



EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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AMENITIES COMMITTEE

MINUTES: of the Proceedings of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 17th September 2018 at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road, East Preston

PRESENT: Councillors B Gale, E Linton, D Shah and S Toney (Vice Chairman)

Clerk to the Council, Simon Cross

Assistant Clerk to the Council, Tracy Khoo

ALSO: One member of the public

ABSENT: Cllrs R McElroy (Chairman) and D Moore

The meeting opened at 19:00hrs.

In the absence of Cllr McElroy, Cllr Toney assumed the chairmanship of the meeting.

644/18 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

An apology and a reason for absence had been received from Cllrs McElroy and Moore (unavailable). These were accepted by the Committee.

645/18 PERSONAL AND/OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

Cllr Gale declared a Personal Interest in regard to Agenda Item 6 *Public Toilets – South Strand* being registered disabled.

646/18 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

██████ advised she had a number of matters she wished to raise with the committee. She started by criticising the standard of West Sussex County Council (WSCC) grass verge-cutting around the village. ██████ was concerned about the low number of grass verge cuts per season and the poor quality of those cuts. The Chairman explained this was a constant battle with WSCC.

██████ again mentioned her concerns about parking at the north end of Old Worthing Road towards the bend before the roundabout with the A259 Littlehampton Road and A280 Angmering by-pass. ██████ had been previously advised Angmering Parish Council had not received any complaints from its residents about this issue, but although the stretch of road in question was in Angmering, the problem was always more likely to affect East Preston and Kingston residents. ██████ asked whether a survey could be included in the council's newsletter. Any attempt to

introduce parking restrictions at this location would need the support of the West Sussex County Councillor for Angmering.

██████████ again criticised the fingerpost on the northern side of the Roundstone Level Crossing, replaced last year by Angmering Parish Council after some years of pressure from East Preston Parish Council. Although the latter council had offered to contribute to the costs of refurbishment of the original fingerpost, Angmering Parish Council had only made one attempt to get money from this council for the replacement fingerpost and this council had refused to contribute to what it saw as a disappointing replacement. ██████████ suggested the Amenities Committee dipped into its funds and paid for the replacement decent fingerpost, dismissing any arguments about the fingerpost not being within the East Preston boundary. Councillors made mention the boundary may change within the next few years at which point the replacement of the fingerpost could be considered.

Crossing the Roundstone Level Crossing in a car or on a bike was again particularly bumpy. The Clerk advised he had been advised by Network Rail some works will be taking place in November and these may address this concern.

██████████ asked whether the council could investigate working with WSCC to improve the bank on the western corner of the junction of North Lane and Lashmar Road. Could the council cut back the vegetation to make it less appealing for anti-social groups to misuse.

An old chestnut of ██████████ was the piece of pavement across the road from One Stop, designed to mark out parking bays but almost wholly ignored by drivers and never attractive. Could the council work with WSCC to have this removed and made good?

██████████ was concerned about the impact on local traffic and parking of the expansion of the East Preston Infant and Junior Schools. At drop-off and pick-up times, parents were already parking along North Lane east of the junction with Windlesham Gardens and more homes built in Angmering would mean more children being ferried across the A259 and railway line to get to East Preston schools, exacerbating the traffic and parking problems. Could a school bus be provided? The Clerk referred to a letter sent to ██████████ on 7th February in which he explained he had spoken to WSCC who only provided a school bus service where a pupil's **nearest** suitable school was more than two miles from their home, regardless of where they actually went to school. Angmering schools and East Preston schools were all within two miles of Angmering pupils so a school bus would not be provided by WSCC. ██████████ felt the council should campaign this situation with WSCC and the schools.

██████████ ended by expressing her concern over the lack of use of the Village Green car-park resulting in an increased number of cars parking all over Sea Road, legally and illegally, and making it a dangerous area for cyclists, pedestrians and other drivers. Councillors argued the Village Green car-park had often been full over the summer period and parking wardens from Arun District Council had been seen in the village over the summer, possibly even issuing tickets. The committee could not help the number of vehicles that wanted to visit the businesses at the southern end of the village.

647/18 MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES MEETING HELD ON 9TH JULY 2018

The Minutes were accepted by the Committee as a true record of the Meeting held on 9th July 2018 and were duly signed by the Chairman.

