

## TWYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL RECREATION COMMITTEE

held on

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall Gilbert Room, Twyford

Members Present	Members Apologies/Absences	Attendees
Councillor Cornwall	Councillor Lawton	T Bronk - Clerk
Councillor Cook (from 9.00)		
Councillor Forder-Stent		
Councillor Sellars		
Councillor Wheeler		

### Business Transacted

<b>R45/16</b>	<b>Apologies for absence</b>
	Apologies for his absence were accepted from Cllr Lawton.
<b>R46/16</b>	<b>To receive declarations of interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct</b>
	<p>Councillor Cornwall declared a personal interest regarding the agenda item concerning Twyford Bulls</p> <p>Councillor Sellars declared a personal interest regarding the agenda item concerning Twyford Playgroup.</p>
<b>R47/16</b>	<b>Public participation - questions from members of the public</b>
	<p><u>Dog Fouling</u></p> <p>A member of public questioned the need for the Council's decision to exclude dogs from the Northfields play area and whether it was enforceable.</p> <p>It was explained that a byelaw is needed to enable the Council to enforce the ban but this will be applied for. The action to ban dogs was a necessary last resort. The area already requires dogs to be on a lead, additional laminated signs were put up last Autumn asking owners to 'pick-up', a Twyford Information Email had been issued asking people to report irresponsible dog owners, the dog warden had made visits. Visits by the dog warden this year reported continued problems with excrement near the play equipment. The Council, for health and safety reasons therefore took the decision that child safety must be put first.</p> <p>In response to a further question about whether certain owners could be permitted to walk their dogs, the response was that such an approach was not practical. Although a Councillor had suggested the possibility of taking DNA samples for enforcement of dog fouling laws it would be administratively burdensome for the Council to put in place an application and vetting procedure involving the taking of samples of DNA from permitted dogs and excrement to manage such arrangements.</p> <p>The location of the Red bin (for dog poo), just inside the play area was questioned. Councillor Wheeler responded that he had made enquiries about relocating it to the other</p>

	<p>side of the play area gate, but this remained subject to Winchester City Council consent to place it on their land. It was suggested that, if it is to be relocated, it would be better located at the end of Shipley Road.</p> <p>The Council was asked where dog walkers could go now Northfields was off limits. It was commented that grazing cattle at Berry Meadow had recently chased walkers. It was noted that dogs were not banned from Hunter Park, but concerns were expressed by another member of the public speaking for Twyford Cricket Club that Hunter Park too faced problems with dog fouling; which could affect hire of the football and cricket pitches. The Council noted that dog fouling is a concern of the Cricket Club and commented that more than £300 had recently been spent on additional signs and other publicity, and more dog warden visits have occurred. However, the Council responded that it was not minded to proceed with the request that CCTV be installed at Hunter Park because of the costs of installation and the monitoring of images to try to identify when and which dogs have fouled without owners picking up, and who its owners might be.</p> <p><u>Tree roots in Hunter Park</u></p> <p>A member of the public asked why their repeated requests had not resulted in improvements to the footpath at the southern edge of the park. The path was crossed by many tree roots causing a trip hazard and a heightened danger because part of the section of path was adjacent to a bank and hence a drop in height. The roots also impede use of pushchairs and mobility vehicles, besides making it unnecessarily difficult for persons with restricted mobility to use that part of the Park. It was asked why some shuttering could not be put along the path and be infilled to level the surface without harming the trees; when the cost of such works was reportedly in the region of only a few hundred pounds.</p> <p>The Chair responded that the previous requests had been considered; and the Clerk circulated, to the Councillors, the relevant minute of the last such occasion:</p> <p>R9.4/16: The meeting discussed a section of pathway near the football training area, a photograph of which had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting. It was acknowledged that the pathway is a means of access to and from the upper level of the park and that the roots of several large and well established trees have crossed the path for many years. Views were expressed that the character of the park is such that users would accept the impact of tree roots on pathways, and that to try to cover roots sufficiently to allow buggies to traverse them was inappropriate. It was acknowledged that this could deter some potential users from readily accessing the upper part of the park from its existing eastern approach but that access remained available from the western approach. Persons taking a circular walk could; and have been observed to use, a route below the training area.</p> <p>The Chair concluded by confirming that the request would be given further consideration.</p>
	<p>Due to the presence of a representative of Twyford Cricket Club, relevant Items on the Agenda were then brought forward and other matters raised were responded to.</p>
R50.4/16	<p>To note that Twyford Cricket Club will celebrate its 125-year anniversary and to agree the fee payable for the use of a cricket wicket and Pottinger Pavilion for that event.</p>

