

MINUTES OF HISTON & IMPINGTON EXTRA-ORDINARY RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE, HELD IN THE RECREATION CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY, 16th SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 7.15pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Davies (Chairman), Parish, Cleaver, Eade, Emmines, Marston, Plumbly, Stonham, Thurman, Payne DW, Abdullah, Ing, Kelly, Nudds, Turnbull
Groundsman: S Campin Clerk: A J Young Member of Public: Erica Hunt

1 APOLOGIES

60 Apologies were received from Cllrs Foster, Legge, Jones, Diplock, Cope, Cooper. Mrs L Marsh. Cllrs Dover and G Payne were absent

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

61 Cllr Davies declared a personal interest as a Histon Hornets manager. Cllr Davies declared a personal interest as a member of Histon Tennis Club and also one of his children is a member of Histon Hornets and Histon Tennis Club. Cllr Davies also declared a personal interest as Treasurer / Trustee of the Friends of Histon & Impington Recreation Ground.
Cllr Ing declared a personal interest as Secretary of Histon Cricket Club; his son is also a member of Histon Cricket Club. Cllr Ing also declared a personal interest as a Trustee of the Friends of Histon & Impington recreation Ground.

3 RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA PROJECT

- 62.1 Resolution proposed Cllr Davies, seconded Cllr Ing "*The Recreation Ground Committee recommends that Histon and Impington Parish Councils support the Recreation Ground Play Area Project by agreeing to consider extra funding to a maximum amount of £25,000 (including a contingency of £5,000) should funding of up to this amount be required*". Written report provided to all dated 7 September, Appendix 1
- 62.2 Cllr Stonham spoke to all on the project and gave reasons for support of improvements for a wide age range, including the need to be forward thinking, proud of facilities, and as an important investment for the community's young
- 62.3 Cllr Davies had received a number of comments and questions from Councillors prior to the meeting, and was able to give answers covering
- Play Pathfinder application processes and conditions applicable, including open access to the site
 - Bylaws wording may need consideration
 - Design and costings currently "work in progress" stage, and discussions held resulting in changes to original designs including involvement of Groundsman and family. The introduction of landscaping and planting was to add a richness and provide a legacy for the future
 - Finance brief provided to designers (£80,000);
 - Other grant applications investigated, noting Anti Social Behaviour opportunities through the Police. Raffle organised
 - Age group cross-over considerations
 - Public Work Loan Board possibilities through the Parish Councils
- 62.4 Questions/ comments from the floor:
Cllr Emmines reminded all of the need for replacement equipment at the Green and possible relocation from Recreation Ground and would not like to see any spend affect Precept, but to come from reserves. Cllr Davies updated all Councillors on spend required on the Groundsman's house, an asset of the Parish Councils and in shared ownership. Full report on this to be available for meeting due 30 November
Cllr Ing Supported recycling of equipment, also at Doctors Close, but flagged up the cost of surfacing. He outlined a course attended on understanding the differences between play and anti social behaviour and elements now required in new play areas.
Cllr Parish spoke at length on funding and budgetary difficulties, and the need for Parish Councils to properly prioritise. He suggested the use of funds put aside for "Community Building" use if this was agreed
Cllr D Payne felt a holistic view was required and had some concerns that this facility would be on the edge of the well-spread community. He also had comments on priorities and cuts to services elsewhere by County and District Councils, and general finances for residents and appropriateness or otherwise of asking them to help fund this
Cllr Eade queried the urgency for taking up the grant funding at this time. Cllr Davies confirmed this was a "once in a generation" chance and highlighted safety concerns that would need to be addressed in any case covering entrances
Cllr Turnbull stressed the need for improvements on all the play areas in the villages, and efforts required to make them
Standing orders suspended to allow Ms Hunt to explain her involvement with the project and keenness to see better and exciting facilities for all young people and children
Cllr Nudds underlined the importance of replacement funds in future, spend required elsewhere in the community on open spaces, and asked about possibilities for phasing

Cllr Cleaver spoke on the need for improvement and the support seen from many people for this project. Whilst acknowledging the need to improve other play areas on the villages, the Parish Councils had not done so, and there was now a chance to at least start with this largest one

Cllr Davies summed up and thanked the project members for their drive, enthusiasm and commitment in performance to date. Discussion followed on the figure in the resolution and what the Parish Council commitment would be were expected community funds not to materialise. Cllr Davies was confident that £25,000 was the correct figure. Based on discussion during the item, Cllr Davies **amended the resolution** to "*The Recreation Ground Committee recommends that Histon and Impington Parish Councils support the Recreation Ground Play Area Project by **committing** extra funding to a maximum amount of £25,000 (including a contingency of £5,000) should funding of up to this amount be required*" seconded Cllr Ing. 13 in favour, 2 abstentions.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Signed.....

Date.....