648/18 UPDATE ON MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Committee NOTED an update report produced by the Assistant Clerk.

Matters Arising from previous Minutes and not covered on this Agenda

Matters Arising from 17th July 2017

Minute 532/17 – WRG – Telescopic Posts – This is on the list for the Council's handyman to do but he has various health issues at the moment and is unable to carry out this work at present. The existing posts are perfectly serviceable. The new posts will eventually replace the older ones and these will be stored away in the Council's garage as back up.

Matters Arising from 20th November 2017

Minute 845/17 – New MUGA Lashmar Road – An Opening Ceremony was held on 17th August in the evening. This was tied-in with the Friday night youth club although there were no youth club members

present that evening, just the youth workers. A selection of other residents and local community group members attended, including the Chairman of Arun District Council who cut the ribbon with one of the youngsters. The youngsters hanging around the MUGA earlier on in the evening disappeared once people started to arrive and so there were mainly adults for the ceremony with a few children with their parents.

ADC has now paid back the unused Contingency Sum for the MUGA, this amounted to £5,840.75 and will be paid back into the Council's General Reserve Fund. It was slightly less than the original £7K Contingency Sum as the project started a bit later due to the delay whilst potential grants were explored so the Council was unable to qualify for the lower price of £63K.

Minute 848/17 – Wildflower Meadow Planting – The meadows have been disappointing this year. Whether this is due to the very dry hot weather or the late planting, it is unclear. There has been a lot of very tall weed-like plants coming through in the large Village Green Meadow and the one on Two Acres. ADC was asked to resolve this and due to various issues with different teams servicing East Preston, the quality of grounds maintenance in general has been below standard. However a new team, hopefully more regular to the area, will be carrying out the grounds maintenance from now on and so I am hopeful standards will rise again. A day was spent on the Village Green, tidying, cutting back and removing the weeds in the meadows prior to the F&D Event and this made such a difference to the overall appearance of the Green. ADC has said a favourable rate for Meadow Planting would be given next year to compensate for the disappointing displays.

Matters Arising from 19th March 2018

Minute 200/18 – Outdoor Table Tennis Table – ADC Ground's Maintenance Team have now moved the table onto the hard surface next to the MUGA and this was included in the Opening Ceremony for the MUGA. However, since being moved, it has been tipped over with some of the sand from the trays underneath to weigh it down coming out. ADC is looking to try and secure the table to the ground. Deborah Wood has also reported she went to play table tennis with a disabled resident in a wheelchair and the area around the table was not wide enough to accommodate the wheelchair. The edges sloped away for drainage and the wheelchair kept going down these. May need to speak to ADC about increasing the surfacing around the table.

Matters Arising from 29th May 2018

Minute 369/18 – Village Green Car Parking – The car park has been very busy over the Summer months and Cllr Shah has photographed the car park being full. Cllr Shah also reported that two of the solar lights are not working and so these should have been fixed.

I have noted that payment from the machine takings is very slow coming though to the Parish Council and keep having to prompt One Parking to do this, along with copies of the machine chitties when the machine is emptied.

Minute 373/18 – Flower Planting Contract – Ferring Nurseries has confirmed it is happy to extend the flower planting contract a further year for 2019/20. The revised price sent through for the additional year is £19,155.60 + VAT which is more or less the same annual price as the existing two year contract (£19,154.83+VAT). They have just rounded the overall annual price up so the monthly payment is the same across the 12 months at £1,596.30+VAT per month.

Minute 374/18 – Village Green Gate and Matting – The new Village Green Gate and matting was finally installed in mid August, in time for the Council's F&D Festival. The work was scheduled in originally for 9th July but at the last minute, the gate supplier put the prices up by £1K (inc VAT) and so our contractor had to go elsewhere to source the gate and posts. There was a minor increase to the original price quoted for the gate but this was under £100 difference and so the quotation was still better value for money than other contractors. Apart from a few minor finishing problems with the gate over a damaged latch and no security pins, the overall job was very good. The matting has been installed very well and looks good.

Minute 376/18 – Fingerpost refurbishment (outside Dizzys) – I have raised an order for this work. The contractor will be taking the fingerpost away to refurbish during September.