	<p><b>Resolved:</b> Twyford Parish Council is pleased to support the celebration of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Twyford Cricket Club and shall waive the fee normally payable by Twyford Cricket Club for its use of Hunter Park facilities on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2017.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Wheeler, seconded by Councillor Cornwall and carried unanimously.</p> <p>The Recreation Committee encourages Twyford residents to visit the Park and to join in with the celebrations.</p>
R50.2/16	<p>To consider the extent and nature of use of the Pottinger Pavilion when used in conjunction with hire of sports facilities and, in particular, whether any charge should be made for extended periods of its use for social rather than sporting purposes.</p>
	<p>It was noted that unlike some other regular users of football and cricket facilities, Twyford Cricket Club treat the Pavilion as a club house and sometimes use it for longer periods than other clubs. However, it was recognised that some members of Twyford Cricket Club also devote personal time and effort into maintaining the wicket to a higher standard than achievable in accordance with the terms of the contract with the Council, by the Groundsman.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> To allow Twyford Cricket Club to use the Pottinger Pavilion after Saturday cricket matches without any further charge to the £55.00 (plus VAT) for the 2017 season. This is exclusive to Twyford Cricket Club and does not extend to the Colts two hour Friday bookings or Colts Sunday morning bookings (because other village organisations seek to use Hunter Park on some Sunday afternoons).</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Wheeler, seconded by Councillor Cornwall and carried unanimously.</p>
R50.3/16	<p>To consider charging arrangements when facilities booked for use by Twyford Cricket Club 'Colts' are also used by other persons associated with that Cricket Club.</p>
	<p>Reference was made to a recent Facebook announcement, reproduced at Annex 1. The Committee noted that Colts training is charged £5.00 and considered whether extended use of the facilities should be subject to a higher fee. The representative present from Twyford Cricket Club requested that the Committee support the initiative and commented that if it is successful, the resultant matches would generate more income for maintenance of the wicket.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> 'Womens cricket' at Twyford Cricket Club (through the Hampshire Cricket Board (HCB) W10 initiative) when carried out during the 2017 Friday Colts bookings shall not incur any additional fees for its use of Hunter Park facilities.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Wheeler, seconded by Councillor Cornwall and carried unanimously.</p>
R50.14/16	<p>To consider a request by Twyford Cricket Club to donate funds to the Parish Council for the purchase of one or two memorial benches and to decide where they would be sited.</p>
	<p>The representative from Twyford Cricket Club explained that a collection for a memorial bench had not yet occurred, but that it was hoped sufficient funds would be raised to be able to donate money to the Council to enable two benches to be purchased to</p>

	<p>commemorate recently deceased persons formerly associated with the Club. Proposals for appropriate plaques would be agreed with the Council and subsequently fixed to the benches.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the proposal and agreed to the purchase by the Council of one or more benches if a donation of a sufficient sum of money was made to the Council for that purpose. The benches would be located between the Pavilion and the play area to overlook the cricket pitch.</p>
R50.7/16	<p>To agree any steps, further to a request from the Groundsman to prevent damage, that signs be erected requesting dog owners to stop their dogs running on the football and cricket areas when the ground is soft.</p>
	<p>The Committee, having already noted that dog fouling in Hunter Park is a concern of Twyford Cricket Club; concluded that further signs about where dogs can play would detract from those recently purchased to control the problem of dog fouling.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b> Signs asking dog owners to keep their pets off the playing areas may be reconsidered in due course, but in the first instance messages shall be put on Facebook and the Twyford Information Email asking dog owners not to allow their dogs to run on the cricket (or football) areas when the ground is soft, in order to prevent damage to the playing surface.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Cornwall, seconded by Councillor Wheeler and carried unanimously.</p> <p><u>Action</u> - Clerk to issue a robust statement about irresponsible dog walkers</p>
R50.9/16	<p>To consider action taken to prevent dog fouling at Hunter Park and to agree any further action to be taken (including any related expenditure approval).</p>
	<p>It was noted that a number of signs to deter dog fouling had been purchased and located around Hunter Park (as well as at Northfields) and four further signs had been delivered from Keep Britain Tidy, (to complete the order for 10).</p> <p><u>Action</u> – The Clerk is to provide the Groundsman with the four signs and ask that they be erected in Hunter Park where the Groundsman thinks they are most needed.</p>
R50.13/16	<p>To note that two tables were stolen from the Pavilion during the year and to consider whether to purchase any new tables.</p>
	<p>It was noted that three tables are insufficient for some users of the Community room. Following confirmation from the Clerk that all tables loaned to the Graze Festival had been returned and that a Twyford Information Email request had not resulted in the return of any borrowed tables it was agreed that two be purchased.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> Two tables, comparable to those already owned, and for which a price of under £250 had been confirmed, shall be purchased for the Pottinger Pavilion.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Wheeler seconded by councillor Cornwall and carried unanimously.</p> <p><u>Action</u> – Clerk to buy two tables for the Pottinger Pavilion and to mark them accordingly.</p>

	<p>It was noted that Twyford Cricket Club had requested in September that a tree (encroaching over the cricket outfield) be cut back. The Representative for Twyford Cricket Club was informed that the reduction had not yet occurred. The representative expressed concern that children playing on the boughs of the tree could be hurt and asked that the tree be cut back before the cricket season.</p>
	<p>The representative of Twyford Cricket Club noted that barrier fencing had been erected around items of equipment owned by Twyford Parish Council but used by the contracted Groundsman; and questioned its cost and whether it was practical for the equipment to be accessed. Provision of tarpaulins to cover the equipment e.g. gang mover was proposed as a more appropriate alternative.</p> <p>The Clerk informed the representative that he had raised concerns about the safety of Park users with the Groundsman, who then confirmed that children had been seen playing on and around the equipment. The Clerk had therefore promptly bought the fencing for £21.00 and put it around the equipment as an immediate but temporary solution. The Council would be at serious financial risk if personal injury on exposed blades had not been prevented. The Council's insurers may not accept liability in such circumstances. Putting the equipment in a more confined area and using Harris fencing had been suggested by the Clerk as a more permanent solution.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to consider whether use of tarpaulins to cover Park equipment and so deter children paying on it and being injured by it was an acceptable alternative.</p>
	<p>The representative of Twyford Cricket Club commented that the terms and conditions for use of the Pavilion require the removal of food waste from within the Pavilion and that it should be placed in the Green bins at Hunter Park or taken home. He questioned the wisdom of using external bins that may be accessed by foxes or other vermin.</p> <p>The Committee confirmed that the two green waste bins available near the Pavilion are fixed to posts and so cannot be knocked over. It also confirmed that all users of the Pavilion are required by the booking terms and conditions to remove food waste including empty bottles (put in the internal bins during the permitted use of the Pavilion) to the external green bins. It was noted, however, that the waste bin in front of the Pavilion was not always emptied weekly, as required by the grounds maintenance contract; and confirmed steps will be taken to try to ensure this occurs throughout the 2017 season.</p>
	<p>The representative of Twyford Cricket Club advised that on being made aware that the Council was preparing to seek tenders for the maintenance of Hunter Park, he had sent the Clerk a schedule of steps that might be taken to ensure the Cricket Square is maintained to a high standard. He added that the timing of the commencement of any new contract was critical to ensure proper attention is given to the cricket square. He concluded by praising the work of the current Groundsman adding that the Hunter Park cricket pitch was of a very high standard.</p> <p>The Recreation Committee noted the suggestions submitted to the Clerk (Annex 3) for the maintenance of a good wicket and the importance of the timing of the commencement of the new contract for the maintenance of open spaces in Twyford, including Hunter Park.</p>

