

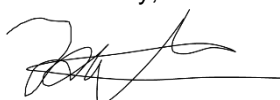
TWYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

10th May 2024

Dear Councillor,

I hereby summon you to attend a meeting of the Recreation Committee, on **Thursday, 16th May 2024** at 7.30pm. This meeting will be held at the Pavilion, Hunter Park.

Yours sincerely,



Jamie Matthews
Clerk to the Council

Meeting of the Recreation Committee

16th May 2024

AGENDA

Members of the public and press are invited to attend except for the specific items marked confidential on the agenda. The press and public may not speak when the Council is in session, but they can make points or ask questions in the allocated time during the questions from members of the public item on the agenda. Please contact the Clerk to the Council before 12 noon on the day of the meeting if you wish to register to speak.

1	Chairman's Announcements
2	To receive and approve apologies for absence.
3	To consider the granting of a dispensation under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 to enable members to participate in and vote on an item of business on the agenda where they would otherwise have a disclosable pecuniary interest and to confirm how long this dispensation may have effect.
4	To receive and record Declarations of Interest. Councillors are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in an item of business on the agenda no later than when the item is reached. Unless dispensation has been granted, members may not participate in any discussion, of or vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which they have a pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State under the Localism Act 2011. Councillors must withdraw from the room when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.
5	To approve as a correct record and authorise the signing of the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation Committee held on 15 th November 2023.
6	Public Representation – Councillors to receive representation, including on agenda items, from members of the public provided they have given de notice of their intention to the Clerk no later than 12 noon of the day of the meeting. The maximum time limit allowed per person is 3 minutes and the maximum time designated for this agenda item is 15 minutes. Questions shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The Chair of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.
7	To receive the Assistant Clerk's report

8	To receive the Maintenance list together with an update of completed jobs since the last meeting of the Recreation Committee.
9	To receive and consider an update from the cricket working party
10	To receive and consider a report on the maintenance of the play area fencing at Hunter Park
11	To receive the Annual Play Inspection report for Hunter Park and Northfields
12	To receive and note the Life Expectancy report for Hunter Park and Northfields play areas
13	To receive a verbal report on the Hunter Park celebrations
14	To receive and consider a report on the bunting decorating the Pavilion
15	To receive and consider a report from Cllr Percival on the legionella implications at Hunter Park Allotments
16	To receive the minutes of the Allotment Users meeting and consider a request for reserved car parking.
17	To consider items for future meetings

Item 7



Twyford Parish Council

Recreation Committee 16th May 2024

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.

- A new tenant has taken on Allotment Plot 25B with effect from 1st April 2024. The waiting list now has 15 residents.
- The first of the allotment inspections have taken place and plots are looking tidy and ready for the new season.
- The Spring meeting of allotment tenants took place on 24th April 2024. Reported elsewhere on the agenda.
- The Council are now using a new software system for allotment administration, it is provided by EdgeIT and runs alongside the finance software. Invoices were sent out with a few payments outstanding. Reminders have been issued.

2) Hunter Park:

- The football season has now finished. The continuing wet weather saw many matches cancelled or postponed and running into the beginning of May. We received enquiries from several other teams for pitch hire due to their home ground being waterlogged.
- After 7 years at Hunter Park, Hedge End Tigers will be taking a break next season. The manager has asked to pass his thanks onto Twyford. He personally has been playing at Hunter Park since 1994.
- We have received enquiries from girls and junior football teams for next season.
- The cricket season has now commenced with bookings from St Cross Cricket Club, Twyford School, and R W Armstrong who have hired the pitch as a corporate user the last two years.
- The 60-year celebration of Hunter Park event on 28th April was a success. Reported elsewhere on the agenda.

- Twyford St Mary's playgroup are, once again, holding Village Games to raise funds on 9th June. As agreed by the Recreation Committee, no charge was applied. A damage deposit has been invoiced which is refunded after the event.
- The Coffee Pod, which was approved at the March 2024 meeting is expected to start operation during June. Following a site visit, the location agreed with the operator is on the grass area between car park and pavilion.
- A resident reported the siting of rats around the play area. Winchester City Council Pest Control carried out an investigation and found no evidence of rats around the park. They did, however, note that bird feeders around the containers were likely to attract rats.