Minute 378/18 – Memorial Benches – The new recycled plastic councillor memorial bench has now been sited outside the office and has three plaques put on it.

Minute 522/18 – Memorial Bench – Mr Stobbe’s new memorial bench for Sea Lane is still under discussion following the price for installation being more than he wanted to pay.

Tracy Khoo – Assistant Clerk to the Council

10th September 2018

649/18 PUBLIC TOILETS – SEA ROAD REFURBISHMENT

Cllr Gale restated her Personal Interest in this item, as per Minute 645/18 above.

AGENDA ITEM 6 - PUBLIC TOILETS - SEA ROAD REFURBISHMENT

As at the beginning of August, still only one tender had been received for the toilet renovations, despite additional contractors asking to be sent tender packs. Cllrs McElroy, Toney, myself and the architect came to the conclusion that the health and safety side of the specification and the specialist equipment for the Hoist Assisted Toilet (HAT) was putting contractors off tendering. We therefore concluded it would be better to go back to the contractors and ask if they would re-tender just for the building work and the specialist equipment for the HAT would be supplied by specialist suppliers separately. These revised tender packs were sent out mid August to those contractors still interested, with completed tenders due back by 5th September. On contacting Inspired Design just after this time, still no quotes had been received.

Following the last meeting, I asked OpeMed to quote for the HAT equipment so that we had a comparison with Total Hygiene Ltd (Clos-o-Mat). I have given the higher quote from OpeMed to the Disability Action Group of East Preston (DAG) in order to go out and start fundraising. I have also been given an additional contact by the Chairman of DAG, Scanflex who have also now quoted. The only drawback with Scanflex is they do not have local installers to carry out the installation as they are based in the Midlands but have quoted an installation figure based on their own installers from the Midlands.

I have set up a WSCC Crowdfunding Page on DAG’s behalf to try and raise more funds for the Hoist Assisted Toilet. This links into separate funding applications to WSCC Community Initiative Fund and the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. The project is just under review by Spacehive who provide the fundraising platform and then will go live. The Crowdfunding Page will need to stay open until at least the 20th November, as the Community Initiative Fund will have a decision made on 6th November on funding allocations and it can take up to two weeks to transfer the money. DAG have already raised £5K and the aim is to raise another £6K to cover the Hoist Assisted Toilet specialist equipment.

The Festival Committee has confirmed it would like to donate £5,000 towards the refurbishment once the work has started and so this can be put towards the building renovations. It would like a plaque put on the toilet block in recognition of its donation and I have explained that the Council was going to acknowledge all those who had donated towards the toilet block on a joint plaque once the project was completed.

The Committee is asked to NOTE this progress to date. Any updates on the above will be brought to the meeting.

Mrs Khoo stated she had been in touch with Lauren Willard, the council’s architect for this work. Mrs Willard said there had still been no tenders received since the council agreed to split the external works from the specialist internal fitting-out work. Mrs Willard was hopeful some tenders may just have been delayed by the summer period. The committee accepted the work was perhaps not the most attractive or lucrative work available in the area. It was suggested the council could publish a plea in the Littlehampton Gazette.

Mrs Khoo had helped the Disability Action Group with setting up a crowdfunding page for help with the costs of fitting out the accessible toilet side of the building.

East Preston Festival Committee had granted the council £5,000 towards the cost of the project.

650/18 SEA ROAD BEACH ACCESS

Mrs Khoo said there had been some confusion at the solicitors handing this work-package from one solicitor to another. Mrs Khoo and Mr Cross had both spoken to the solicitor now dealing with this and it was possible some progress would be seen shortly.

Cllr Gale said she had recently visited Shoreham Beach and had been impressed with the beach access boardwalk in place there. Made of imitation wooden planks, the surface felt comfortable to walk on, without any trip hazards and there did not seem to be any problems with pebbles covering the surface.

651/18 PUBLIC TOILETS – SOUTH STRAND

AGENDA ITEM 8 - PUBLIC TOILETS - SOUTH STRAND

ADC Councillor Terry Chapman held a meeting in August of various groups with an interest in the potential closure of the public toilets at South Strand at the end of March 2019.

Mr Chapman has updated the Clerk following the meeting saying that he felt the meeting was very positive and he was confident, with more discussion, that a solution could be reached and a community group would be formed in time to take over the toilet block from 1st April 2019.