	<p>The Agenda provides for consideration of subcommittee of the Recreation Committee to review the draft contract terms which provide options of different levels of maintenance so that tenderers can provide costs for each option. The Committee can then decide which tender and level of care it wishes to pay for. The timing of the commencement of the contract is currently under review because of the impact of EU legislation that sets a threshold for contract values and tendering requirements.</p> <p>There being no other questions or items relevant to Twyford Cricket Club, the meeting then turned to the order of the published agenda.</p>
<b>R48/16</b>	<b>To approve and sign-off, as a true record, the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017</b>
	<p>The previously circulated minutes of the Recreation Committee meeting dated 12th January 2017 were considered.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> "The Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017 are approved as an accurate record of the meeting".</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Wheeler, seconded by Cllr Sellars and carried unanimously.</p>
<b>R49/16</b>	<b>Update on matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017</b>
	<p>The Committee discussed each brought forward item listed in the table at Annex 2. Updates have been added as part of the minutes, where those actions are not covered by an agenda item.</p>
<b>R50/16</b>	<b>Hunter Park</b>
R50.1/16	To consider correspondence received from the Kindling Forest School and to agree the fees for its use of the Pottinger Pavilion since September 2016.
	<p>The Committee noted comments about the nature of Kindling Forest School's use of the Pavilion facilities: approximately 30 minutes at the start of a Kindling Forest session (in order to access equipment stored in the Pavilion), and 60 to 90 minutes at the end of a session to pack away and to use the kitchen for washing items. In addition, the likelihood of two sessions per each half term being held in the Community Room due to inclement weather. Prior to September a Referee changing room was used for storage, but from that date a smaller cupboard in the Home changing room was made available.</p> <p>The Council had raised an invoice for every Kindling Forest School session of use, at the rate of £10.00 per hour for two hours of use. No additional charge was made for the occasional sessions in the Community room and use of storage. Reference was made in January 2017 minutes to a daily charge of £20.00.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the Kindling Forest School had not anticipated being charged for every session of use during the Autumn, rather than only two sessions per week. The Committee d that when this came to light, that Kindling Forest School ceased to use the Pavilion (primarily the Kitchen) on three days and that it made a payment for the Autumn term based on two Kindergarten sessions per week.</p>

	<p>The Committee discussed whether to accept the payment received as 'full settlement' for the use by Kindling Forest School of Hunter Park facilities during the Autumn term; and to adopt the same basis for charging for the period in January up to the cessation of the Mini Kindling sessions.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> Twyford Parish Council shall accept the payment of £460 received in January 2017 as 'full settlement' for the use by Kindling Forest School of Hunter Park facilities during the Autumn term; and to adopt the same basis for charging for the period in January up to the cessation of the Mini Kindling sessions.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Wheeler, seconded by Councillor Sellars and carried unanimously.</p> <p><u>Action</u> - the Clerk is to request that the Kindling Forest School notify the Clerk in advance of every date Kindling Forest School propose to use Hunter Park facilities and make it aware that the Council propose to charge £10.00 per hour (or part thereof) for such use, unless an alternative fee arrangement is confirmed in writing.</p>
R50.5/16	<p>To agree the fee payable by the Twyford Play Group for hire of Hunter Park for its Circus event on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June and to establish a Sub-Committee of Councillors to oversee arrangements for the event.</p>
	<p>There was a short discussion about the success of the oversight and charging arrangements adopted for the 2016 fireworks event at Hunter Park.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> A sub-committee of Councillors, Cornwall, Wheeler and Sellars shall handle liaison with Twyford Playgroup including review of its risk assessment, the detailed oversight of its arrangements for the event and to determine an appropriate fee.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Cornwall, seconded by Councillor Wheeler and carried unanimously.</p>
R50.6/16	<p>To note correspondence sent to Twyford Bulls football and to agree arrangements for oversight of its use of Hunter Park facilities and payment for them.</p>
	<p>It was noted that several email, hard copies and texts had been sent to persons acting for the Twyford Bulls football club, seeking payment of fees for the Autumn term and requesting the dates of bookings for the Spring Term. Fees were paid after a Court Claim was about to be made but no dates of use for the Spring Term had been received despite several requests including a meeting with one of the club officials.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> Twyford Bulls Football Club shall be prohibited from running training sessions at Hunter Park with effect from 11 March unless the requested dates of use during the Spring Term are received on 10<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Wheeler, seconded by Councillor Sellars and carried unanimously.</p>
R50.8/16	<p>To consider and agree arrangements for maintaining the grassed area to the south of the football pitch (the area including the small pitch), including the bank up to it.</p>
	<p>The Clerk reported that prior to the meeting an email had been received from the Groundsman. It clarified an earlier statement and confirmed: "I can and do keep it the same as all the other grass areas when the weather allows me to get the gang mower up there to do the job." The quote obtained to enable the Committee to consider using another contractor for cutting the grassed area to the south of the football pitch (and adjusting</p>