3) Hunter Park Car Park:

- Berkshire Ramblers requested to use the car park for a morning walk in April and made arrangements to pay the non-park visitors car park fee.
- The Clerk has written to Twyford Cricket Club requesting them to provide a Risk Assessment and Method Statement for how overflow parking on the grass adjacent to the pavilion will be safely managed. This follows observations made over nature of the arrangements on Friday evenings, which presents risk to other users of the park.
- The Clerk has identified a contractor who carried out works on other rural car parks in Hampshire and maybe able provide a quote to carry out suitable marking to maximise capacity of the car park.

4) Play areas

- Elite Playground carried out some maintenance work at both Hunter Park and Northfields. Additionally, chains were replaced on the junior swings at Hunter Park, as advised by the annual inspection as high priority.
- The Annual Play inspections have taken place; reported elsewhere on the agenda.
- Arrangements for the play area surfaces to be jet washed by a contractor.
- The sandpit will be topped up before the summer holidays.

Sue Nias, Assistant Clerk &
 Jamie Matthews, Parish Clerk
 9th May 2024

Item 8



Twyford Parish Council

Recreation Committee – 16th May 2024

Maintenance

Outstanding Items

JOB NO	LOCATION	DATE OF ISSUE	ISSUE/JOB	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION	DATE SCHEDULED
1	Pavilion	17.05.2021	Legionella temperature and fire equipment checks	Caretaker	ONGOING monthly checks	ONGOING – once a month 29 th May 2024
2	Pavilion	23.12.2021	Inside lights	Caretaker	Could we have either a main switch which would switch all lights off, or possibly a motion sensor to be installed? Lights often left on by hirers	
3	Pavilion	09.11.2022	Cladding	Caretaker	Replacement cladding	
4	Hunter Park	08.02.2023	Jubilee plaque	Caretaker	Reinstall Jubilee plaque in wildflower area	
5	Pavilion	16.02.2023	Remote lock	Caretaker/Clerk	Install new remote lock to Pavilion	
6	Hunter Park	04.05.2023	Signage on footpath/handrail area	Caretaker	Installation of steep slope sign (when we have it)	
7	Hunter Park car park	24.05.2023	Manhole cover in car park	Caretaker	Requires surrounding surface to be levelled to manhole cover	
8	Hunter Park Allotments	30.08.2023	Wobbly dog bag dispenser	Caretaker	The dog bag dispenser has become wobbly and needs firming up.	
9	Pavilion	03.01.2024	Heat alarm	Caretaker	Install heat alarm in kitchen	
10	Hunter Park play area	25.01.2024	Top up sandpit		Top up sandpit before Easter holidays	
11	Hunter Park allotments	25.01.2024	Install sign	Caretaker	Replace removed sign re dogs	
12	Pavilion	04.04.2024	Smoke alarms	Caretaker	Need replacing	
13	Northfields	16.04.2024	Install new bin	Caretaker	Remove existing bin, install new bin	15 th May 2024
14	Hunter Park	17.04.2024	Outdoor gym	Caretaker	Purchase 6 rubber stoppers to secure rails	15 th May 2024
15	Pavilion	02.05.2024	Front and rear door	Caretaker	Fit hook and latch to front and rear door and remove the current large doorstops	15 th May 2024
16	Pavilion	02.05.2024	Filled hole	Caretaker	Rub down and paint filled hole by camera	15 th May 2024
17	Hunter Park	02.05.2024	Rubber matting	Caretaker	Remove and store rubber matting	15 th May 2024

Completed jobs since last meeting:

Northfields:

Peg back goal nets

Hunter Park:

Collect silver birch tree from a resident and plant at Hunter Park

Moss removed from surface of play area – firstly removed moss with brush, treat surface with specialist moss remover, return to remove with jet wash

Lubricate padlocks to football goals

Outside push tap switched back on

Repairs to play area fencing undertaken

Bike racks installed

Stakes and ropes removed from wildflower area, stored in container

Tidy ref room and store crate and steel spikes in container

Bin on western boundary by football pitch moved as reported wobbly from soft ground

Pavilion:

Plumbing work to urinals including new infra-red cisterniser and replacement bottle traps

Moss removed from roof

Fill hole by installed CCTV camera

Home changing rooms - toilet flush cistern handle tightened up

Kitchen taps repaired

Investigated overflow pipe to check for leaks. No sign of drips but will monitor

Sue Nias
Assistant Clerk
9th May 2024

Item 9



Twyford Parish Council

Recreation Committee – 16th May 2024

Cricket Working Group – Notes from meeting held on Friday, 26th April 2024

Present:

Cllr Steve Pullen, Cllr S Cook, Cllr S Hoad

In attendance:

Jamie Matthews, Clerk & RFO, Sue Nias, Assistant Clerk

Recommendations:

- The Recreation Committee formally adopt a policy of supporting youth and women's sports in the park. This will assist the Officers in prioritising and scheduling bookings for both football and cricket.
- The Recreation Committee agree to the Cricket Working Group progressing with a proposal to lease the cricket square and an area for cricket training nets to Twyford Cricket Club and meet with the club to understand in further their proposals for this option and their plans for future development of the club.