The Amenities Committee needs to consider when looking at the Draft Working Budget for next year whether it wishes to budget for a contribution towards the group running the South Strand toilets in future.

The Clerk reported District Cllr Chapman was still leading on finding an alternative group to have a lease with Arun District Council (ADC) for the South Strand toilet block. Cllr Chapman had led a meeting on 17th August which The Clerk and Cllr Toney had attended on behalf of the council. The meeting had effectively given District Cllr Chapman a mandate to investigate options further. District Cllr Chapman was confident a suitable solution could be found before 1st April 2019.

The Clerk suggested the council needed to include an article, in conjunction with District Cllr Chapman, in the next council newsletter.

The committee considered whether or not to include a sum in the 2019/20 budget for an annual contribution towards the costs of keeping the toilet block open. The committee AGREED an initial sum of £1,000. This figure may change depending upon the outcome of District Cllr Chapman's investigations.

652/18 LASHMAR ROAD YOUTH SHELTER

The committee considered the following paper which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

AGENDA ITEM 9 - LASHMAR ROAD YOUTH SHELTER

This item has been put back on the agenda to review the youth activity on the Lashmar Recreation Ground, following the removal of the youth shelter after it was damaged during the construction of the new MUGA. As requested by the Committee, I have obtained a price for a new basic youth shelter and it would cost just under £8,000+VAT.

Initially, the groups of intimidating youngsters had disappeared from the area and residents were feeling more positive about being able to use the facilities. However, gradually over the Summer months, groups have started to form again and now are hanging around in the small children's playground on the recreation ground and also in corners of the MUGA.

Following the youth club's AGM a couple of weeks ago, the youth team is working closely with the Anti Social Behaviour Team (ASBT) of Sussex Police and other services. The youth team has also said if they are able, they would try and come over to East Preston following reports of potential problematic youth gatherings and carry out some outreach/detached work with the young people.

The Committee is asked to consider the above information and decide whether it feels the damaged youth shelter should be replaced.

At the committee's meeting on 15th January inst., the committee had agreed not to put the youth shelter back until after the Summer and agreed to review the situation at its September meeting (Minute 041/18).

The committee AGREED not to reinstate a separate Youth Shelter on Lashmar Recreation Ground at this time as there was no public appeal to do so. The costs of re-providing a Youth Shelter were also deemed prohibitive at this time.

The committee considered whether some solar lighting at the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) would discourage anti-social behaviour in the area, and AGREED to look into this further.

653/18 VILLAGE GREEN SIGNAGE

Cllr Shah declared a Personal Interest in this matter as his son was someone affected by the ban on ballgames.

The committee considered the following paper which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

AGENDA ITEM 10 - VILLAGE GREEN SIGNAGE

The Committee is asked to consider the following correspondence received to date from residents regarding the new No Ball Games signage on the Village Green:-

Date	How	Comments
28/6/18	Person 1 Email	[informed of council's decision] [...] was not good before I came away mostly older kids 18 plus must be back from Uni but non of them have any ball skills so had a heavy ball come flying over [...] I really think it will help stop the Yobs as they do quote the written rules
7/8/18	Person 2 Email	Simon, we have just received our Parish Newsletter, and note that the Amenities Committee decided in May to ban the playing of ball games on the Village Green, because of disruption to local residents. As one of these residents, I strongly object to this action being taken in my name. I have no objection to informal ball games being played over there as they have been since we came to this village 40 years ago. I do not find the players, in general, to be rude or disruptive. There are, of course, always a few who do not behave well, but I think we can deal with that without going to this ridiculous extreme. And, of course, how does the Council propose to enforce this ban? We have seen no sign of any action in this direction! And long may it remain so!
7/8/18	Person 3 Email	I totally agree with [the above] ... whoever thought this up? !!!
c. 8/8/18	Person 4 In person	I have been out to the footballers yesterday, showed them the article and told them I did not agree with it.
9/8/18	Person 5 Facebook	one question, do you know why signs have been put up on the village green stating "No Ball Games" ? [council response] I myself have been surrounded by more than 15 teenagers - very intimidating with my two young boys ! I have since spoken to each one individually, especially the main ring leader & since have behaved on occasions reasonably, although they always leave their take away rubbish on the green! They should have more respect for this & their community? Anyway, so does this mean that Boules is no longer allowed on the green as well as me knocking a football about with my two boys ? LOL
9/8/18	Person 6 email	Dear Simon