	<p>payment to the current groundsman accordingly) was therefore not given further discussion.</p> <p><u>Action</u> – The Clerk is to liaise with the Groundsman to establish regular meetings (as specified by the existing contract) between the Groundsman, a Councillor and the Clerk to discuss any concerns of or problems faced by the Groundsman and to raise any health and safety and quality control concerns of the Council.</p> <p>With regards the bank, the Groundsman had stated: “The bank is left as it is, as requested by residents as a wild life bank as agreed after 1 year of having the contract. If you need this cutting let me know and I will deal with it.”</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> Twyford Parish Council asks that the Groundsman clear of brambles / cut the bank between the football pitch and the grassed area to the south Proposed by Councillor Sellars seconded by Councillor Wheeler and carried unanimously.</p>
R50.8/16	<p>To consider a request to cover tree roots on the path from the grassed area by the small football pitch to the play area, to reduce the trip hazard for disabled persons walking around the edge of the Park.</p>
	<p>Having noted the comments made earlier (when the meeting was adjourned for questions from the public) it was agreed that the request should be explored further and a formal response made.</p> <p><u>Action</u> – Councillor Cook is to view the relevant area of the Park, discuss the suggested remedy and associated costs and make a recommendation to the Full Council’s March meeting.</p>
R50.10/16	<p>To agree action to be taken to resolve problems involving the Play Area entry gate.</p>
	<p>It was noted that the timed movement of the gate cannot be calibrated because the post to which the gate is fixed is not vertical.</p> <p><u>Action</u> Councillor Sellars is to inspect the gate to determine whether the post can readily be made vertical and to provide a quote for such work if R.W.S garden Services wishes to be considered to carry out the works.</p>
R50.11/16	<p>To consider and agree action to remedy rain water problems affecting the Pavilion.</p>
	<p>It was noted that Councillor Sellars had previously attempted to remedy the problem of water not draining sufficiently promptly, causing it to fill the downpipe and spill over the guttering.</p> <p><u>Action</u> Councillor Sellars will look again at the site, liaise with the Groundsman and make a recommendation to remedy the problem if it cannot be readily resolved by voluntary action.</p>
R50.12/16	<p>To consider whether to retain the flood lights near the Pavilion and to replace the existing coin meter for their power supply.</p>
	<p>Councillor Wheeler reported that he had discussed the possibility of connecting the floodlights to the Pavilion’s other electricity supply (i.e. not via the coin meter).</p>

	<p>Councillors agreed to decide whether to carry out this change after further consideration of whether the lights are needed and hearing proposals from British Gas over replacement of the coin meter.</p> <p><u>Action</u> Clerk to contact British Gas to ascertain what will happen to the existing meter before October 2017 (when £coins are withdrawn)</p>
<b>51/16</b>	<p><b>To approve the Playground Inspection arrangements for 2017 for Hunter Park, Northfields and potentially Ballard Close</b></p>
	<p>Following discussion about the scheme offered by Winchester City Council earlier in the year the following resolution was made:</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> Twyford Parish Council shall appoint Nick Adams for the Hunter Park and Northfields annual play area inspections. The same level of service, culminating in a full written report shall be requested.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Wheeler, seconded by Councillor Cornwall and carried unanimously.</p> <p>It is customary for Twyford Parish Council to arrange the inspection for Ballard Close at the same time.</p> <p><u>Action</u> – The Clerk shall liaise with the Ballard Close Management Committee to see if it would like the Council to arrange their 2017 inspection and invoice the Ballard Close Management Committee for its proportion of the costs incurred on the Ballard Close inspection (which will include the element of VAT on those services).</p> <p>This year the Parish Council met the cost and treated the costs as a grant to the Ballard Close Management Committee.</p>
<b>R52/16</b>	<p><b>To note the preparation of the Hunter Park and other Open Spaces Maintenance tender document and to agree a Sub Committee to finalise its terms and oversee the tender arrangements</b></p>
	<p>The Committee noted that a draft contract had been circulated; the existing contract having been reviewed and the timing and frequency of various tasks clarified. A key change is that the tender will seek unit costs for specific activities, enabling the Council to assess the cost impact of requiring higher levels of service, for example, whether grass cutting during the growing season should be weekly or fortnightly, and how much should be spent on maintaining the cricket square.</p> <p>It was agreed that a sub-committee of Councillor Cornwall, Councillor Wheeler and Councillor Sellars would review the draft in detail.</p> <p>It was noted that the current contract was scheduled to cease on 31 March 2017 (except for two areas of maintenance subsequently removed from the contract and awarded to another contractor until 31 March 2019). Due to delay in preparing a new contract for tender the Groundsman had been asked and agreed to an extension to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017. The ability (under current tendering legislation) of the Council to extend the contract for that period is currently being confirmed.</p>
<b>R53/16</b>	<p><b>Northfields Play Area</b></p>

