



Wickham and Knowle Parish Council

Recreation Committee

Minutes of the Recreation Committee held at Knowle Village Hall, Thursday 19th September 2024, 7pm

Committee members present:

Cllr Nic Holladay (Chair), Cllr Malcom Burt (Vice), Cllr Sheila Chambers, Cllr Kathryn Holladay, Cllr Craig Manuel

In Attendance: Sophie Thorogood, Parish Clerk & RFO
Victoria Glenister, Business Manager
Cllr Ben Sawyers, from item 6 onwards.
4 Members of the Public

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Sandy Phillips-Lee, Cllr Loraine Rappé
2. **Declarations of interest on Agenda:** None
3. **Public Session** – 4 members of public were in attendance.
4. **Minutes of the Meeting 1st August 2024**

RESOLVED: Minutes of the Meeting were approved and signed as a true record, proposed Cllr N Holladay, seconded by Cllr K Holladay and carried.

5. **Youth Club initiative update:** 3 members of public were present to give the Committee an update on the summer Youth Club initiative.

The first session was a fun day held at Wickham Community Centre attended by 31 young people. The old Wickham Youth Club donated the fun day costs. There was free food provided and an inflatable. A board was left up asking for ideas for the other sessions, to which many sports activities were requested.

The following sessions were held in a smaller room at the Community Centre and were attended by 8-12 young people each week. The behaviour initially was shocking. Cllr Manuel attended the Youth Club from week 3 and a male presence within the sessions helped the behaviour to improve. The young people particularly enjoyed using the MUGA.

The volunteers stated that the age range meant more was needed for the older teenagers, who wanted a place to hang out and talk to their friends and were not interested in the craft activities.

This led to a discussion between the volunteers and the Committee about what could happen in the future. It was felt that ideally a Portakabin, like what used to be available behind the Wickham Community Centre, would be ideal. Somewhere for the children to sit, talk to their friends, play pool. However, the Parish Council does not have any land available to place a Portakabin.

There were initially 12 volunteers willing to help when the initiative was first discussed; this fell to just 6 volunteers which meant they were operating a skeleton crew. There is no plan for the group to formally constitute at present.

Cllr Manuel suggested that the cellars underneath the buildings in Knowle could potentially be a great location for a Youth Club in the future and volunteered to speak to the landowner to see what would be possible in the future.

Cllr Burt gave a vote of thanks to the volunteers which was seconded by Cllr Chambers.

Cllr Sawyers arrived 7:25pm, 3 members of public left 7.26pm.



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- 6. Glebe Working Party:** A member of the GWP was present to give a verbal update to the Committee. Cllr Chambers has joined the working party as a Council representative and was thanked for attending the last meeting.

The working party are now at a point where they will be able to soon come to the Parish Council with their proposed submission to the heritage application, which has a six-week turnaround.

Cllr Manuel asked what the grant is for in detail and requested to see a master plan. The GWP member explained that the ecological survey report is still awaited, and it is hoped that the Council will receive it soon.

Cllr N Holladay asked a few questions – the heritage lottery fund has to be spent within 5 years of being awarded. It is still unsure when the land will transfer to the Parish Council; Cllr N Holladay has been chasing Croudace and will continue to do so, as well as pushing the Diocese too. There is still an issue with the ash tree that needs to be removed on Green Lane too as well as the ash trees that need removing on the Glebe itself.

The Clerk gave a verbal update on the free legal advice received from Hampshire Legal Services regarding the access from School Road and the parking issues from the adjacent householder. Until the land transfers from Croudace, nothing can be done to formalise an easement agreement. This agreement would cost around £1,000 in legal fees to prepare.

ACTION: Cllr N Holladay to chase Croudace on the outstanding issues surrounding the land transfer; GWP to prepare a master plan to show the Committee next meeting.

- 7. Clerks Action Plan:** Noted. Cllr Manuel added that there has been an update on the S106 discussions regarding Ravenswood. The final offer is £260,000 for the Knowle Village Hall extension project, along with land transfers of Knowle Triangle and Knowle Water Meadows with accompanying contribution of £400,000 for maintenance of those parcels of land. A new S106 agreement is being drawn up and will be discussed at a future meeting of the Full Council.

ACTION: Clerk to speak to Siam Landscapes as Cllrs Manuel and Burt are not happy with the ridge between the new and old concrete at the Knowle skate park extension.

- 8. Business Manager Action plan:** Noted.

