

Cheveley Pavilion & Recreation Ground Charity

Registered Charity Number 1082799

59 West Street, Isleham, Ely, Cambs, CB7 5SD

Telephone: 01638 780835

Chairman: Mr Ian Jackson

CHEVELEY PAVILION & RECREATION GROUND CHARITY MEETING **HELD IN CHEVELEY COMMUNITY ROOM** **ON TUESDAY 13TH MARCH 2018**

MINUTES

Present: Alison Day, Claire Elbrow, Jane Gibson, James Hadlow, Jaquilyn Hascombe-Brook, Ian Jackson (Chair), Sheila Marvin, Brent Noble, Tracey Peel and Sue Willows.

Secretary: Marilyn Strand

There were 6 members of the public present.

The meeting was opened at 9:00pm.

1. **Apologies and approvals for absence** – Sallie Thomas (unwell).
2. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interests** – Tracey Peel declared a personal interest in item 7 (a) Skate Area and Basketball Hoop.
3. **Open Forum for Public Participation** – all residents present had attended to hear the consideration of the skate area proposal.
4. **Approval of Minutes** of the meeting held on 13th February 2018 – AGREED and signed by the Chairman with the following amendments:
Item 7(b) Cllrs Hadlow *and Hascombe Brook* agreed to put together a comprehensive risk assessment list of pros and cons for the project....
5. **Matters Arising including reports from the Secretary and Trustees.**
None.
6. **Finance & Administration**
 - (a) Bank account update – Nat West is still unable to process the application due to missing information which has already been provided by Trustees.

7. Pavilion & Recreation Ground Matters

(a) Skate Area and Basketball Hoop:

1. Report from public consultation and consideration of comments received – NOTED.
2. Consideration of responses received by email/post – NOTED.
3. Report from the Clerk (written) on matters relating to the proposal – NOTED.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her comprehensive report.

4. Report from Cllrs Hadlow and Hascombe-Brook on the pros and cons of the proposal – NOTED.
5. **Taking into consideration all related matters, it is proposed to install a skate area and basketball hoop, as per plans previously circulated but subject to obtaining two alternative quotations, at the recreation ground (subject to relevant planning permission and advice) at a cost of £32,400 (to be funded entirely by the PC).**

A debate amongst Trustees ensued and the following points were made against the proposal:

- A skate area would encourage young people from outside the parish to come into Cheveley.
- There would be an increase in litter.
- Without floodlighting it would encourage young people to hang around in the area after dark.
- The skate area would need constant supervision.
- Risk of noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour. (Teversham PC had had legal action brought against it for noise in relation to its skate park which has been temporarily closed). It was noted that incidences of drug-taking at the recreation ground had been reported to the PC.

- Risk of under-use. Other skate areas visited by Trustees had no children playing on them even in half term.
- It would benefit a very small proportion of residents and be of very little benefit to North Ward residents in particular who pay the largest proportion of the PC's precept.
- It would spoil the recreation ground which is a very peaceful area enjoyed by many. A skate area would be out of character.
- The potential spend on this project is out of proportion to the overall community gain.
- The money would be better spent on improvements to the pavilion as this would be of benefit to a much wider demographic.
- Potential cost of maintenance is largely unknown and repairs could be expensive.
- Risk of graffiti.
- Parents/carers could take their children to the skate park in nearby Newmarket.
- Other equipment provided for older children in the recreation ground is rarely used.

In reply, the following points were made in favour of the proposal:

- Young people already come into Cheveley from outside of the parish; a skate area wouldn't make any difference to this.
- A litter bin could be installed nearby to prevent unwanted littering.
- No other skate areas/parks are supervised. There would be no difference between the skate area and the other children's playground equipment which isn't supervised. Recommended signage would be displayed to direct young people to use the ramps safely.
- Noise levels of the ramps had been measured at under 50 decibels from 5 metres away. Noise issues also apply to use of the pavilion and other facilities on the recreation ground.
- Other PCs approached had reported no issues with their skate parks which, some said, were well used by youngsters.
- The PC has accumulated a large amount of reserves over the last few years. With more family houses due to be built in the parish, this would be an investment for youngsters both now and in the future.
- Young people who attended the consultation events were mostly accompanied by their parent/carer whilst others, with no children or grandchildren, also attended and gave positive feedback to the proposal.
- It would provide an opportunity for younger teens and above to get out of the house and exercise. With the current obesity crisis in young people, the PC should be encouraging this.
- Youngsters currently skate on the road and this is very dangerous.
- The young people who put forward the proposal would be involved in taking care of the ramps.
- If the PC doesn't provide for its youngsters the parish will become older and older and eventually die.
- Other equipment in the recreation ground which is under-used was not asked for by the young people themselves; the skate area would be well used.

Ian Jackson asked for the vote to be recorded as follows:

4 in favour (Tracey Peel, Brent Noble, Ian Jackson and Claire Elbrow); 6 against (Jane Gibson, Alison Day, Sue Willows, Sheila Marvin, James Hadlow and Jaquilyn Hascombe-Brook); no abstentions. The proposal was **NOT CARRIED**.

The Chairman thanked the youngsters present for their hard work in presenting the proposal to the PC.

6. To agree public statement on the decision of the PC regarding this proposal: It was agreed that Ian Jackson would compile a statement for release on Cheveley Chit Chat and the PC's website, and in The Link, as follows: thanks to the young people for bringing the proposal forward; a difficult decision had had to be made on the overall evidence put forward in relation to the spend involved; the result of the vote. Claire Elbrow will write the meeting round up in the absence of Sallie Thomas and this statement will be included within it.

The Chairman agreed to move to item 7 (c) before continuing with the order of the agenda.

(b) Update on cross-hatching, fencing and new signage:

- Wording on the new recreation ground signage has been finalised and the signs should be installed on Wednesday 21st March if the ground is soft enough.
- Line Master has said they will carry out the cross-hatching in the car park as soon as weather conditions allow.
- Mylyn Security will install the new bollards in the car park at the end of next week or early the following week, weather permitting.
- SJP Garden Services will be installing new fencing in the car park on the 23rd and 24th March.

(c) To sign draft boundary agreement re: 40 High Street – signed by Cllr Elbrow and the Clerk and witnessed by a member of the public.

- (d) Grounds maintenance – weed killer spraying both sides of recreation ground wall: McGregor Services has agreed to do this free of charge.
- (e) To consider revised quotation from Hamill Landscapes re: trimming of Leylandii on southern boundary: it was agreed that the Leylandii should be cut back as far as possible without spoiling its appearance. The cost will be between £400 and £970 +VAT depending how far the Leylandii is to be cut – AGREED.
- (f) Proposal and quotation from McGregor Services re: top-locking retractable security bollard at the entrance of the recreation ground – it was agreed that this is unnecessary.
- (g) Update on recreation ground wall repairs – work to remove the old mortar is almost complete and re-pointing will begin as soon as the weather allows.
- (h) Review of hire fees for pavilion and recreation ground – this item was deferred to the next meeting.

8. Date of next meeting

Extra-Ordinary Meeting 26th March; 17th April; AGM 8th May.

9. Matters for future consideration

Secretary's overtime.

The meeting was closed at 10:00pm.

Signed: Approved and signed by the Chairman Dated: 17th April 2018