

RECREATION

TWYFORD PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE

Held on Thursday 14th July 2022 at 7.30pm
at The Pavilion, Hunter Park, Twyford

Councillors present	In attendance
Cllr. S. Pullen (in the Chair)	Assistant Clerk
Cllr. C. Mitchell	1 member of the public
Cllr. A. Forder-Stent	
Cllr. R. Sellars	
Cllr. S. Cook	
Cllr. C. Hill	

Item	Business Transacted
R1/22	Apologies for Absence Apologies received from Cllr Pain.
R2/22	Dispensations under Section 33 of Localism Act 2011 No dispensation requests were received.
R3/22	Declarations of Interest Cllr Hill declared a personal interest in Item R7/22 regarding dog walking at Hunter Park.
R4/22	Approval of Minutes It was Resolved that minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on the 5 th May 2022 be approved. Proposed by Cllr Sellars, seconded by Cllr Mitchell.
R5/22	Public Representation A member of the public addressed the committee and commented how much they appreciated walking their dog in Hunter Park and also supported the proposals for an inclusive swing in the children's playground.
R6/22	Assistant Clerk's Report The report was received. The Assistant Clerk made a verbal update: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A tenancy change of one allotment plot.• Bases for the two new picnic benches had been laid in preparation for delivery.• The Clerk had observed an additional vehicle parked overnight in the car park.• The gate to the car park is shut on an ad hoc basis.
R7/22	Maintenance List The report was received. Assistant Clerk added that there were further posts in the car park that had fallen and would be added to the maintenance list. No further additions requested. It was noted that the 4 corners of the Pavilion had now been replaced and were awaiting painting. Assistant Clerk advised that the work on the slabs to the front of the Pavilion had been rescheduled to 3 rd August. Members were pleased with progress and thanked the Caretaker.
R8/22	Dogs in Hunter Park The report was received. Assistant Clerk updated that signage had been installed as per the report and as agreed at the meeting on 5 th May 2022. Members considered the matter and felt that there are significant problems of dog fouling within Hunter Park, especially the sports areas. It was Resolved: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dogs must be kept on leads when on the cricket outfield and football field. The Clerk will arrange for signage to be installed.• Investigate a proposal for charging of professional dogs walkers. Although the provision of dog waste sack dispensers was welcomed, members felt the cost was excessive and wished to investigate an alternative using recycled plastic bottles.

Cllr Sellars reported of some good recycled containers in another village and would investigate further.

R9/22

Inclusive Swing Structure

The report was received. Members felt all options were very expensive and considered whether there was a requirement for such equipment in addition to the existing inclusive basket swing and therefore **It was Resolved** not to proceed at this time with the purchase of the inclusive swing.

It was Resolved that Cllr Pullen would approach the resident who initially requested additional inclusive play equipment to ascertain:

- the number of people it would benefit
- other alternative inclusive play equipment
- the location

R10/22

Footpath resurfacing at Hunter Park

The report was received, the Clerk to chase quotes and take to next meeting.

R11/22

Annual Play Inspectors report

The report was received. It was noted that there were only minor issues.

The Assistant Clerk advised that the Clerk was looking into 3/6 monthly playground inspections whereby minor works could be carried out by a play area professional.

R12/22

The Chair asked the committee to change the order of business.

It was resolved to change the order of business and move item 13 to be considered following item 15 on the published agenda.

R13/22

Allotments

The report was received.

The Chairman reported that the allotments were looking good and that plot holders had been working very hard. The Assistant Clerk informed that one tenant had terminated their tenancy and a new tenant was to commence the following week. Two further plots continue to be monitored.

R14/22

Pavilion Shutters

The report was received. It was resolved to approve the replacement of the existing shutters with electrically operated doors, at a cost of around £3,300 subject to the Assistant Clerk would seek to obtain two further quotes. The approval of exact expenditure would be a matter to be resolved by Full Council.

It was also noted that further work may be required on the patio doors.

R15/22

Official Opening of Hunter Park Play Area

Previous suggestions were discussed. It was observed that it was nearly the 60th anniversary of the opening of Hunter Park by Lord Ashburton, on the 25th April 1964, and an event in April 2024 to commemorate this should be considered.

Members thought this an excellent suggestion, giving plenty of time to plan and implement. **It was Resolved** that Cllr. Mitchell would discuss with Lord Ashburton.

R16/22

Northfields – Chain link fencing

The report was received and considered. The report provided quotations from two contractors who had visited and assessed the work required to repair holes in the chain link fencing surrounding the football pitch area at Northfields.

It was Resolved that Cllr Cook would carry out a site visit to ascertain if any of the metal work needs replacing/repainting prior to any works being carried out. The Chairman of the Committee would also look at the proposed works.

R17/22

Items for future meetings

- Progress on proposed new cricket nets.
- Confirm arrangement for the memorial tree and plaque for the late Cllr Ian Wheeler.
- Review the Hunter Park masterplan plan, at a Full Council meeting, - Cllr Sellars would investigate and provide details on providing temporary toilet facilities.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.