R53.1/16	To consider removal of the Red dog poo bin from the play area and where it should be relocated.
	<p>It was noted that earlier in the meeting Councillor Wheeler had reported he had made enquiries about relocating the Northfields red bin to the other side of the play area gate, but this remained subject to Winchester City Council consent to place it on their land. A suggestion that, if it is to be relocated, it would be better located at the end of Shipley Road had been made.</p> <p><u>Action</u> Councillor Wheeler to investigate the placing of the red bin at the end of Shipley Road</p>
R53.2/16	To note the status of the removed 'Spinner' and to agree any action to be taken for its replacement.
	<p>It was noted that the base of the old Spinner has not yet been removed. Councillor Sellars reported that he had sought but not yet received a quote for a replacement item and that he was also seeking a quote for restoration of the soft safety surface around the item.</p> <p><u>Action</u> – Councillor Sellars to obtain quotes for a replacement item and restoration of the safety surface.</p>
<b>R54/16</b>	<b>Hunter Park Allotment Gardens</b>
R54.1/16	To note the issue of the new Hunter Park Allotment Garden Tenancy Agreement, comments received and responses to date; and to agree any further action to ensure all plots have a tenancy agreement in place.
	<p>It was reported that 13 signed tenancy agreements had so far been returned to the Clerk, 16 remain outstanding. It was noted that tenancies under the existing tenancy agreement expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March. An email from one plot holder was noted. It referred to the use of a witness for signing by the tenant and that this was unnecessary. The Clerk reported that the use of a witness had been discussed with the Hampshire Association of Local Councils, which issued the template; and they advised to retain witnesses. It was agreed that the Clerk's signature on behalf of the Council would therefore also be witnessed. A comment that the waiting list was not administered correctly had also been made in the same email. Details had been requested but none received. In the absence of any indication of the nature of the alleged problem it was agreed that the next available plot should be issued to the first name on the current list.</p>
R54.2/16	To agree the date for a periodic meeting of the Council with members of the Allotment Tenants Association.
	<p>It was reported that the Representative from the Allotment Holders Association, David Lea, had suggested a meeting before the start of the next financial year and that he proposed Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> A meeting of the tenants of Hunter Park allotment gardens (and persons on the</p>

	<p>waiting list) with Council representatives shall be called for Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March commencing at 7.00pm in the Pottinger Pavilion at Hunter Park.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Cornwall seconded by Councillor Wheeler and carried unanimously.</p> <p><u>Action</u> – Councillor Cornwall, Councillor Wheeler and the Clerk to attend.</p>
R54.3/16	<p>To consider whether to divide a surrendered plot of approximately 182 sq.m. into two plots of approximately 91 sq. m.</p>
	<p>It was noted that 11 of the 29 plots are less than 91 square metres and 14 are less than 100, only two plots exceed 182. The Committee considered the importance of retaining some larger plots. In response to how larger plots should be offered it was agreed that any plot that becomes available must be offered to the person at the top of the waiting list, that person could decline any plot in order to remain at the top of the list until an acceptable plot does become available.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> Plot 19 shall remain at 182.4 square metres and be offered to the first applicant on the waiting list.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Cornwall seconded by Councillor Wheeler and carried unanimously.</p>
R54.4/16	<p>To note the status of the current waiting list for allotments.</p>
	<p>It was noted that there are currently nine eligible applicants on the waiting list, the top two joined the list in April 2016.</p> <p>In the absence of any response to the Clerk about inaccuracies in the waiting list it (referred to above) it was noted that Plot 19 would be offered to the person recorded as first on the current list (based on the date of their emailed request to be added to the list).</p>
<b>R55/16</b>	<p><b>To note, for information only, significant communications on matters that are not included elsewhere on the Agenda</b></p>
	<p>No other matters were raised.</p>
<b>R56/16</b>	<p><b>To agree the date of the next meeting as 25<sup>th</sup> May and agree any items for that agenda</b></p>
	<p>The next meeting of the Committee was confirmed as 25<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 in the Pottinger Pavilion.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 10.15pm.</p>

Together we are Twyford - Facebook page

Towards the end of last year, I did a quick email around a few of the group to see who would be interested in starting a 'womens cricket' at Twyford Cricket Club through the Hampshire Cricket Board (HCB) W10 initiative.

There were enough 'yes' and 'possibly' responses in the email replies that I registered Twyford as interested. At the beginning of February, I went to a meeting at the Ageas Bowl to understand more about the initiative, what it is, what we get out of it, and what we need to do. I've tried to summarise W10, what it is ... what it involves etc below ..and there's a PDF attached which will also show you what it's all about. The W10 initiative was started in Hampshire in 2015 with 8 teams, those 8 teams continued in 2016 and now, its looking like there may be up to 17 teams in the W10 initiative in Hampshire in 2017..... says they must be doing something right !

So to summarise:

- i) W10 is 10 weeks of fast, fun & free coaching for women and girls 14+ who are new to the game
- ii) the cricket kit will be provided by HCB; it's very similar to the kit used for KwikCricket
- iii) There will be 10 weeks of regular training on a Friday evening at Hunter Park when the colts practice. This may be 6 - 7 with time to watch the kids training from 7 - 8 whilst having a few refreshments; or, training 6 - 8. Depends pretty much down to us.
- iv) Participants will play in two 10 a side, 10 over, pairs softball competition and a finals day. (These will be scheduled for a weekend day to get those teams participating in the W10 initiative to get together and have a few matches.) From the meeting at the Ageasbowl it was quite clear that there are some teams that are in the W10 for fun ... and there are a few who show a slight tendency to get competitive. Whatever peoples' focus, the main aim is to have some fun.

What do we need to do next?

A) Confirm to Hampshire Cricket Board by March 6th if we want to commit to the initiative. HCB will supply a county coach to provide the training for the 10 weeks. Ideally, Twyford Cricket Club would also supply a coach to train alongside the Hampshire Coach to continue training with the W10 team in 2018. HCB will also supply the kit (bats, stumps and cricket balls.) Each player will need to buy a cricket top from the serious cricket website (more details will be provided when we confirm joining - or not). HCB have arranged a discount with Serious Cricket where the tops should cost around £7 or £8 per top so not a huge investment required by those wanting to join W10.

B) Twyford Cricket Coach - see if there's anyone who would want to coach the W10 team alongside the Hampshire coach. This will enable continuation of W10 at Twyford in 2018; should we want too.

C) Volunteer to help coordinate W10 - Once registration with HCB is complete, I don't anticipate this being an onerous task. Just making sure we know who turns up each week, making sure the kit bag is there ... and helping to coordinate out attendance at the two cricket 'festivals'. I was hoping I could contain this within the Club Secretary role but with all that is going on, that isn't going to be possible. I've been to get this email sent since the beginning of Feb !!!! (Sorry !)

