

**Minutes of Open Space Development Working Party Meeting
Held on Wednesday 6th February 2019 at 3.00pm – Millennium Hall**

Present Cllrs M. Hall, R. Johnson, S. Rooney, M. Nickerson
Principal Officer H. Thomasson
Estates Officer A Harrison

Election of Chairman

Proposed by Cllr R Johnson and seconded by Cllr S Rooney, it was agreed that Cllr M Nickerson be elected Chairman for Open Spaces Working Party.

Apologies

Cllr Mrs M Sherwin

Chairman Comment

As no meetings had been held for some time and no formal Agenda agreed, it was suggested by the Chairman that each of the major open spaces and parks be discussed to clarify current and future actions, which would produce a set of notes for future meetings reference.

Britannia Road Park

Although the park and provisions were noted as being in good order, there was some discussion around future works.

Cllr Johnson asked what could be effected for older children, as the park currently had little provision for them.

The PO outlined, that with the potential of further S106 becoming available for this site, a 'first phase' consultation could be started now and circulated a questionnaire document for the working party to consider. After further discussion it was

RECOMMENDED – The questionnaire, as presented, could be fielded at Hastings High School, by PCSO Darren Stretton (previously agreed), who would actually get students to complete and return to him during his visits.

Rugby Road Recreation Ground

Discussions are on-going with HBBC and Goodman's on the flooding issue, with a meeting being planned for end February. This will also cover further concerns and updates on a previous snagging list agreed at a previous meeting. It was noted there was a broad leaf weed issue on the grassed area, with many areas of uneven, stony ground, which will be a real problem for future grounds maintenance if not addressed.

Hinckley Road Park

Review of benches, with a view to increase.

Improvement of pitches and required maintenance under review.

Sketchley Hill Farm Recreation Ground – also known as Tilton Road Park

Two additional benches installed, with a view to more dependant on funding, which could be picnic style.

Review of pitches and areas used for football training purposes needed.

A need for additional parking was discussed, but will be held over until the Doctors Surgery extension is completed.

Brookside Park

The poor utilisation of the Gym Trail and Table Tennis table (even with free bats and balls offered) was discussed. A paid part time trainer in the summer, to see if we are able to increase usage, could be considered.

Cllr M Hall will be contacting HBBC S Jones to discuss this idea or any other options.

Woodland Avenue Park

The MUGA seems to be well utilised with little space for any further development.

Colts Close Open Space – Leased from Burbage Land Charity

With the potential of S106 money being available for improvements on this site soon, new fencing and a sport storage facility could be considered. PO to confirm S106 amount and timescale.

Pughe's Paddock

This formal garden is fully maintained by Parish Grounds Staff with no further development envisaged.

Horsepool

Ongoing refurbishment work was reported and following discussion it was

RECOMMENDED – An application to HBBC's Environmental Grant Scheme, requiring match funding, should be considered to provide an updated Heritage / information board on the site. F&GP to agree format and wording for our application.

Pond clearance to start shortly, or before the frog season. Plan in place for pond plant redistribution.

Courting Styles

Two new benches installed and if no vandalism takes place, more will be considered.

General

There are many small Open Spaces maintained by the Parish and these will be reviewed as and when the need arises.

However, it was noted that hedge cutting and grass mowing does take valuable time.

Grounds Maintenance team to look at mowing parks, where there are sports pitches, with blades on a high level cut, to prevent a more difficult job as the cold season ends.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm