



# Wickham and Knowle Parish Council

## Recreation Committee

Minutes of the Recreation Committee held at Knowle Village Hall

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024, 7pm

### Committee members present:

Councillors; Nic Holladay (Chair), Craig Manuel, Loraine Rappe, Sheila Chambers, Kathryn Holladay, Malcolm Burt, Sandy Phillips-Lee

**In Attendance:** Tracey Molloy, Locum Clerk, Victoria Glenister, Business Manager

### Members of the Public: 4

1. **Apologies for absence** – Robert Broad
2. **Declarations of interest on Agenda:** None
3. **Public Session** – 2 members of public were in attendance observing only. 1 member of public attended to discuss Agenda Item 14, and 1 member of public attended to discuss Agenda Item 16.
4. **Minutes of the Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024**  
**RESOLVED:** Minutes of the Meeting were approved and signed as a true record.
5. **Clerks Action Plan:** Noted. Review of signage to be added
6. **Business Manager update:** Noted. Knowle Hall cctv to be checked to see if there is coverage for the car park

### Knowle

7. **Barbastelle Play Area:** Item deferred to the next meeting
8. **Replacement noticeboards (Old Knowle and South Square):** Item to move to GP Committee. Clerk to source costs and Cllr Rappe and Cllr Phillips-Lee to put together a proposal for the next GP Committee.

### Knowle Village Hall

9. **Revised proposal from a resident to run a café at the Hall:** Amendments to be made to the contract and approved at the next meeting
10. **Knowle Village Hall extension:** Updates being made to allow for additional parking. Rationale behind the plans, including a review of the current hall, to be clarified at a future meeting for those not on the Council when the project was planned in 2021.

### Wickham

#### 11. Mill Lane: update from financial analysis meeting with WCC

The detailed financial analyses of the prospects for the delivery of formal sports pitches at Mill Lane covering three elements – fixed costs of making the site “facility-ready”, capital cost of installing a variety of sports facilities, and the operating profit/loss of running those facilities over a ten year horizon – was received and adopted by the Parish Council at its Full Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024. These data demonstrated that the costs for delivering formal pitches and associated assets far exceeded the money currently available to deliver them, and that if they were to be delivered, significant additional sums would need to be sought. As a result a meeting was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April with relevant officers at WCC to determine a sound way forward.



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The advice of officers present at the meeting was that the Parish Council should additionally consider an alternative use of the site that provides community open and informal recreation space, and consider seeking a variation to the s106 agreement to permit its delivery. The application for that variation would need to include the following:

1. a clear, robust detailed argument demonstrating the financial non-viability of the site for the current permitted use - formal sports pitches;
2. a professionally created, costed draft outline of an alternative open space use;
3. evidence of clear communication to residents of the reasons for seeking the variation and quantitative evidence of their support for it;
4. agreement in principle from the landowner for the variation.

A small working party consisting of the Clerk, the Chair of the Committee and Chair of the Council will immediately start work to prepare a brief for professional agencies to deliver concepts for the open space alternative, with the aim of completing a costed, draft outline by 31<sup>st</sup> July for review by the Parish Council and WCC.

Residents will be given the opportunity to examine data regarding both the current permitted use (formal sports pitches) and the potential alternative (community open space) in the consultation of opinion that the Parish Council has included in its planning schedule for the Mill Lane site. It looks likely that this will now take place in September/October.

12. **Recreation Ground football pitch:** Hampshire FA have met with the Council on site for pitch inspections, follow up questions need to be answered.
13. **Recreation Ground Pavilion tender:** Tender is live. Scoring will be done by Councillors N Holladay, C Manuel, M Burt and the Clerk. Recommendation will be proposed at the Committee meeting in June.

## 14. Vandalism at MUGA

- 14.1. **Update on vandalism, actions to date and way forward for repairs:** There is not enough rope to patch the netting. More netting is being made which will take 5-6 weeks. The MUGA will need to remain closed until its fixed for the safety of the primary school. The burnt carpet is also being repaired.

Kat Lemon from Wickham Community Centre attended to feedback on the current problems the Centre and staff are having with anti-social behaviour. The police are involved but the Community Centre would like the parish council to consider supporting the provision of a youth club along with reopening the MUGA.

Kat said while she does not have the capacity to support a youth club in the long-term, she would consider providing a summer holiday programme. There are already several volunteers willing to support a youth provision, and a detached youth worker will be necessary.

Funding will be required. There may be money left in pots from previous youth clubs which need to be explored.

- 14.2. **Damaged control box to the flood lights:** Control box to be made safe and left until the Council has discussed further how to keep the site secure. CCTV provision in the area needs to be reviewed so if the control box is vandalised again, the damage can be followed up with the Police.
- 14.3. **Options for future vandal-proofing/managing the MUGA:** Defer to next meeting. Proposals required on how to keep the site secure while allowing it to be open to the community.
- 14.4. **Additional vulnerable sites and impacts within the Parish:** Clerk to look into ownership of skate park and other vulnerable areas.



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15. **Grounds Maintenance Contract:** Timeline for the re tender of the Grounds Maintenance Contract approved. Working group of Councillors Rappe, Burt, N Holladay and the Clerk to be set up to produce tender documents, including a review of current work schedules.
16. **Glebe Working Party: Update noted.** Minutes of the GWP to be shared with the Recreation Committee. Decisions concerning the Glebe need to be made at the Recreation Committee by all Councillors.
17. **Recent correspondence/ reports from meetings attended of relevance to this committee:** None

Meeting Closed, 9pm

Signed.....

Date.....