Notes from meeting:

Steve Pullen gave an overview of the purpose of the meeting. The initial issue was the provision of new cricket training nets to replace the current nets which were end of life. The location had previously been agreed by the Recreation Committee, however, funding was yet to be agreed and highlighted a further issue to consider options that might enable Twyford Cricket Club to apply for funding and grants.

At the February meeting of the Recreation Committee, Twyford Cricket Club presented two proposals:

1. Option 1: TCC responsible for the running, maintenance and booking of the cricket square and nets.
2. Option 2: TCC set up a company to contract to the PC in return for a long-term rental agreement/lease.

Since that time, at the April meeting of FPC, Twyford Cricket Club (TCC) had been awarded the maintenance of the cricket square which, in the past, had been carried out by Shorelands Network Solutions.

The group considered how the park was currently used and supportive of the view that all sports were a benefit to health and well-being, and the importance of encouraging cricket for all; younger people, older people, ladies, however, the provision of facilities for all sports should aim to be cost neutral to the PC.

As well as the two proposals put forward by TCC, there is a 3rd option which is the current arrangement of TCC holding the contract maintenance for the cricket square which is subject to 3% uplift each year. The contract includes preparations for 40 matches.

The Clerk presented recent financial figures from the previous 4 years which showed that when income from cricket hires was compared against expenditure for maintenance there was on average a £4,136 cost to the Parish Council to provide the facilities. This didn't take into account the cost of maintaining the pavilion. The Clerk explained the current arrangement for the hire of facilities and the range of fees. Hire fees which included the use of the pavilion normally included a 66% discount against the standard hire rate of the pavilion. Under the current charging model, the cost of hiring a cricket facility is not always covered by the charge to prepare it and therefore the more hires during a season the higher this subsidy would be. Since 2021 the number of games being played each season has increased significantly.

The hire charges in 2024/25 to the senior hire rates had been adjusted to reflect this gap, so that the preparation costs would be more than fully recovered which would then contribute towards the overall expenditure for cricket maintenance.

Total cricket booking for each season were split at around 70% for TCC bookings and 30% bookings for other users. Income for the 2024 season from TCC is estimated to be around £3,600 and £2,100 from other users.

Options that could be considered including TCC having overall management of all the bookings, or a percentage (70%). Considerations would need to be given to how booking, including for use of the pavilion were managed with other hirers of the park. Consideration was given to potential conditions of potential lease, limiting use eg every Saturday and once every other week with an aim of not increasing the overall number of games in the park which are currently held.

It was not clear how TCC proposals anticipated bridging the gap between income and expenditure and whether this was an option the Council could explore. It was felt that TCC should be asked to clarify their future plans, for example do they want to encourage ladies hard ball, which would bring additional revenue, and to what extent do TCC want to develop club further, ie a more intensified use and if so how should the PC manage limitations on fair usage; eg not 7 days a week, so that the sport didn't dominate the park to the impact of other users. It was clear that the granting of a licence/lease would allow security for future TCC plans.

If a lease option is favoured, consideration needs to be given to Pavilion and outfield use.

The group suggested that 10-year lease with 5 year break clause should be explored further.

Jamie Matthews, Parish Clerk &
Sue Nias, Assistant Clerk
9th May 2024

Item 10



Twyford Parish Council

Recreation Committee – 16th May 2024

Hunter Park Play Area fencing - Maintenance

Recommendation:

That a working party be formed to carry out painting the existing fencing surrounding the play area at Hunter Park.

Background:

The fencing around the play area is coming towards end of life. The Caretaker has undertaken some maintenance including:

- Replacement of rotten vertical and horizontal timber
- Replacement fixings
- Removal of protruding nails/screws

The fence was last painted 2-3 years ago by volunteers, and the current condition is worn and patchy, requiring painting.

It should be noted that the anticipated life expectancy of the fence is 1-2 years, after which it should be considered for replacement.