Twyford Parish Council

Assistant Clerk's Report

Councillors are reminded that the items within this report are provided for information only and not available for debate. If it is considered that an item listed within the report should be debated fully by members, then it will be placed on the next appropriate committee or council agenda. Any member wanting clarification or further information on any aspect of items within the report please contact either of us in advance of the meeting.

General updates

- 1) Allotments:
 - An allotment inspection took place on 22nd June; reported elsewhere on the agenda.
 - All tenants paid the voluntary maintenance levy with this year's rent.
 - Greensmiles have commenced the regular strimming of the main paths and bonfire area.
 - A water leak was reported from the main water butt which was attended to by a plumber.
 - There are currently 9 residents on the waiting list.

- 2) Hunter Park:
 - Following the Easter children's holiday camp, JG7 held another successful course during May half term. The children used both the Pavilion and outside space. JG7 have rebooked for 3 weeks during the summer holidays.
 - Platinum Jubilee Carnival: The Jubilee celebrations were a success concluding at Hunter Park where various games and races were held. The Assistant Clerk opened up the Pavilion and associated facilities on the morning of the event with the Clerk locking up at the end of the day.
 - The two new picnic benches have been ordered and the Caretaker has commenced preparing the bases.

- 3) Hunter Park Pavilion:
 - The undersink water heater at the Pavilion was replaced due to it not working and deemed unrepairable.
 - The Pavilion patio door shutters were serviced, the last service being in 2019. Further reported elsewhere on the Agenda.

- 4) Northfields:
 - Options are being investigated for repairs/replacement of the boundary fencing.

- 5) Hunter Park Car Park:
 - Use of the car continues to be monitored. There are still daytime periods when the car park is substantially occupied by vehicles whose owners do not appear to be in the park. Overnight use has fallen somewhat, and the gate is now closed from time to time to discourage unauthorised use.
 - A vehicle was recently parked for two weeks in the car park during which time the MOT expired. Before contact was made with the owner the vehicle was removed.

Sue Merritt, Assistant Clerk &
Jamie Matthews, Parish Clerk
1st July 2022



Twyford Parish Council

Dogs in Hunter Park

At the previous Recreation Committee meeting in May 2022, members considered at length various matters regarding dogs, especially dog fouling, in Hunter Park.

At the meeting the Committee resolved to three items:

- That the Clerk would arrange for additional signs, which included information on how to report issues to the WCC Dog Warden.
- A notice in the noticeboard advising that the Parish Council is reviewing the dog situation in Hunter Park.
- The Clerk will investigate provision of dog waste bags.

All three of these items have now been completed, with the updated signs due for delivery w/c 11th July.

Dog waste sack dispenser

There are several types available which are either free standing or can be mounted to an existing post or fence:



And range in price from £109 to £199 with bags at around £40 per 1000.

There is budget available should members wish to purchase the dispensers and it is suggested that three dispensers could be placed strategically around the park.

It is noted that in recent weeks several homemade dispensers, cut from plastic bottles have been installed in the park by persons unknown. These can only be considered a temporary measure and in any case the flying uncut cable ties and sharp plastic edges of the bottles present a potential hazard to park users. However, members may wish to see how well used these are before considering permanent installations.

J.P. Matthews, Parish Clerk
4th July 2022



ITEM 12/22

Twyford Parish Council

Allotment Inspection – 22nd June 2022

The 2nd of the season's allotment formal inspections were carried out on 22nd June by Cllr S Pullen, Cllr J Pain and Assistant Clerk Sue Merritt.

It was a lovely day for walking round the allotments and we all agreed that the majority of allotment gardens were well kept and fully cultivated, some outstanding.

Improvement had been seen with some plots since the last inspection.

It was identified that there were 3 plots of concern, and the Assistant Clerk would make arrangements to contact these tenants.

One tenant recently vacated a plot and this is currently in the process of being re-let. The waiting list has 9 names with the waiting time now down from around 2 years to 18 months.

The next allotment inspection due to be carried out in August.

Sue Merritt, Assistant Clerk &
J.P Matthews, Parish Clerk

8th July 2022



Twyford Parish Council

Hunter Park Pavilion shutters

The existing door and window shutters on the Pavilion are currently manual and locked with a padlock. The doors are heavy and cumbersome to lock, requiring the user to stand on the door shutter to lock and unlock the padlock. The effort required to open and close the shutters raises health and safety concerns for both hirers and members of Council staff.

Doorbars were supplied with the original shutters, however, they have not been in use and would give undue responsibility to hirers of the Pavilion and in anycase do not make the manual opening of the shutters any the easier. The shutters have recently been serviced, and the company recommended automated shutters as a solution.

Councillors are asked to consider the approval, in principle, of changing the existing manual shutters to automated one in order that the shutters are safer to operate for both hirers and Council staff.

An initial quote has been received which indicates the work would be in the region of £3,300 for the removal of the two existing shutters and installation of two new electrically operated roller shutters. In order to satisfy Financial Regulations two further quotes will be sought in order to ensure value for money.