

## NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council Playing Fields Committee held at the Sports Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Allington Road on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 6.55 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors: C. Armitage (Chairman of this committee)  
G. Parker, and Mrs J. Smerdon,  
**In Attendance:** Mrs. S. Berry (Clerk)  
Mr Ed Hele, Lewes District Council (LDC) Principal  
Environmental Health Officer  
Three members of the public were present

An audio recording was made of the meeting

- 1. Apologies for Absence and to consider whether to approve reasons given –** Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Mrs M Thew (prior family engagement) and Mrs C. Wickens (family crisis). It was resolved to approve the reasons for these absences.
- 2. Disclosure by Members of personal interest in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct –** No disclosures were made.
- 3. Questions or Statements by Members of the Public –** There were no questions or statements from members of the public.

*A member of the public joined the meeting at 6.57 p.m.*

- 4. Skate Park –** It was noted that a letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015 had been received from Mr Ed Hele, LDC Principal Environmental Health Officer, which advised that LDC had new powers to protect the community under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and suggested some measures that could be taken to reduce anti-social behaviour connected with the skate park.

At 7.03 p.m. it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders in order to allow a dialogue with Mr Hele. The matters raised included

- The Parish Council's difficulty in finding a suitable alternative site for the skate park which would be further away from residential properties
- The steps that might be put in place to improve the problems experienced by residents
- The noise patrols operated by LDC on Fridays and Saturdays during the summer months
- The benefits of a design solution such as sunken concrete bowls as opposed to the installation of acoustic fencing

At 7.11 p.m. the informal discussion with Mr Hele ended and the committee meeting returned to Standing Orders.

It was agreed that in the short term a notice could be put up asking users not to use the skate park during certain hours and a recommendation made to the council that the area should be more closely monitored by councillors.

It was also agreed to investigate further the cost of installing acoustic fencing and to try to get a skate park provider to visit in order to advise on the appropriate design and siting of a new skate park facility for the long term.

*One member of the public left the meeting at 7.20 p.m.*  
*Mr Hele left the meeting at 7.22 p.m.*

- 5. Play Equipment Upgrade Project –** It was reported that three grant applications had been made and that one more was being completed in time for the deadline on 16<sup>th</sup> March.
- 6. Repair and maintenance issues –** The monthly play area inspection report from Lewes District Council for February 2015 and the Annual Skate Park inspection

report were considered. It was noted that the Annual Inspection report recommended more work to the Skate Park than had been highlighted in the LDC monthly report. It was agreed that the contractor should be asked to put in the additional rivets as highlighted in the annual report.

It was noted that Lewes District Council were making changes to their weekly and monthly inspection services. The Clerk had queried the cost implications of these changes for Newick Parish Council and would report further once a response had been received.

It was noted that a quotation of £450 had been received for the tightening up of the weldmesh fence at the front of the play area in an effort to prevent this from rattling. It was agreed that additional quotations should be obtained for this work before making a recommendation to council as to whether or not this work should be undertaken.

- 7. Items for the next agenda** – There were no items for the next agenda

**The Meeting Closed at 7.34 p.m.**

**Signed.....Dated.....**