It is recommended to create a working party to paint the existing fencing. This would protect the replacement parts of the fencing and enhance the appearance of the play area for park visitors. The potential benefits would provide a cost-effective interim solution, pending replacement of the fence in the near future.

Sue Nias
Assistant Clerk
9th May 2024

Item 12

Life Expectancy Report Hunter Park and Northfields

Site ID	Site Name	Site Reference	Item Type	Item Name	Manufacturer	Surface	Qty	Date Installed	Life Expectancy
1	Site List - Winchester City Council								
2									
3	Report Date: 22 April 2024								
4									
5									
6	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Activity Equipment	Climbing Frame	Not Identified	Wet Pour	1		>10 Years
7	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Activity Equipment	Climbing Wall	Not Identified	Woodchip	1		>10 Years
8	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Activity Equipment	Log Climber	Not Identified	Woodchip	1		>10 Years
9	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Activity Equipment	Multi Play (Junior)	Not Identified	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		>10 Years
10	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Activity Equipment	Play Panel	Hand Made Places	Grass	1		5 -10 Years
11	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Ancillary Items	Bench	Not Identified	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		
12	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Ancillary Items	Litter Bin	Not Identified	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		
13	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Ancillary Items	Picnic Table	Not Identified	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		
14	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Ancillary Items	Sign	Not Identified	Grass	1		
15	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Ancillary Items	Sign	Not Identified	N/A	1		
16	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Ancillary Items	Site General	Owner/Operator	N/A	1		
17	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Fences	Fencing - Timber	Not Identified	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		
18	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Gates	Gate - Self Closing	I.A.E. Fencing	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		
19	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Multi Use Games Area	Multi Use Games Area (MUG)	Not Identified	Bitmac	1		>10 Years
20	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Other	Free Standing Slide	Not Identified	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		>10 Years
21	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Other	Musical Instrument	Inclusive Play	Grass	1		5 -10 Years
22	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Other	Play Panel	Not Identified	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		5 -10 Years
23	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Other	Sand Box	Not Identified	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		3 - 5 Years
24	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Other	Table Tennis	Not Identified	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		5 -10 Years
25	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Outdoor Fitness Equipment	Ability Bench	Not Identified	Grass Matrix Tiles	1		3 - 5 Years
26	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Outdoor Fitness Equipment	Hurdles	Not Identified	Grass	1		3 - 5 Years
27	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Outdoor Fitness Equipment	Parallel Bars	Not Identified	Grass Matrix Tiles	1		3 - 5 Years
28	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Outdoor Fitness Equipment	Pull Up Station	Not Identified	Grass Matrix Tiles	1		3 - 5 Years
29	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Outdoor Fitness Equipment	Sit Up Station	Not Identified	Grass	1		5 -10 Years
30	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Rocking Equipment	Spring See-Saw	Not Identified	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		3 - 5 Years
31	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Swings	1 Bay 2 Seat (Flat)	Not Identified	Wet Pour	1		>10 Years
32	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Swings	1 Bay 2 Seat Swing	Not Identified	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		>10 Years
33	95403	Hunter Park (Twyford PC)	Swings	Basket Swing - Type 1	Playdale Playgrounds Ltd	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		5 -10 Years
34	95402	Northfield (Twyford PC)	Activity Equipment	Multi Play (Junior)	Not Identified	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		>10 Years
35	95402	Northfield (Twyford PC)	Ancillary Items	Bench	Not Identified	Bonded Rubber Mulch	2		
36	95402	Northfield (Twyford PC)	Ancillary Items	Litter Bin	Not Identified	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		
37	95402	Northfield (Twyford PC)	Ancillary Items	Sign	Not Identified	Wet Pour	1		
38	95402	Northfield (Twyford PC)	Ancillary Items	Site General	Owner/Operator	Wet Pour	1		
39	95402	Northfield (Twyford PC)	Fences	Fencing - Timber	Not Identified	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		
40	95402	Northfield (Twyford PC)	Gates	Gate - Self Closing	I.A.E. Fencing	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		
41	95402	Northfield (Twyford PC)	Multi Use Games Area	Basketball Post	Not Identified	Wet Pour	1		5 -10 Years
42	95402	Northfield (Twyford PC)	Rocking Equipment	Spring Bike	3D Program	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		3 - 5 Years
43	95402	Northfield (Twyford PC)	Rocking Equipment	Spring See-Saw	Not Identified	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		5 -10 Years
44	95402	Northfield (Twyford PC)	Swings	1 Bay 2 Seat (Cradle)	Not Identified	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		>10 Years
45	95402	Northfield (Twyford PC)	Swings	Basket Swing - Type 1	Not Identified	Bonded Rubber Mulch	1		3 - 5 Years



Item 14



Twyford Parish Council

Recreation Committee – 16th May 2024

Pavilion Bunting

Recommendation:

To consider facilitating a bunting competition including logistics of facilitating.

