



BRATTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Jeff Ligo, 2 Grange Court, Bratton, Wiltshire, BA13 4TU 01380 831237 Email: Jeff.ligo@bratton-parish.co.uk
Clerk Nicola Duke, 81 Studland Park, Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 3HN 01373 864127 Email: nicola.duke@bratton-parish.co.uk

Minutes of a virtual meeting (Zoom) of the Bratton Recreation Ground Committee
held on **Monday 22nd February 2021** at 7.00pm.

Present: Mr M Manson (Chairman), Cllr J Ligo, Cllr F Forsyth, Cllr P Whittaker, Mr S Lloyd, Mr N Kew, Mr P Sharland, Mr G Preuveneers.

In attendance: Ms N Duke (Parish Clerk).

Open Forum to hear from members of the public – None.

	AGENDA ITEM
BRG97	Apologies for Absence Tim Gingell.
BRG98	Minutes of Committee meetings a) The minutes of a Committee meeting held on 26 th October 2020 were approved for accuracy and referred to the Parish Council for adoption. b) Matters arising from the above meeting of the Committee (not covered in following agenda items): None.
BRG99	Finance Report a) Statement of Accounts– members received and noted the financial reports as at 31 st December 2020 (information previously circulated). b) The status of the reserve (capital) account was noted to be £21,500 including the COVID-19 Business Support Grant from Wiltshire Council. The balance available in the reserve account was noted to be £2,946. The overall figure available to the Committee was therefore £24,400. Cllr Ligo stated the view that the Committee should spend from the COVID-19 grant before drawing down on the £2,000 available from the Parish Council. This was agreed.
BRG100	Report on recent work at the Recreation Ground a) The Chair reported on recent work undertaken at the Rec Ground: a. The ditch on the south side of the ground had been cleared. b. The pitch lines had been maintained, with the corners being marked to save paint. As soon as football matches were being held again the remaining lines would be re-drawn.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Small amounts of sand had been added to the wettest areas on the football pitch. This has been difficult as the ground was so wet. A large pile of sand was available for this work to continue. d. Due to Covid-19 the cleaner had been asked not to clean the Pavilion until the middle of March. A deep clean would be arranged then to ready the Pavilion for matches. <p>b) The Chair reported on tree surgery which had been undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The trees along the south side of the ground had been substantially pollarded and the wood had been removed. The smaller branches had been chipped, with some chippings removed and others spread along the edge of the field on the southern side of the field. b. The Chairman had been in discussion with the Southern family regarding tree surgery and they were content with the outcome (completed in Feb 2021); they had also agreed that the costs of the work would be split 50/50. The Chairman had made it clear to them that the Rec Ground would not be responsible for substantial tree works in the future and a plan was being developed to ensure this. Members were content with the arrangements. Mr Sharland commented that the maintenance of the ditch would contribute to better drainage.
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BRG101	<p>Recreation Ground maintenance and improvements</p> <p>Members reviewed ideas and costs for maintenance and improvement projects during 2021/2022. The Chairman had circulated a report, which was discussed. The Chairman highlighted the need to retain a reasonable reserve.</p> <p>POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS 2020-2022</p> <p>(Bold = confirmed cost/quote)</p>			
	PROJECT	LEAD	ESTIMATED COST	COMMENT
	More trees in main Trim Trail area	Mike Manson	£0	<p>Completed in Jan 2021. 30 small saplings had been planted with stakes and plastic protection. These had been planted around the west, north and east edges of the ground. Five magnolia trees had been presented by a local residents and four had already been planted. The fifth would be planted in due course.</p> <p>(£100)</p>

	Deflector for water from main road	Steve Lloyd	£0	<p>Completed in Dec 2020. This had been installed by Mr Lloyd at no cost, and channelled excess water away from the ground.</p> <p>(£0)</p>
	Tree surgery	Mike Manson	£1475	<p>Completed. Half of cost (remainder from Southern family)</p>
	Refurbish fencing along extended car park area above the ditch.	Peter Lankester	£190	<p>Posts installed 18 Feb. Wire net to be installed. Cost for materials. Major pruning of small trees and bushes now completed.</p>
	New signboard(s) at entrance	Tony Jamieson-Yates?	£300	<p>Maybe sponsored? Include space for notices. Two boards?</p> <p>No update had been received from Mr Jamieson-Yates as yet.</p> <p>The ground used to have two sign boards and members agreed it was important to replace these. It was not felt necessary to include information on the next fixtures, especially given the number of potential matches being played at the ground.</p> <p>It was agreed that the sign boards should be sponsored if possible. It was also suggested that a sign might be useful on the side of the Pavilion building and this was agreed.</p> <p>Mr Kew suggested that a brown sign could be installed on the opposite side of the road to help visitors identify the ground. The Clerk would look into the rules around the provision of brown signage.</p> <p>The Clerk and Cllr Ligo would investigate costings.</p>

<p>Tarmac from the basketball area along front of the buildings, including a drain around the buildings.</p>	<p>Mike Manson and Peter Lankester</p>	<p>£2560</p>	<p>Tarmac: £2310 (quote from Valetta Surfacing – it was noted that another quote had been obtained)</p> <p>Drain: £250</p> <p>Tarmac west of pavilion: add £1430.</p> <p>The work was approved and the Chairman would provide copies of the quotes sought for the Clerk. It was noted that three quotes had been sought, with two responses being received. The Chairman reported on the need for an additional drain and the work would be carried out by volunteers with the materials costing £250. It was hoped that the drainage and surfacing could be installed mid-March.</p>
<p>Extend tarmac strip from buildings to old skateboard base.</p>	<p>Mike Manson</p>	<p>£1030</p>	<p>The Chairman spoke to the project, confirming the costs involved would be dependent on Valetta carrying out the surfacing at the same time as the above project. Members agreed it would be prudent and cost effective to complete this work in conjunction with the other project.</p>
<p>Purchase a battery mower</p>	<p><i>(Deferred until Spring 2021)</i></p>	<p>£500</p>	<p>To supplement the strimmer, especially to mow the grass either side of the new French drain. A donated mower was noted to be available and the allocated funds therefore removed.</p> <p>It was noted that Mr Lankester would donate the mower as he was leaving the village. Members stated that he would be badly missed and it was agreed that Cllr Ligo would mention this and thank him for his efforts in the PC reports.</p>

