grant Aid currently available – New play equipment/safety surfaces 50% of project up to £5,000 in grant aid – to be used by 31.3.2012. Grant aid application (for part funding) submitted to Guildford Borough Council for the year commencing 2012/2013 following authority from the Parish Council, at its meeting on 2nd September, for activity equipment and a youth shelter for older children. This application was necessary if part funding were to be available for any scheme which the Playground Committee may wish to undertake in 2012/2013.

Playground Problems – all Committee members had received a copy of the RoSPA inspection which was felt to be satisfactory. However RoSPA had stated that fittings on swings above 2.5m could not be assessed safely by their inspector and were excluded from RoSPA inspections. Following advice from Guildford Borough Council on suitable inspection agents the Committee **DECIDED** to place an order with Digley Limited for the inspection of the swings at a cost of £100 plus VAT (Local Gov. Act 1972 s. 111). It was also **AGREED** that thought will be given to requesting this company to carry out next year's playground inspections.

Councillors' Playground Inspection reports – these had been carried out and the minor works highlighted will be put in hand.

The Committee expressed great satisfaction at the safety surfaces which had been installed in four of the five play areas over the last two years.

It was noted that the mobile cycle at Peaslake had sheared away from the base spring. It was decided that this would not be repaired but stored in the Old Fire Station. Work will be undertaken to remove the protruding spring.

Consideration of future projects

The meeting was **adjourned** to enable those members of the public present to contribute to the discussion. Various matters were raised including ideas and a plea from Mr Carl Nunn for recreational facilities for young people. He stated that he ran football facilities for the youngsters and had been informed by them that they longed for recreational activities to suit their age group. He felt that such a project was really necessary for the youngsters of the Parish. Hon. Alderman Childs reiterated this stating that he had held a meeting with a group of nine youngsters to explore the possibility of them using the Pavilion on Shere Recreation Ground as a meeting place under certain strict conditions. This was discussed but they were quite clear that they would like skateboard facilities rather than a meeting place. He was of the opinion that such facilities are urgently required in order to provide the youngsters with something to do. This had been confirmed in a meeting he had had with the Police Crime Prevention Officer.

The meeting restarted. The Committee **AGREED** that it would further investigate the provision of facilities for older children such as a bike track, skate park or youth shelter. An action plan was discussed and it was agreed to set up a Working Group of interested parties, to include Parish Councillors, local residents from all villages in the Parish and young people, thereby involving all stakeholders in the decision making process. A note to this effect will be placed in the Parish magazine with the first meeting to be held early in October.

The Chairman asked the members of the public present whether anyone would like to join the Working Group. Mr Carl Nunn and Hon. Alderman Childs volunteered. Other members of the public present stated that they would ask around.

Membership of the Committee – the Clerk informed the Chairman that her membership of the Committee must remain as a Co-opted member.

Precept 2012/2013 – the Committee **AGREED** to request the following from the Council:

Play Area – general account £6,000.

Play Area Projects - £6,000 minimum.

Date of next meeting: to be arranged.