Background:

Bunting was initially put around the Pavilion in 2023 to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, and renewed in 2024 for the coronation of the King.

The bunting has remained but is now looking tired. Members are asked if they would like it taken down or replaced. A resident suggested to Cllr Cook that the Parish Council hold a bunting competition.

Sue Nias
Assistant Clerk
9th May 2024

Item 15



Twyford Parish Council

Recreation Committee – 16th May 2024

Hunter Park Allotments – Legionella Concerns.

Report.

The allotments have two council owned water butts, which are fed by a mains water tap.

There are 30 allotments and two taps available for watering. Some allotments are positioned at quite a distance from these taps.

During dry periods it is very common for one allotment holder to have a hose attached to the tap and several others to be filling watering cans from the water butts.

Currently these butts are industrial barrels with no lower taps and watering cans are filled from the top of the barrel by submerging the can.

Hosepipes are never used directly from the water butts and always only attached to the taps.

Concerns were raised regarding the potential risk of legionella associated with water butts at the allotments following a study at Porton Down in 2018, which showed that 107 Of 113 water butts were contaminated with legionella.

However the study concluded that no legionella was detected in the air when water was poured from a watering can and therefore aerosolisation of legionella when using a watering can is minimal. Using a coarse spray setting can mitigate any increased risk associated with hosepipe use. The study authors stated that the use of collected rainwater for common garden activities should not be discouraged.

There have been no cases of legionella infection directly attributed to the use of water butts with watering cans.

There has been one reported death of a 67-year old man from legionella in 2018, which is thought to have been from a contaminated hosepipe at his home.

The National Allotment Association has not recommended the removal of water butts but did recommend that water butts have lids to minimise contamination.

Conclusion

There is currently no evidence to associate the combined use of water butts and watering cans with legionella infections.

The risk is greater when using hosepipes and these should be stored out of the sun, drained and left empty when not in use.

At the allotments hosepipes are not used directly into the water butts but attached to the taps.

As legionella concentrations are increased in stagnant water it is recommended that the current barrels be replaced with water butts with lower taps to aid the flow of water.

These risks should be highlighted to allotment users and advice is available at rhs.org.uk/garden-jobs/water-collecting-storing-and-using

Cllr Ingrid Percival
22nd April 2024

Porton Down Study

Abstract

Aims: To determine the presence and prevalence of *Legionella* spp in domestic rainwater storage butts and to quantify its aerosolisation when collected rainwater is used for common gardening activities.

Methods: Volunteers were asked to take a water sample from their garden rainwater storage butt. The presence of *Legionella* was determined using quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR). Two new rainwater storage butts were installed on-site at PHE Porton and positioned in sunlight or in the shade. Ambient conditions and those within the two 'experimental' water butts were continually monitored. A cyclone air sampler was used to detect the presence of *Legionella* in the air when collected rainwater was poured from a watering can or delivered via a hosepipe attached to a submersible water butt pump.

Results: A total of 63 volunteers provided water samples from 113 different rainwater storage butts. *Legionella* spp was detected in 107 of these samples at a mean concentration of 4.7×10^4 genomic units l⁻¹. Two of these samples also contained *L. pneumophila*. The water butt positioned in the shade stored water at a significantly lower temperature than that exposed to sunlight. While the concentration of *Legionella* was significantly higher in this cooler water, meteorological conditions rather than conditions within the water butt had the greatest effect upon *Legionella* concentration. No *Legionella* was detected in the air when rainwater was poured from a watering can. However, using a hose pipe on a 'fine spray' setting increased both the number of organisms detected in the air and their dissemination.

Conclusion: In this study, *Legionella* spp were common contaminants of collected rainwater. However, the use of rainwater for common gardening activities should not be discouraged. Aerosolisation of *Legionella* when using a watering can is minimal and any increased risk associated with hose pipe use can be mitigated by using a coarse spray setting.