	Purchase a towed spike aerator (towed by the Countax).	<i>(Deferred until after FA Pitch Inspection)</i>	£450	The FA Pitch Inspection had recommended a spike/disc aerator for drainage, which would need to be used regularly. It was agreed to continue to defer this item.
	Purchase a scarifier for the cricket square	Peter Sharland	£569	Mr Sharland proposed that a small petrol driven scarifier be purchased as the group needed a more robust and versatile model than the existing electric garden model. Mr Sharland outlined the two preferred options and asked for the budget figure of £569 to remain. The purchase of the scarifier was approved at a maximum of £569.
	Pavilion Improvements	Jeff Ligo	£300	<p>Legionella test – Cllr Whittaker would assist with this, which would result in a greatly reduced charge.</p> <p>Cllr Ligo suggested that the Committee should consider some internal redecoration of the Pavilion, particularly in respect of the ladies w.c. The Chairman reported that the football store had been sorted out and some items removed. This area was much tidier and the ladies/disabled w.c was now cleared. It was agreed to form a working group to identify and cost out the works required. As the Legionella test would be carried out at a greatly reduced cost, the remaining budget would be allocated to the internal improvements project.</p>
	Cricket covers	Peter Sharland	£200	Mr Sharland reported on the repair estimate for the Tildenet Layflat rain cover, which had been damaged in storms in 2020. This work and budget was approved.

	Cricket crease marker	Peter Sharland	£156	Mr Sharland reported on the need to replace the existing damaged device. This was approved.
	Cricket scoreboard	Peter Sharland	£550	Mr Sharland reported on the wish to purchase an Easyscore manual model with basic info to replace the ageing board. This was approved.
	Further improvement to drainage.	Noel Kew	£3000	<p>The Chair outlined the background to the potential project and Mr Kew reported that he had been looking into compressed air aeration as a potential solution. This would also get rid of soil impaction. Mr Kew suggested that he could undertake some further research and potentially carry out a test on a small area. He was also looking into supplementing the ground with natural processes, which would involve adding more earthworms to the soil although this would take several years for benefit to be seen. The cost would be £230 for 1,000 worms.</p> <p>Cllr Ligo advised on the governance process which would need to be followed to take this forward – outlining the need for formal specifications, tenders and quotes.</p> <p>Members agreed that Mr Kew should carry out some further research and report back by the end of March.</p>
	Worms	Noel Kew	£224	Mr Kew had reported on this on the item above. It was agreed to proceed with this work.

Wildlife area on east edge of Ground	Noel Kew	£20	The Chairman reported that in digging the swale on the east side of the ground a relatively small area of ground could not now be reached by the mower. It had been suggested that this could be left as a wildlife area. This could be left to grow wild with some wildflower seeds being scattered. The work was approved.
Refurbish main goal posts	Steve Lloyd	£20	The cost of the project related to the purchase of Hammerite paint. The work was approved. The Chairman reported that the work could be carried out by football team volunteers and, if not, would be completed by the maintenance team.
TOTAL		£11544.00	(NOT INCLUDING WORK ALREADY COMPLETED AND PAID FOR)

CONTRACTOR-PROVIDED REGULAR MAINTENANCE WORK

(All of these were noted to be optional but had been done in the past two years)

Solid-tine Aeration of both football pitches – April	£650 – Approved
Solid-tine Aeration of both football pitches – September	£650 – Approved
Top dressing of top half of both football pitches (30 tons of silica sand)	£1450 – Approved
TOTAL	£2750.00

N.B.

- £1100 for maintenance of cricket square (loam, aeration, etc.) is included in the annual operating budget.
- £700 for fertilisation of football pitches and cricket outfield (i.e. all grass at the Ground) is also included in the annual operating budget.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one solid tine aeration could be omitted in the year in which further improvements to drainage are carried out, if we decide to do them. <p>The overall total of approved works was noted to be approximately £10,000 covering both of the above lists, which represented half of the total funds available to the Committee. Members confirmed they were satisfied with this.</p>
BRG102	<p>Recreation Ground Events</p> <p>Members considered whether or not to hold the following events in 2021:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stall at village fete (bottle tombola) – it was not clear, at this stage, whether there would be a village fete in 2021. It was agreed to support the event if it proceeded. Quiz Night (September) – it was agreed to proceed with this event and the Chairman reported that he had provisionally booked the Jubilee Hall on 18th September 2021. The Chairman asked members of the Committee to provide support in running the event.
BRG103	<p>BRCG Budget 2021/2022</p> <p>The operating budget for 2021/2022 had been circulated and was noted. Members noted the difficulty in comparing the budget on a year by year basis given the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and the figures included were therefore based on a best estimate.</p>
BRG104	<p>Member Reports</p> <p>Mr Sharland – reported that it was hoped cricket would re-start in May 2021.</p>
BRG105	<p>Date of next Committee meeting</p> <p>The Committee would meet to discuss Mr Kew’s drainage report and a meeting was scheduled for Monday 19th April 2021 at 7.30 pm.</p>

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.46 pm.