

Attendees

Name	Bob Picken	Kirsty Richardson	Jolyon Tidmarsh	Joanna Hart	Frances Barlow	Gavin Wood	Nigel Hawkey	Jo Walshe
	BP	KR	JT	JH	FB	GW	NH	JW
Role	Vice Chair		Chair	PC	Bookings		PC	Treasurer
Present?	Yes	Yes	YES	Yes	no	YES	No	YES

This is a virtual meeting held on Zoom

2021 Meeting Schedule

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
--	01	01	05	10	07	05	--	06	04	01	06

Approval of previous minutes

They were agreed.

Health and Safety Issues

There are two outstanding actions from the previously reviewed the RoSPA summary – these are only observations and not requirements and are shown below.

Action: Kirsty to coordinate. These are on Jeremy's list which is being worked through, refer to maintenance section below.

Large Multiplay

Observation 1	Loose Hand hold by monkey bars
Action	Tighten bolts
Risk	Medium
Observation 2	Loose timber upright section by firemans pole
Action	Secure
Risk	low

With reference to the Covid-19 second wave, we agreed that there is no need to close the playground at this point.

A playground risk assessment is needed, the current checklist is only mitigating some of the potential risks. Action:Kirsty to provide a rough draft for review based on the PC template JH has provided, which is similar to the Covid one.

Financial Matters

Current balance is: £6,562.21 (£6,722.51) at 1st February 2021.

Including payments:

- Gas - £47.61
- Electricity - £19.98 [we have turned off 2 freezers and 1 fridge, expect >£140 for this quarter, budget is £450/yr]
- Grundon bins £28.28
- Castle Water £17.77
- Grundon bins - £28.49
- Castle Water - £17.77

Paid in: None. To be approved: None.

Meter Readings 30/11/20: GAS 13381 (12961) Electricity: 62606 (61963)
These readings have been submitted.

Administrative Matters

Tree planting. Jeremy has assessed the planned planting in more detail and concludes that there is not the space for mature trees without significantly impacting on both the cricket pitch and football pitch (see appendix). It was agreed not to proceed with the tree planting at the rec.

Wifi Installation. It has been suggested that as part of the current gigabit internet access being planned for the village that the rec. should consider installing an internet connection for which grant funding may be available. This was discussed and it was decided not to proceed with this because:

- there is no demand from users
- it is not preventing us from hiring out the facilities
- it will be something else that incurs cost to maintain and overhead of managing
- events needing internet access can be held at the village hall.

Reports from Clubs and other Rec Ground Users

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Fundraising and Social

-

Maintenance

Jeremy has been making steady progress through the jobs list under supervision from Kirsty and has spent the first approved slice of £1,000. This was discussed and it was agreed that we should approve another £1,000 incl. VAT and materials to continue.

Luci Didrikson has arranged to fill in the dip under the gate to the play area with gravel donated by Grundon's gravel pit. Action: Kirsty to thank them.

Rec. Signage. The proposed signage was reviewed in October's meeting where it was felt that it was inappropriate, unenforceable and counterproductive. The PC have agreed and suggest we re-word for something more like guidelines for fair use that could be displayed in a new external noticeboard on the verandah.

Action: Bob to think about wording.

Development plans

There are not currently any development plans being pursued.

Monthly Tasks / Jobs Calendar

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Any Other Business

Picnic Benches

Guy Liverton has offered to donate two movable used picnic benches which he will refurbish. We agreed to accept this provided that they are safe to use. It has been confirmed that they are substantial and in good condition.

Action: Jo Walshe to liase with Guy in the spring of 2021.

Appendix: Tree Planting Assessment from Jeremy Imbush

I spoke to Justin at the rec recently about the possibility of planting trees there. I've had a look at the proposed areas, and the findings are below.

I'll begin with the conclusion, so that you don't have to read beyond the map! I have come to the conclusion is that there is really nowhere that trees can be planted on the rec without impacting on the various areas of the rec as it is used now, and would use up the space for any future additions (muga etc).

The map below shows the details. The brown rings represent the proposed position of trees, showing the average diameter of the canopy of existing mature trees on the rec, and are to scale.