		<p>I just read in the newsletter about the decision to ban ball games from the green. I strongly disagree with this decision which appears short sighted and the rationale for it which also seems flawed. Is there any potential to review or appeal this? And is it all ball games or just large organised games? Please let me know.</p> <p>To explain why, my son and his friends aged around 10 years regular kick a ball around the green. This keeps them away from screen</p>
		<p>time and gives the green an atmosphere of life and youth. As far as I am aware they have never intimidated any one ironically one of his friends was bitten by a dog there though. We didn't think that any reason at ask the parish to ban dogs even if as we all know not all owners clean up as they should either.</p> <p>In the good weather there have been gangs of young people around the green if they are causing a nuisance this is a public order issue for the police not a good reason to restrict the freedom of all other well behaved young people. In the era of childhood obesity and with ball games already banned from the dog walking paradise of the nearby beach and greensward. I think the decision comes across as one that favours some voting sections of the local people - I.e. older dog owners, over others. Do we really want a village for pensioners where children are an inconvenience?</p> <p>Also banning games from the green may have unintended consequences. The same individuals may still go to the green with fewer positive pastimes to occupy them. Alternatively we move the issue onto another green space e.g. the warren without tackling the underlying issue.</p> <p>How were we consulted on this? Perhaps none of the councillors have friends or family which use this space for ball games so the decision doesn't have any impact on them personally.</p> <p>One final point, if far fewer people are using the green this will reduce potential revenue for the businesses at this end of the village after all if you are playing games at the warren or Lashmar Road you are going buy provisions from One stop as it is far closer.</p> <p>Please let me know the background to this decision, how it was made and whether there is a planned review date or potential for appeal.</p> <p>Regards</p> <p>[sent council statement in response]</p>
c. 22/8/18	Person 7 In person	<p>Questioned the thinking behind the council's decision. Said many people in the village were talking about it and were getting together to all go and play ball games on the Village Green en masse.</p> <p>[explained background to council decision; said council was approachable to feedback from members of the public]</p>
25/8/18	Person 8 In person	<p>Supported the comments of spouse, Person 6 above. Both appeared to be understanding when the situation was explained to them.</p>
27/8/18	Person 9 Email 1	<p>This young person does not wish to be identified but does wish to express an opinion.</p> <p>In reference to issue no.48 of the East Preston Parish Council newsletter, in which the agreement to ban ball games on the green was published, I would like to say that this is taking away positive activities from the young generation of East Preston. This means that children will be bored which can lead to them "being disruptive and rude to the local residents".</p> <p>Us young residents are also part of the East Preston community so</p>

		<p>we should be able to enjoy the greenspace available in East Preston.</p> <p>Finally I should like to know how many residents have actually complained to the parish council about people being disruptive.</p>
27/8/18	Person 9 Email 2	<p>Dear Sir</p> <p>As the parent of a young person who frequently meets friends on the village green expressly to have a kick-about, I am appalled at the decision of the Amenities Sub-committee to ban ball games on the green and the Warren Recreation Ground. Stifling the young people in this way can only lead to anti-social behaviour in the future. When did the Amenities Sub-committee put this recommendation to the full council?</p> <p>I have closely question my son and his friends and have found that far from being guilty of "disruptive and rude behaviour", they are the ones who have been sworn at on a number of occasions by one resident in particular. Exactly how many residents have complained? Were they told as those who have complained about cricket balls around the Warren Recreation Ground were that when one buys a property adjacent to a village green, these are the types of activities one must expect to live with?</p> <p>This situation is historic as I have two older children who have also played there. The parish council, in fact, gave them a grant to form a 6-a-side team. Many residents commented to me that it was lovely to see young people active in these innocent pursuits. They were asked once by a resident to turn the direction of the game so that the ball would not enter Sea Road which is very busy. A resident in Crown Place also complained because a child went through the hedge to retrieve the ball. They apologised which was accepted and it never happened again.</p> <p>Do we have to be so curmudgeonly? Do we not also complain that this generation are on their devices too much and that this is unhealthy?</p> <p>Actually, I don't object to the running group using the space to meet for warming up and down exercises? In fact the group is only about 4 people. Telling them to go to the Lashmar Recreation Ground is not a solution and serves to only stifle initiative.</p> <p>Not in my name</p>
30/8/18	Person 10 Email	<p>Dear EP Parish Council,</p> <p>I am resident of East Preston and have the following questions:</p> <p>Village Green</p> <p>I note the new signs banning ball games and fitness exercises.</p> <p>May I please ask on what basis these measures have been taken?</p> <p>What process was followed?</p> <p>Were local residents consulted before the new rules were consulted, or was this a decision by the Parish Council alone?</p> <p>How will the new rules be enforced?</p> <p>Will the petanque court be affected, on the basis that it is also a ball game?</p> <p>Can I also ask if the new rules apply only to the Village Green, or also to the Cricket Ground?</p>