What do I need you to do by Friday 3rd March?

1. Let me know if you're interested. Please send me the following details : name and email address to [katebittles@gmail.com](mailto:katebittles@gmail.com)
2. If you know anyone who would be interested in assisting the Hampshire coach, coach Twyford W10's.
3. Please let me know if you can coordinate this.
4. Spread the word around the Twyford and nearby villages. The more the merrier - so long as we're able to get volunteer(s) for (3)

Looking forward to hearing back from you

Regards

Kate (on behalf of Twyford Cricket Club)

Actions Carried Forward from the Recreation Committee Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Ref	Owner	Action to be taken	Target Date	Action Taken	Status as at 3 <sup>rd</sup> March
R29/16	Clerk	Preparation of a draft contract for tenders during 2017.	31 Dec. <i>9<sup>th</sup> Mar.</i>	Tender document work is ongoing	<i>Agenda Item</i> - <i>Ongoing</i>
R31/16	Clerk	Obtain formal recommendations and if necessary quotes to resolve the current problem with the gate into the Hunter Park play area.	31 Dec.  <i>31 Mar</i>	Commenced but ongoing.  <i>Revised Target date 31 March</i>	<i>Agenda Item</i> - <i>Ongoing</i>
R31/16	[Clerk] Cllr Sellars	Arrange for cutting of Hunter Park trees and hedges by the play area and potentially by the cricket outfield southern boundary.	31 Dec.  <i>30 Apr</i>	One quote obtained. Work delayed due to need for further quotes and existence of TPO  <i>Revised target date 30 April</i>	Ongoing
The Committee noted that attendance of the Clerk or a Councillor at Hunter Park is needed to enable tree surgeons to establish what work is required. Councillor Sellars agreed to look at the relevant trees and liaise with further tree surgeons to obtain quotes to progress with the desired reduction.					
42.1/16	Committee	Recreation Committee members are to consider what type and size of potential storage shed might be built for users of Hunter Park, to enable a formal proposal to be considered.	9 March 2017		Closed
The Committee noted that Kindling Forest School had reduced its use of Hunter Park and that in the absence of a demonstrable need for additional storage facilities the action should be closed					
42.2/16	Clerk	Obtain appropriate signs to prevent and encourage reporting of dog fouling and arrange for them to be installed.	31 Mar.	Signs purchased and erected by the Clerk in Northfields and Hunter Park.  4 signs remain to be delivered and erected	<i>Agenda item</i> - <i>Ongoing</i>
42.3/16	Cllr Cornwall	Ascertain what procedures must be followed to obtain authority to prohibit dogs from Northfields and to enforce that prohibition.	31 Jan.	Confirmed a Byelaw must be sought	
	Clerk	Apply for a Byelaw	31 May	To be commenced	Ongoing
42.5	Clerk	Revise existing Hunter Park sign to refer to no flying of drones	30 Apr		Ongoing

42.6/16	Cllr Sellars	Investigate further the cost of an alternative item of equipment to replace the Spinner and also the practicality of removal of the Spinner in the meantime.	31 Mar		Ongoing
42.7/16	[Clerk] Cllr Sellars	Obtain additional quotes for Hunter Park tree works and seek consent to cut back a tree subject to a tree preservation order	31 Mar		Ongoing
42.8/16	Clerk	Review website text about the potential uses of Hunter Park.	31 Mar		Closed
43.1/16	Clerk	Issue new agreements in time for the start of the new tenancy period commencing on 1st April 2017	31 Jan	Agreements issued. Outstanding agreements to be chased after 9 Mar.	Ongoing
44/16	Clerk	Liaise with the Groundsman to clarify the schedule for works required under the contract for grounds maintenance and to ensure all equipment is stored safely.	31 Jan	Discussion occurred, some periodic works have since been undertaken.  Temporary barrier fencing was put up by the Clerk to screen off equipment.  Permanent storage arrangements remain to be identified and implemented	Ongoing



# The Hampshire Cricket League

## Ground Tips

### Ground Tips – September

As soon as the season is completed the most essential work on the square must be carried out before the cold nights set in to ensure a good surface to start next season with.

Firstly, cut the entire square as short as possible without scalping the surface. The ideal height is the same height as a prepared pitch. Thoroughly scarify the square as often as necessary, to remove all thatch present. The first passes should be in the line of play and any further passes should be at a slight angle to the first run. Do not scarify at right angles to the first passes as this could create small squares that may dry and break up during next season. Use the collecting box on the scarifying machine to collect most of the debris and then finish off with brush attachment if available. If a box or brush is not available then used a boxed mower to collect as much debris as possible.

Next aerate the square with a vertical action spiker ideally with 4 inch long and ½ thick tines at 2-inch centres to relieve compaction caused by rolling. For this operation ensure that the ground is soft enough for the tines to enter the soil without lifting the surface. If it is difficult for the tine to reach the full depth then extra aeration can be carried out at a later date.

The next operation is over-seeding. To do this thoroughly, prick the surface of the square with a sarel roller, or similar spiked roller, to create a mass of shallow holes. Over-sow with a 100% dwarf ryegrass seed mixture at a rate of 4 to 5 kg per pitch. Brush the square in all directions to ensure that the seed drops into the holes provide earlier.

Apply an Autumn/Winter fertiliser that is low in Nitrogen and higher in Phosphate and Potash at the rate as recommended by the manufacturer.

Now the top dressing should be applied. The clay content in the dressing should depend on the standard of cricket played on the pitch. At club level the minimum of clay required is 25% rising to at

least 28% for top club cricket. The top dressing must be dry when applied and well worked into the surface with a drag mat or large brush.

If the square is uneven, a method to create better levels is to use a large lute or aluminium ladder and drag it across the line of play. This operation will highlight the low areas where extra dressing can be applied.

