

Minutes of Stoke Holy Cross Playing Field Committee meeting held on 1st July 2021 at 7:30pm

Present: G Jinkerson (Chair), S Hull, S Collins, L Cozens, D Thomas

Apologies for absence

There were none.

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2021: these had previously been circulated and were now unanimously approved as a true record of the meeting.

Report from Stoke United Football Club: Report read out by G Jinkerson. Items discussed were that the grass cuttings still had to be collected, SUFC had requested a knee-high fence around the Football pitch to discourage dog walkers from exercising their dogs on the football pitch – decision of meeting this is not practical solution to dog fouling/ dogs off leads issue. The meeting agreed to approach the PC about funding half the cost of a defib, but are awaiting a reply from the FA to see if they would agree a grant. Discussion of positioning of Goal posts provided by SUFC – probably only one goal to be erected at Long Lane end of the playing field, the meeting agreed to purchase goal post sockets for the goal posts, these are being donated by SUFC to the village.

Report from Lee Cozens: The Queens Green Canopy is a national initiative to mark and celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee and 70 years' service. We are being encouraged to plant trees for this initiative the planting season 2021/22.

The Woodland Trust is a partner in this project and they are providing our village with enough hedging trees to plant the hedge by the car park and a few extra trees to fill in gaps in hedges around the rec (I did the application a month or so ago).

Eventually, we could also submit these trees onto the One Million Trees for Norfolk map which is capturing all trees planted in Norfolk under the principle 'Right Tree, Right place' for the benefit of nature and to help with carbon capture.

The trees provided by the Woodland Trust should arrive in October.

Report from S Hull re Carol Close: The new bucket swings have been cleaned and spikes installed on the above rail to deter pigeons. We need to arrange a date to ask for volunteers to clean the equipment, repair the goal nets and clean/paint the flat swings and bench. SH agreed to send SC photos and suggest dates.

Report on litter bins and dog fouling signage: Danny has the bins and the dog signs and we are waiting for him to install them. He is incredibly busy at the moment, so may take a while. It was discussed that the green signs are an initial action to highlight the law re dogs and expected behaviour of dog owners and dogs under control, the glow in the dark signs to be put in PC notice boards as well as around the playing field. It may be necessary to seek legal advice if these strategies are not legal action.

Caretaker position: It has been agreed to leave the position open at the moment and members of the Council to continue emptying bins etc.

Men's Shed offer of help: GJ to approach them to see if they are prepared to clean/paint plastic play equipment. DT agreed to check on the broken plastic drain cover to see if it can be repaired or replaced by a metal cover/.

Removal of gym metal frame: It was agreed that we need to replace the underneath with something flat and to ensure the bare concrete is covered with a safer surface. DT to look at possible solutions, there is also a trip hazard near the fenced play area gate which is close to the hedge which needs to be filled, DT will see if he could repair this.

Remedial work for the playing areas:

1. We need a budget for tree maintenance, ask the PC for agreement to this.
2. We need a date to ask for volunteers to paint the car park fence and general maintenance, possibly mid-August. Need to check out the price / availability of wood stain for the fence around the car park, Osmo or Sadolin were mentioned.
3. SC agreed to prune the overhanging low branches.
4. Anita to ask for quotes about removing the leylandi trees which back onto the back gardens of the houses on Pettingales.
5. DT agreed to speak to Stoke Dads group about Play equipment repairs / wood staining. Use of Sandolin for large wooden areas and Osmo for smaller coloured areas on the play equipment. Dates to be agreed, PC to buy sandolin and osmo wood stain.
6. Matt Davies has agreed to draft a management plan for Long Lane and Carol Close for management of the sites re: wildflowers / friends of / conservation / Fundraising / play equipment developments and maintenance.

Pump Park funding: GJ has asked for quotes, these are not forthcoming until we have a budget figure to work towards. DT agreed to either take a snapshot off Google Earth /drone picture of the area to send to the suppliers to see if they would provide a benchmark figure. GJ to approach pump park companies for quotes.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 2nd September 2021

Following actions below:

- a. SH to send photos of Carol Close repairs etc. to SC and suggest dates for a community "clean up"
- b. GJ to approach The Mens Shed for their help re play equipment pressure washing and wood staining.
- c. DT to check on repair to broken plastic drain or replace by metal cover. Also, to fill in holes in the play area and fill/smooth out under the metal frame.
- d. AR to check on prices for Osmo and Sadolin wood stain GJ/SC to request colours.
- e. DT to send a Google Earth pic of the play areas to GJ.
- f. AR to request quotes for leylandii removal.