		[Note: in council terms author is a resident of Kingston; the author's email also included questions about Village Green car-park charges and the future of the South Strand toilet block]
3/9/18	Person 9 Council meeting	<p>Resident asked the following questions at Full Council meeting:</p> <p>What has been the nature of the anti-social behaviour experienced around the Village Green that had led to this decision?</p> <p>What damage had been done to the boules piste?</p> <p>What did the council see as the purpose of the Village Green?</p> <p>Has only one person complained only once?</p> <p>Was the outright ban on ball games the only solution the council could come up? The resident said she had some suggestions the council could consider if it wished.</p> <p>Who would police the ban?</p> <p>What sanction would be applied to any children found playing ball games on the Village Green?</p> <p>The article in the Summer 2018 Newsletter said the village's greenspaces were for the enjoyment of all residents - were young people not also residents of East Preston?</p> <p>When and how could this decision be overturned?</p> <p>[Several, but not all, answers were given by Cllr McElroy and the Clerk.]</p>

The committee discussed the situation and AGREED to continue to monitor the *No Ball Games* signage and public opinion expressed about the situation.

No Exercise Classes correspondence was covered later in the meeting (see Minute 659/18).

Mrs Khoo mentioned the youth workers at East Preston Youth Club had said they wanted to do more outreach work and were disappointed they had not been given the opportunity to interact with the large groups of young people playing on the Village Green. Such outreach work came at a cost and the council had never been in the position to second guess when the large groups were likely to be on the Village Green.

654/18 EAST PRESTON & KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL FOUNDATION – CCTV OFFER

The committee considered the following paper which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

AGENDA ITEM 11 - CCTV OFFER

The Village Hall Foundation has a CCTV system into which it is willing to incorporate an extra camera if the council would like a camera trained on the Sea Road toilet block. This would be at the council's expense. No idea of price has been given but if the Amenities Committee is interested we could approach the Village Hall Foundation for an up-to-date quotation which could then be discussed at the November Amenities meeting.

The Committee is asked to consider this offer by the Village Hall Management Committee and bearing in mind, it will need to be included in the 2019/20 budgeting.

The committee AGREED to get more information on the costs of providing an additional cctv camera so such costs could be built into the refurbishment costs.

(Mrs Lee left the meeting at this point.)

The committee considered the following paper which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

AGENDA ITEM 12 - FIVES COURT

The Clerk has asked the Committee to consider carrying out some repairs at council expense, regardless of the fact the Fives Court is covered by the lease to the Village Hall Foundation. The argument about payment will go on as the Village Hall Foundation has no use for the Fives Court and does not see why it should pay and whilst that argument continues, more damage is occurring. The Chairman of the Village Hall Foundation has provided me with a copy of a Minute from 9th November 1987 in which it states the council had agreed to take back responsibility for the Fives Court. I have been to the Record Office, trawled through council Minutes either side of that date, found nothing in the them to confirm this decision from the council’s side. Peter Vincent and Richard Standing have both asked the council to carry out some repairs now.

The Committee is asked to consider this request by the Clerk. There is currently £250 allowed in budget for the Fives Court.

The Clerk explained the background and stated the Village Hall Foundation committee had long felt the Fives Court added no value to its users. The Clerk had advised the Chairman of the Village Hall Foundation, Mr Melser, there was no corresponding Minute in Parish Council Minutes agreeing with the Village Hall Foundation Minute 39.1 of 9th November 1987. The Clerk had sent photographic evidence of this to Mr Melser and Cllr Toney on 2nd July.