### **Ground Tips – October**

If the end of season work was carried out in September, by the middle of October there should be a good showing of new grasses.

If there are some weak areas on the square, over seed these areas to ensure good grass cover for next year.

When the new grass has attained the height of approximately 1½ inches, tip the grass with preferably a rotary mower with a collection box and reduce the height to 1 inch. If possible, retain this height throughout the Winter.

If deep aeration has not been completed, carry it out by the end of this month or the beginning of November, when there is sufficient moisture in the soil to ensure maximum penetration. Remember that the aeration should be carried out with vertical action spiker with 4-inch long pencil tines at 2-inch centres.

If there is excessive worm activity on the square, treat immediately, otherwise the casts will create a muddy mess which are breeding grounds for disease and weeds. This operation should be carried out by a qualified person.

Throughout the winter months, the square should be brushed as often as possible to disperse any worm casts and fungal spores if present. If there is sign of disease at any time then this should be treated by a qualified operator immediately.

Now is a good time to ensure that the sightscreens are securely put away to avoid damage from the winter winds, and start looking at the machinery for routine maintenance.

## **Ground Tips – November**

If very wet weather has prevented the autumn renovation programme, then it is too late and the work will need to be carried out in the spring.

If the square is very wet or frosty the best advice is keep off. During this month deep aeration can be carried out if conditions allow and you should use a spiker with a vertical action and 4-inch pencil tines at 2-inch centres.

Continue to brush or switch the square when possible to disperse any fungal spores present to reduce the risk of disease this will also remove the dew prior to any mowing. If mowing is possible remember to cut no shorter than 1 inch.

Other jobs for the month, if not already done, is to check sightscreens that they are in a safe position for the winter and grease the wheels. Clean and arrange for all machinery and equipment to be repaired and serviced.

## **Ground Tips – December**

Very little to do this month, except to continue brushing the square and if necessary, mowing the square and at no less than 1-inch. But if the square is too wet or frosty, then keep off.

A reminder to arrange for machinery to be repaired and serviced if not already done so.

## **Ground Tips – January**

Not a lot to do this month. Basically keep off the square if very wet or frosty. During mild conditions, brush square as often as possible to remove dew, this will disperse any fungal spores present and worm casts. Continually inspect for disease and damage on the square.

Make sure the machinery has been serviced. If not, do it NOW, as next month preparations for the coming season could begin, if weather conditions allow. Check the Pavilion for burst pipes after any cold weather.

## **Ground Tips – February**

This month, continuing brushing square as often as possible. At this time of year, on some cricket squares, the grass starts to lose its colour, taking on a yellowing effect.

This can be overcome by a light application of Autumn / Winter fertiliser, preferably with a content of Iron and this will soon bring the colour back and harden the grass plants for the Spring rolling regime, which should commence shortly.

If the weather is mild and the grass is growing, start mowing to keep the growth under control. Maintain the square at a height of no more than 1 inch (2.5 cm), initially, but gradually reduce the height to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch, but before any mowing inspect the square for worm casts and if there are any present be sure to disperse them prior to cutting.

If there is excessive worm activity on your square, consider having the square treated to overcome the problem, but any remedial action should be carried out by a Qualified Operator.

A light scarification of the square is a good idea at this time of year to remove any dead fibre and moss, but do not disturb the surface of the soil. Remove all debris from the square and if the scarifier does not have a box attachment, collect it with a mower.

At the end of the month, if conditions allow, rolling should commence, starting with a light roller or the mower with the blades disconnected. At this stage roll diagonally and across the line of play only.

Always remember that prior to any mowing or rolling, disperse any worm casts, otherwise bare patches are created which become ideal breeding ground for disease and weeds.

### **Ground Tips – March**

If due to wet conditions, no rolling could be carried out in February, begin the rolling regime now.

Commence with a light roller or heavy mower with the blades disconnected, and initially across the line of play and diagonally only. Gradually increase the weight of the roller over the next few weeks to begin consolidating the surface.

Continue regular cutting at the winter height gradually reducing to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch by the end of the month.

If an application of Autumn/Winter fertiliser has not yet been applied, do it out now.

If there are any bare areas on the square especially at pitch ends that have not fully recovered after the autumn renovation, reseeded and level in an attempt to increase the grass coverage. Use germination sheets or hessian sheeting to cover the newly sown areas, to assist in the germination process.

Mowing the outfield should commence as soon as conditions permit, initially, just topping the grass at approximately 1 inch and then gradually lowering the height to as low as the contours of the field will allow for the start of the season.

### **Ground Tips – April**

The rolling regime should be at the stage when the heavy roller is being used. Continue rolling in all directions except for in the line of play until the time arrives to prepare the pitch for the first match.

When rolling during pitch preparation, roll only in the direction of line of play and keep rolling in only in this direction for the remainder of the season.

Lightly scarify the square being careful not to disturb the surface. This is to lift any lateral grasses and thatch accumulated over the winter months. Cut the square to remove any debris. A light scarification of the square should be carried out at least once a month during the playing season.

By the end of the month consider a weed and feed programme. If there are excessive weeds present, the entire square should be treated with a selective weedkiller and by an authorised operator.

If there are only a few weeds present these can be treated individually with a proprietary selective weed gun spray. At this time apply a Spring and Summer fertiliser as per the manufacturers instructions.

During the month the cricket table should be squared off and mark out the positions of each pitch on the square and identify where the centre stumps will be situated.

Thoughts should now be on preparation of the first pitch of the season. This should commence ideally about 10 days before the game, but if this is not possible, certainly not less than 5 days. Firstly scarify the pitch by raking and/or brushing, without disturbing the surface, to lift the grasses and gradually reduce the height of cut to the desired length for the match to be played on.