The owner behind a request for a pizza van to use the Knowle Village Hall car park that was previously turned down had been back in contact with the Business Manager as they were not the same van owner that had caused previous issues at the hall. The Business Manager is working with the owner to agree dates and session rates.

The Fire Risk Assessment of the hall had taken place the same morning and had unearthed a few issues. Once the written report is received, the Business Manager will work through the remedial work and any quotes needed will be brought to the next Committee meeting for approval.

The Business Manager left at 8:09pm.

- 9. Knowle tree survey:** Noted. 10 TPO trees, 7 non-TPO trees need work, plus 1 other unhealthy tree needs removing and stump grinding. **ACTION:** Clerk to seek quotes for the tree survey work for next meeting.

- 10. New lighting bollard for car park:**

RESOLVED: to recommend to Full Council to accept quote 1 to install 1 new lighting bollard in the Knowle Village Hall car park, for £688 + VAT, as proposed by Cllr N Holladay, seconded by Cllr Burt and carried.

A vote of thanks was also given to Cllr Manuel for kindly donating the lighting bollard to the Parish Council.



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11. Lysander Meadow draining project: Lysander Meadow annual cut and collect was not carried out in 2023 but has now been completed. The hedge has also been cut and it is hoped for the new drainage to be installed within the next two weeks.

12. Update on Wickham Recreation Pavilion: Axis have nearly finished the amendments to the plans and the new plans will be shown to the Committee at the next meeting before going out to tender again.

Cllr N Holladay and the Clerk met with Steve Lincoln to discuss options for the S106 money towards the project. There is a small issue in that the Pavilion project was not on WCC's Capital Project plan for 2024/25. Steve Lincoln had offered option of a small interim payment around Christmas, with the remainder put on the Capital Project Plan for 2025/26 in February 2025, which would mean the Council would get the remainder in very early 2025/26. Cllr N Holladay had prepared a short document to calculate the expenditure on the drainage project and Axis Architect's Fees to be around £25,000. It was therefore agreed to ask Steve Lincoln to make an interim payment of £25,000 towards these costs, with the remainder of the S106 funding (likely to be £145,000 approximately) to be received in early 2025/26.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council to request an interim payment of £25,000 from WCC towards the Wickham Recreation Pavilion, as proposed by Cllr N Holladay, seconded by Cllr Manuel and carried.

13. Update on Wickham MUGA issues:

The Clerk had circulated an update with the document pack.

14. Future booking access to the Wickham MUGA: ACTION: The Clerk to ask for a quote for a new pedestrian gate, next to the double gate, from CIA Fire & Security for the next Recreation Committee meeting.

15. To receive an update on the Mill Lane project: Cllrs N Holladay, Burt, Manuel and the Clerk met with Officers from WCC on 12th September, to show them the initial country park concept design that Deacon Designs had been working on. The feedback was positive, however WCC asked the Parish Council to prepare a briefing document listing reasons against the use of Mill Lane site as sports pitches that WCC can use with their legal department to get the Local Plan changed. This will be discussed on the Full Council meeting on 26th September.

16. WCC Sports Pitch Consultation: Cllr N Holladay had prepared a draft reply to the Consultation which had been circulated in the document pack. **ACTION:** The Clerk to circulate to all Councillors for feedback before agreeing a final reply at the Full Council meeting on 26th September.

17. Proposed Pitch Strategy: Cllr N Holladay had prepared a pitch strategy which had been circulated within the document pack. This will be discussed in more detail at the next Committee meeting.

18. Recent correspondence/ reports from meetings attended of relevance to this Committee:

- WinACC event on 3rd October – Clerk to register Cllr Chambers onto the event and send details to the Glebe Working Party in case they want to attend
- Overhanging trees between Shedfield and Wickham – Clerk has given the link to report the trees to HCC as they will have records of who owns the land and is therefore responsible for any tree work necessary.
- Knowle Cemetery complaint – Siam Landscapes have already been to visit to carry out a litter pick but hardly any litter was found. The work needed to any graves to be put on the action list for the Estates/Maintenance Officer role in the future. The Clerk



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to make contact with Friends of Knowle Cemetery to see if there are any offers of help.

- Remaining money in old WCC Open Space Funding – due to the small amount of money left, the Committee felt it was better to ask for this to be transferred to the sport pot rather than the Clerk to spend time applying for the balance.

Meeting Closed, 9:36pm

Signed.....

Date.....