ARC commissioned a tree survey 3 years ago. There are 50+ trees, mainly lime and sycamore, all of which have a life expectancy of 20-40+ years, so there is no imminent need to plant new trees. These trees have a canopy diameter averaging 17+ metres when mature, so cover a large area.

Conclusions on Potential planting areas.

North-West-Between the pavilion and the Lollingdon track kissing gate.

There is limited room to plant trees between the pavilion and Lollingdon because of:

- the presence of soakaways 5m from the pavilion, which drain the rec. They are made of concrete rings, 2m wide x 4 metres deep, so are big. Tree roots love water!
- The gateway is used for Access during Astonbury, as entry a for emergency vehicles and an emergency exit for pedestrians (the kissing gate acts as a bottleneck) on bonfire night.

- There are three 10,000 volt overhead power lines 20m from the kissing gate, strung from Chalk Hill, across the rec and the playground, into the field behind it. There must be a 2m space between branches and cables to prevent arcing.
- Planting would make Cricket non-viable because the boundary would be too short. Cricket is the rec's only regular source of rental income.

North-East -alongside the playground fence.

- Planting trees along the playground fence is also constrained by the position of the overhead power lines.
- Trees will reduce the size of the cricket field too much-it would make cricket non-viable
- The trees would block any direct sunlight onto the playground in the afternoon, especially in winter. The sun rises over the playground, reaches its zenith about midday over the zip wire and then arcs along the Downs to disappear behind the main gate about 7pm in summer. At our latitude (51° N) the sun is never overhead- only 80° to the horizon, even on Midsummer's day. In the winter, it's only 20°, so is very low, and any trees would block the sun from 1pm.

South – between the zip wire and the main gate. Planting will impinge on the football pitch and also the siting of the fireworks and bonfire on bonfire night.

- The minimum width for a football pitch for official games is 50yds, and there is just enough room at the moment. Moving the pitch down the rec would bring the edge too close the steps at the side of the veranda. This would exclude the possibility of hiring out the pitch in the future
- The fireworks have to be sited in a diagonal from the zip wire to the garage because the prevailing wind is from the SW- effectively diagonally across the rec from the main gate to the playground. They would have to be moved further down the rec, bringing them closer to the pavilion, and the bonfire to the playground and the Henman's property.
- This area is used for overspill parking. The car park can only accommodate 16 cars, which is not enough for cricket, football, or pavilion events

South-West- either side of the main gate.

- The canopies of the current trees cover the planting areas
- The planting area on the left is close to the garage ($\leq 5\text{m}$) and may cause root damage to the foundations, and also the carpark.

Similarly, on the right, tree roots might damage the concrete base of the cricket nets, and the car park. In addition, this area is used to dump the toxic ash and soil scraped from the fireworks night bonfire site, and for storage of wood for the bonfire. This would be lost. The toxic pile is removed every 10 years by a 16 wheel lorry with a grab bucket, so it needs a hard surface to park on. The arm is only 10 m long, so the pile must be within 10m of a hard surface.

- There is room for 50 hedging plants (in total) on either side of the main gate, which would look good, and would hide the storage area from the road and help prevent fly-tipping. (see photo below)



There are gaps in the border along Chalk Hill which might be suitable for trees. Arboriculturist advice would have to be sought. There may be an opportunity to use trees to recreate wildlife corridors around fields with local farmers.

Jobs Calendar

Month	Health & Safety	Process	Social
January	Playground checks		
February	Playground checks Fire extinguisher check	Meter Readings	
March	Playground checks	Ensure payments up to date Final VAT return before mid-March Visual Inspection of Pavillion and facilities in recreation ground.	Spring Work Day
April	Playground checks	Prepare FY accounts Weed & feed grass Review Gas & Electricity contracts (expire end Aug 2022)	
May	Playground checks	Internal Audit (Steve Morant) Meter Readings	
June	Playground checks	AGM	Astonbury
July	Playground checks RoSPA playground check	Review recreation ground risk assessment.	
August	Playground checks	Meter Readings	
September	Playground checks	Prepare budget for next year	Autumn Work Day
October	Arrange & carry out PAT test by 14th October Playground checks	Present budget to PC	Safari Supper
November	Playground checks Boiler Service	Meter Readings	Bonfire Night
December	Playground checks		