Be careful not to cut too short so that the mower blades scalp the surface. If the pre-season rolling has been carried out correctly, the pitch should only need rolling for one half to an hour every other day up to and the morning of the match.

Maintain the height of the grass on the square at approx ½ inch throughout the season, but some times depending on the growth it may require two cuts a week.

## **Ground Tips – May**

The rolling regime should continue from April. Use the heavy roller as much as possible, rolling in all directions when the surface is dry. If bad weather means that the first game is played before all the heavy rolling has been completed, then continue rolling during normal during pitch preparation, but now only in the line of play.

If the weed and feed programme suggested for April, could also not be carried out, then complete it in early May.

Once cricket has started, the pitches must be repaired as soon as possible after the game. Firstly brush the bowlers foot holes until the holes are clean, brush the remainder of the pitch and cut the entire pitch to remove all debris. Then moisten the foot holes, remove any surplus water with a brush or by hand. Place enough loam to fill the holes together with a handful of seed into a bucket and thoroughly mix the two together. Add a little water, just enough moisture to produce a ball when the mixture is grasped tightly in the hand. Fill the foot holes with the mixture and firm down really hard with a mallet or stomper until the surface is level. You could then sprinkle some grass clippings over the area, this not only helps the binding process but also gives a better finish to the repair. A useful tip to assist the germination of the seed when repairing a pitch, is to put the moist mixture of loam and seed in a black bag and tie the opening to make it air tight. This will start the germination process in the bag and when the mixture is used to repair the pitch ends, the new grass should start to appear in about seven days.

If the repaired pitch is firm and not badly damaged, roll several times with the heavy roller, then the pitch could be used again for the next game.

## **Ground Tips – June**

Brush the square as often as possible especially on mild and dewy mornings, this will disperse any fungal spores present and discourage turf diseases.

During the month look for signs of under nourishment on the square and treat as necessary with a Spring/Summer fertiliser with no more than 8% nitrogen content during the playing season. Avoid applying to pitches that are under preparation to prevent the risk of scorching the grass, and make sure it is well watered in or rain is imminent.

If there has been excessive rainfall, be mindful to check for diseases and in particular Red Thread. If present this can usually be eradicated by an application of Nitrogen based fertiliser, such as any

Spring/Summer product. If the problem persists the area may need to be treated by an appropriate Fungicide applied by a qualified operator.

Continue to cut the square as growth requires and remember not too short approx ½ inch. This is best carried out on a Monday to remove all debris created by the weekend games, and also on a Friday to give the square a professional finish before Saturdays match. Also at least twice a month lightly scarify all unused pitches prior to cutting to lift and remove lateral grass growth to eliminate crowning.

Pitches that have been used and will not be required again or at least until late season, should be watered and then pricked with a sarel or similar spiked roller to prick the surface thoroughly and use to break up the surface of the ends to create a seedbed. Apply seed liberally to the whole pitch and especially to the ends and brush the seed into holes created by the roller, lightly top dress with loam and ensure that the levels are correct especially at the ends by using a levelling tool.

If possible cover the entire pitch with a germination sheet, if this is not available then at least cover the ends with hessian or such material that will allow moisture through and not dry the surface out. Water the area daily preferably in the cool of the evening, leave the sheets on for as long as possible and new grass shoots should appear in about seven days. For pitches to be used again shortly then repair as outlined in May section.

Continue to look out for weeds and treat them individually as necessary with a suitable proprietary spot weed aerosol or similar applicator. If the weather is going through a dry spell, ensure that pitches are watered well during pitch preparation. The amount of water and the timing will of course depend on local conditions and soil strengths.

### **Ground Tips – July**

During the month apply a Spring/Summer fertiliser with no more than 8% nitrogen content. Avoid applying to pitches that are in a state of preparation for matches to avoid the risk of scorching the grass, and make sure that it is well watered in or when rain is imminent.

Continue to cut square as growth requires and remember not too short. Pitches that have been used and will not be required again or at least until late season, should be spiked with a sarel roller or similar spiked roller to prick the surface thoroughly and use to break up the surface of the ends to make a seed bed. Apply seed liberally to the ends and the whole pitch, brush the seed into the holes made by the roller, lightly top dress with loam and cover the whole pitch, if possible, with a germination sheet. If this is not available, then at least cover the ends with Hessian or such material that will allow moisture

through and not dry the surface out. If dry, water the area daily, preferably in the evening when temperature is cooler.

For pitches to be used again shortly, then repair as explained in May section. Continually look out for weeds and treat them individually as necessary.

The end of the season is approaching, so start thinking about Autumn renovation, how much loam, seed and fertiliser to order remembering that you will need approx 3-4 kilos of seed per pitch on your square for reseeding. Do you own a scarifier or suitable spiker? If not, where can you hire them? These questions are worth thinking about now and not to leave to the last minute.

### **Ground Tips – August**

Continue to repair pitches as described in July program. Be mindful that, this time of the year, your cricket square will require copious watering, to avoid grass plant stress, which occurs when water loss from the leaves exceeds the rate of water intake through the roots. During pitch preparation ensure that the moisture penetrates well into the soil prior to any rolling.

It is important to prepare and organise in advance of the Autumn renovation programme. The correct Loam must be ordered bearing in mind that for Club standard pitches, a minimum of 25-30% of clay is required, ask your supplier about this. Seed needs to be ordered, preferably a 100% dwarf ryegrass mixture and the amount you will require is approx 3-4 kilos per pitch or even 5 if the grass coverage this season was poor. At the same time order a supply of Autumn/Winter fertiliser – at least one bag for autumn renovation and perhaps two more for applications during the winter months.

If the Club doesn't own a scarifying machine or vertical action spiker, make enquiries now from Hire companies, other Cricket Clubs or Golf Clubs as to their availability, as these machines are required to do the job properly and they will be in great demand.