

# The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

## MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE OF YARMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021 at 11am.

Present: Cllrs Rod Corbett, and Peter Cronin, Peter Scott and Martyn Collinson

In attendance: Brian Jacobs, Mayor Steve Cowley

### **1. Apologies**

No apologies were received

### **2. Minutes of the meeting 15/10/20**

RESOLVED: To accept the minutes of the meeting of 15/10/20

### **3. Matters arising from the last minutes**

All matters arising were dealt with later in the meeting.

### **4. Pavilion & Storage Shed**

The old pavilion base has been removed and the grass has begun to grow.

Martyn Collinson suggested installing wooden shelves in the storage shed, and the rest of the Committee agreed with this. Martyn undertook to investigate suitable fittings and report back to the next meeting, and indicated that Yarmouth Town Trust would provide the funding.

Cllr Corbett reported that the meter had been fitted, and the contractor will finalise the connection when next in Yarmouth. Mayor Cowley suggested that YTT should take over the SSE account, which was agreed by Martyn as Chairman of the Trust. The Clerk undertook to arrange this.

Martyn also reminded the Committee that the Trust was still holding £2500 donated by Yarmouth Harbour Commission and £1500 from charity fundraising towards the construction of a new pavilion. He also suggested considering allowing parking on the Rec, though this was dismissed because of the difficulty in preventing unauthorised parking and doubts about the ownership of the access from Tennyson Road.

### **5. Victoria Road and Tennyson Close access**

Cllr Cronin expressed concern that the Tennyson Close pedestrian gate was causing some annoyance by banging in the wind. Mayor Cowley suggested that, based on

similar experiences at his farm, that a rubber sheath would solve the problem and undertook to follow that up.

The Clerk updated the Committee about the progress of the Victoria Road gates, which had been delayed as the contactor had been diverted to a recent emergency.

## **6. Wild area and ditch maintenance**

The Clerk reported that Brighstone Landscaping had been unable to carry on with ditch clearance due to ground conditions caused by excessive rain during recent months. This led on to a discussion about drainage problems for the whole Rec, and Mayor Cowley suggested that proper field drains would be necessary to overcome this problem, and to allow the Rec to be used throughout the year, and it was generally agreed that this would need to be carried out professionally; Martyn indicated that Yarmouth Town Trust would be prepared to contribute towards the cost of this activity which was estimated to be between £10K-£20K. The Mayor undertook to discuss this with the contactors and the Natural England advisor he used for his farm.

## **7. Additional facilities for Rec Ground**

It was agreed that the meadow where the Board Rider is situated was best suited for outside gym equipment, though it would need to be levelled to allow this to take place; siting the gym equipment adjacent to the Play Area was deemed as undesirable. It was decided that a site meeting, when circumstances allowed, was necessary before proceeding further. Mayor Cowley reported that similar facilities were under consideration at Wellow, and suggested that combining a consultation with Shalfleet PC could result in synergetic savings.

Cllr Corbett raised concerns about flooding on the new pathway which had been created between the meadow and the Cycleway. Peter Scott informed that a drainage pipe was still in existence running from the bottom of the Rec, underneath the Cycleway, to the river which had been installed many years ago by a local laundry. Mayor Cowley undertook to arrange for a metal detectorist to scan the area for this drain.

## **8. Next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on site when Government restrictions allow this to take place.

## **9. Any Other Business**

The boundary between the Rec and 6, Tennyson Close was discussed and it was concluded that the undergrowth from the Rec side had encroached upon the neighbouring property because of the deterioration of the boundary fence. It was agreed that the householders be encouraged to cut back the vegetation to the boundary to allow them to erect a new fence, but a decision was deferred pending a report by a tree expert which the householders had instigated as part of their

planning application. Cllr Cronin suggested that the Council will maintain the boundary vegetation once a new fence had been erected, and the Committee agreed this.