

STAINBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th August 2023
At Hood Green Pavilion commencing 6.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Mr S Lockwood-Dukes, Mrs A Riley, Mrs D Winder, Mr T Shaw, Mrs A Sturdy (Clerk)

In attendance: BMBC Cllrs Wilson and Barnard, 6 residents

EM1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest on items on the agenda: None from Parish Councillors. Apologies received from BMBC Cllr Burnett. No disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests were declared.

It was **resolved** that the meeting would be open to residents to discuss issues with regard to Hood Green Pocket Park.

EM2 Issues relating to Hood Green Pocket Park

Hedges and Vegetation

There was general discussion around the hedges in the park.

One resident had raised the issue of overgrown hedges to the south of the park. **Resolved:** this had been previously discussed and this section of hedge would be left until next year, when it would be reviewed.

The condition of the ash trees (which may have been self set) along from the Pavilion were then discussed. A resident whose property is abutting the trees offered to thin down the branches of the trees. **Resolved:** Cllr Shaw will arrange to meet with the resident to work on the trees and the Clerk will contact Twiggs to see if they can assist with the project and if a chipper is available, as we have “volunteers” to work with them.

The area which has recently been planted with saplings (to the right of the Pavilion) was discussed as to future plans for this area. A resident stated that after the sapling had been planted it was not maintained, as was thought to have been arranged. Ideas included : low maintenance shrubs, fruit trees.

It was agreed to look at the entire length of the banking to the right of the Pavilion, not piecemeal.

Resolved: The Clerk to contact Twiggs to visit site and advise on the banking , and suggest ideas.

It was stated and agreed that in **no circumstances** should any weedkiller be used in the Pocket Park except by authorised personnel with the express permission Stainborough Parish Council as it is an area of public access.

Cllrs Wilson and Barnard confirmed that the Parish Council could apply to Twiggs for assistance in work on the hedges, and could look to Ward Alliance application for shrubs. They also suggested fruit trees may be an option and/or an area of wildflowers (although there was perhaps an issue of suitability and maintenance for a wildflower scheme in the park).

A resident suggested a community garden with raised beds, perhaps involving children to allow them to understand the process of growing produce. Cllrs Wilson and Barnard noted that there could possibly be funding for fruit trees.

It was noted that there must be a group of volunteers willing to take this project on and maintain it, if that was agreed going forward as currently there is not a volunteer group within the village for such activities.

Play Equipment

The condition of the play equipment in the Recreation Ground was discussed. A resident whose family use the equipment felt that only the swings and slide are currently used, as some of the other equipment needs repair.

Estimates had already been obtained and there was discussion around application for funding from Ward Alliance and Section 106. Cllrs Barnard and Wilson suggested the Clerk contacted Tanya Dickinson (BMBC)

who would be able to advise regarding any consultation and possible funding pots which may be available, and to discuss options to include disabled access. **Resolved:** before further action is taken to repair any of the current playground equipment, there should be consultation with the parishioners which could take place via the Parish Newsletter. A suggestion box to allow residents to provide ideas would be considered.

A further issue was raised by a resident regarding the current location of the playground as part of that site does become waterlogged in periods. **Resolved:** as part of the project, following consultation with residents, the location of the play equipment could be assessed.

It was also noted that fruit trees and raised beds would benefit from the surfeit of water if located in that particular area.

A resident also noted that the bench in the playground area should be sited in the middle to allow those with children to easily see them in the playground.

There was discussion regarding access from a property directly onto the Recreation Ground. **Resolved:** It was agreed the Parish Council will provide a letter to the residents, Mr and Mrs Walker (present), to state that for a period to be agreed by the Parish Council Mr and Mrs Walker could access the recreation ground from the gate in their property boundary but this was not a legal access as the Parish Council legally own the land.

EM2 Finance

The invoice for payment was presented and approved for payment as due before the next Parish Council meeting:

First Impressions (Hanging Baskets)	£1,641.60
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EM3 Any Other Business

None

EM4 Venue, Date and Time of next meeting: The next meeting will be held at Hood Green Pavilion on **Thursday 31st August 2023** at 7.00pm.