

Leigh Playpark Committee Meeting at
The Old Stores, Leigh, 12th October 2016

Present: Mel Shine (MS) Chairperson, Julia Jepson (JJ) Secretary, Colin House (CH) Treasurer, Hannah Gillibrand (HG), Sarah Knowles (SK)
Apologies: Jill Taylor, Graham Bugler
Copy: Less Wallis

Welcome

MS welcomed all.

Matters arising from last meeting/Situation Report

JJ/MS updated the committee on progress re the Playpark move:

The Parish Council had a meeting on 20th September to discuss raising the precept to pay for 2 acres of the field by the side of the village hall. Owing to a misunderstanding, this had not been advertised in the Wriggle Valley news. So, JJ, MS and Emma Harris (Wriggle Valley news rep) had printed and distributed leaflets around the village, so that people would be able to find out the facts rather than rely on hearsay. The meeting had been well attended, with some opposition. The main issues of concern to residents were the location of playground (nuisance of children), the cost, and what to do with the rest of the land. Sandra Scutt (chair of the parish council) said that there were no plans drawn as yet as the village had not yet purchased the land. However, the rough plan was to re-site the existing playground at the far corner away from the houses. The remaining land would be left as an open space. JJ had spoken to say that we were actively fundraising and were hopeful that most of the cost would be covered.

General discussions followed:

SK suggested investigating a whether a trust would be a benefit. GB to ask Parish Council.

Involvement with other village groups such as Garden Club, Pogles Wood etc would be good when the time comes.

We need to make sure we purchase equipment that is suitable for a child with a disability.

Treasurer's Report

CH asked MS to sign the accounts. There had been a net deficit of £4.76 in the year. The combined cash balance is £1,899.21. No fundraising had been done

in the year as we are waiting to purchase the land. CH said we had lost a £500 grant due to not having a piece of land, but that he was confident that when we did, there were many opportunities available.

Mowing/Upkeep

Playpark rota: this was working well. HG thanked all who had mowed and in particular Craig Fox, who had had a hard shift. All agreed we should emphasise next year that if you can't do your turn, please let the committee know so we can shift people around. HG to do.

Operating instructions for the mower: some people did not know how to start the petrol mower. Need to check if these are there. HG to do.

Hedge Trimming: over the summer the brambles and weeds were getting out of control. Les had asked for the hedges to be cut, but as most of the committee were away, (or going away) it was not possible to arrange a working party. As it was urgent, JJ had emailed other committee members to ask for agreement that we pay for someone to do it. Emma Harris had volunteered her son, and in conjunction with Russell Jepson, Colin House and Emma Harris, the park was weeded and hedges cut.

All agreed it was a shame we had to pay for someone to do it, but that the summer holidays was the worst time to get everyone together. So suggested next year we make a date towards the middle of July before the schools break up (and after the birds had flown) to get the site in good order for the summer. JJ to do.

Weeds: these are still a problem. As it will be a while until the move happens, it was agreed to buy bark. We last bought 6mt³ of bark in March 2013, for £180 from Bulbarrow Timbers. MS to find an alternate supplier and arrange for purchase if around the same price. MS to do.

Health & Safety

Last inspection by Andy Goodfellow was 23rd October 2015, so needs to be done. JJ to do.

AOB

Luke Goddard had told JJ previously, that he wanted to help the committee, but that he was concerned about being personally liable for any accidents/claims. It was agreed that we all need confirmation that we are covered, and must ensure we comply with the insurance policy requirements. GB to ask Parish Council for copy of Policy.

Also, we must ensure the notice board wording will protect the Committee from any risk of a claim. JJ to do.

SK suggested creating a Facebook page to advertise events, news etc and suggested it being called "Leigh Life". All agreed it was a good idea, and we would tell Emma Harris once it was up and running to let the village know. SK to set up.

Next Meeting

7th February 2017 7.30 at Sherfield House