Whilst there was no formal arrangement in place over handing the Fives Court responsibility back to the council, the committee AGREED to make repairs to the Fives Court, without prejudice.

656/18 TREE MATTERS

The committee considered the following paper which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

AGENDA ITEM 13 - TREE MATTERS

Following the Council’s Annual Tree Survey of trees on Council land, I have received two quotes back to carry out the tree work. One contractor, ADC Tree Team did not respond to my request for a quote since the beginning of July.

Sussex Tree Works	£5,330.00 + VAT
The Urban Surgeons	£3,275.00 + VAT

The Committee is asked to consider the quotes received and if satisfied, agree their preferred contractor to carry out the work.

The committee AGREED to accept the Urban Surgeons tender as it was the cheapest and, more importantly, the contractor had worked for the council before.

657/18 2018/19 BUDGETS

The committee reviewed the year-to-date budget sheets which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Best estimates suggested a small committee underspend for the current financial year.

658/18 2019/20 WORKING BUDGETS

The committee reviewed an initial draft budget for the year 2019/20 for both the Amenities Committee and the Warren Recreation Ground. This had been drafted by Mrs Khoo. Some amendments were proposed and these will be built into the second draft of the budgets which will be considered by the committee at its November meeting. Mrs Khoo will also walk through the budget sheets with Cllr McElroy.

The committee considered the following paper which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

AGENDA ITEM 16 - CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The following additional correspondence has been received:-

Email dated 11th August 2018

"I thought it must be 1 April then was simply perplexed regarding the banning of exercise groups on the rec - I can understand that it is not appropriate to play football there but surely it is the ideal place for other activities when the weather permits. I go to Tai Chi on Thursdays and we have had a few classes on the Rec when the village Hall was so stifling. We were in a corner and I do not believe we interfered with anyone else and cannot believe anyone could find our group intimidating. Should we not be encouraging such activities. ? Is a ban really necessary? Could you not permit some activities if a group applied for permission? It would be straightforward to put some rules in places as to which parts of the rec could be used.

Regards

JP"

The Clerk's response:

"Over the past eighteen months or so, a number of different people - all commercial activities - have come to the council to ask permission to run classes on either the Village Green or the Warren Recreation Ground. As far as I am aware, your Tai Chi class is not one of them.

The council fully understands the benefits to the population of exercise and the current trend for more and more exercise classes to be held outdoors.

The Village Green and Warren Recreation Ground are well-used small spaces and the council feels it is better to keep the spaces as available for as many people as possible rather than areas being taken over for short periods by commercial activities.

Yes, it might be possible to permit some activities if groups applied, but what criteria should be used as to who can and cannot have their classes there? How do you avoid accusations of one rule for one, another rule for others? Who decides how many classes permitted a week is the right number?

As I am sure you are aware there are also insurance liabilities and whilst classes were taking place without the council's permission, that could have been a very grey area.

I have not personally been involved in the discussions about exercise classes but I believe these to be the main points behind the council's decision. the council will monitor and review the decision made over the coming months and would not be afraid to reverse the decision if it felt that was the right thing to do."

JP's response:-

"Thanks for as always a comprehensive response.

I appreciate the difficulties you mention. I it worth my Tai Chi teacher contacting the PC? I know the answer will be no to usage at present but perhaps he should at least register an interest. He has to pay to use the Village Hall so I see no reason why he should not do the same to use the rec.

As you rightly say the recreation ground is for the enjoyment of all, I struggle to see why that should not include exercise classes providing they do not interfere with other users. I guess the problem I have with the decision is that it undermines the objective."

The committee AGREED no further action on *No Exercise Classes* signs at this time.

Nothing was raised.

The following items were to be referred to the next meeting in September:-

- (a) Bank at the junction of Lashmar Road and North Lane
- (b) Solar lighting for the MUGA
- (c) Revised 2019/20 working budgets for the Amenities Committee and the Warren Recreation Ground Trust

The meeting concluded at 20:21 hrs.

Chairman: *Cllr Rick McElroy* Date: **19th November 2018**