Twyford Parish Council

Twyford Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Allotment Users

24th April 2024

7.30pm at the Pavilion, Hunter Park, Twyford

Allotment users present	Councillors present	In attendance
Ingrid Percival	Cllr Steve Pullen	Sue Nias, Assistant Clerk
Susie James	Cllr Jade Pain	
Elaine Holt		
John Timms		
Dave Cook		
Daryl Henry		
Richard Crowfoot		
Andy Parker		
David Lea		
Jane White		
Charlotte McRae		
Laura James		

Apologies

Apologies were received from Laura Ancell, Ronnie Cloke-Browne, Julia Steward, Hannah de Merode, Roger Walker.

Welcome

Cllr Steve Pullen, Chairman of the Recreation Committee, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Issues Raised

1. Bonfire/Communal area

A bonfire was held earlier in the spring. Whilst reported a success, there was concern at the ever-growing communal green waste area which is usually added to the bonfire. Those who participated in the bonfire session said it was very much a learning curve and understood better for next time.

It is encouraged that tenants have individual compost areas on their own plots, and only non-

compostable perennial weeds such as couch grass, ground elder and bind weed should be added to the communal green waste area. No soil should be added.

It was acknowledged that the green waste area had considerably grown over the years, and that action was needed to reduce its size and keep it from encroaching onto nearby plots. It was suggested that tenants dispose of their own waste by taking it home or to a recycling centre, though this was generally not favoured. Andy Parker said he was happy to have a digging session and would welcome help from others. Charlotte McRae suggested holding a session of everyone taking part in bagging up and taking to a Household Waste Recycling Centre. Long term plan could include a grab bag which could be purchased using funds from the maintenance levy. Those present were generally in favour of these ideas.

2. **Voluntary Maintenance levy**

Assistant Clerk outlined funds held from the Voluntary Maintenance levy:

- £200 carried forward from 2023/24
- Some invoices still outstanding, assuming outstanding payments include the voluntary maintenance levy could potentially receive £290 which would give a total of £490
- Current strimming of main paths - £35.21 per strim, 8 strims per year totalling £281.68 which would leave potentially £200 in kitty

Some allotment users queried the frequency of the strimming and the cost and asked for further details of strimming.

3. **Current conditions**

Everyone agreed the season has had a slow start with cold and wet weather conditions. Steve Pullen said plots were generally looking tidy and preparations underway. Some tenants said they had appreciated recent tree cutting and that it would make a big difference.

4. **Additional Water butt**

At the last meeting, users requested that another water butt be installed in the area of plots 6 and 9. The Recreation Committee considered the request at its November meeting, and considered feasibility, potential cost and whether the paths could accommodate the necessary equipment and digging of a trench. The committee suggested running a hose from an existing tap using a T-junction to the desired location and installing an additional water butt. This could be initiated by tenants.

5. **Newsletter**

Steve Pullen asked if everyone had seen the newsletter recently introduced by the Parish Council. Elaine Holt said she hadn't, Assistant Clerk agreed to forward a link to the newsletter. Steve asked if anyone would like to volunteer to write a short snippet of information on the allotments, Elaine kindly volunteered for the next newsletter, and all were happy for the task to be rotated for each edition.

6. **Communication/WhatsApp**

A WhatsApp group was initiated after the November meeting, it was reported that there are 28 people currently on the group. Should anyone not be on the group and wish to be included, please contact Ingrid Percival.

The group has been useful for general allotment chat, bonfire organising, it was also reported about a shed break-in. It was also suggested it could be used to say when you might be going up etc.

7. Car Park

Laura James said that there had been difficulties with parking to unload equipment, compost etc due to sporting events at Hunter Park. Some other tenants agreed and requested that the Recreation Committee consider reserving one parking space alongside the bushes for allotment users.

Summary of Issues to be taken forward:

- A working party would be set up to work with Andy Parker on a digging session at the communal area.
- That Charlotte McRae would investigate the cost of a 'grab bag' for future and long-term removal of green waste from communal area.
- That allotment tenants would agree a date to bag up some of the green waste from the communal area and take to a Household Waste Recycling Centre.
- Elaine Holt would provide the first of the 'allotment snippets' to Steve Pullen for inclusion in the next Newsletter.
- Anyone not on the Allotment WhatsApp group and would like to be, please contact Ingrid Percival.
- A request will be taken to a future meeting of the Recreation Committee regarding reserved parking.

Sue Nias
Assistant Clerk
2nd May 2024