

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2020

ITEM NO: 18 – Chairman’s Report (additional)

Parish Hall Committee meeting 12/10/20

Items Discussed:

1. Re-opening protocols
2. Code of Conduct - To adopt Code of Conduct and Terms of Reference for sub-committee
3. Legal Structure - To approve recommendations in paperwork supplied detailing the need for a new legal structure and to commission legal work to enact
4. Parish Hall Development update - Review progress and architect concept designs
5. Sports Wall, MUGA and Playground – Joint project with Parish Council to examine issues and deliver proposals to resolve – AGREED Paul Hayward to represent PHC on project

SPORTS WALL / FIELD ACCESS – PARISH HALL

COPYTHORNE PARISH HALL – ISSUES IN CONNECTION WITH THE SPORTS WALL AND THE FIELD ACCESS

INFORMATION

It was identified in a previous meeting of the Parish Hall Committee that the access point into the upper field via the Sports Wall ‘gap’ was becoming an issue in terms of ground erosion and damage. In addition, and latterly, a further issue has arisen in respect of the adjacency of the Sports Wall and the playground. ‘Stray’ footballs have been hitting the playground and in some reported cases, people within the playground.

Clearly, incidents involving the potential for someone, especially children in the playground, to be hit and hurt by a stray football are serious and a major health and safety risk which needs to be addressed. There is no suggestion whatsoever that any of the incidents was malicious. It is clear that they were as far as the evidence available indicates, accidents.

Both the playground and the Sports Wall are ‘owned’ by the Parish Council, but stand on Parish Hall land and are located as a result of consultation with the Parish Hall Committee. The hedge and ground adjacent to the upper field access has been the subject of a probable change discussed by the Parish Hall Committee in the past. The time has now come for the issue to be addressed in the light of the additional problems of ‘stray’ footballs.

PROPOSAL

The Parish Council is already aware of the issues and these have been both surfaced in the regular weekly playground and Sports Wall visual inspection routines, plus the recent issue of footballs entering the playground.

It is clear that there are issues for both the Parish Council and for the Parish Hall Committee in terms of any solutions.

To that end, it is proposed that a joint project is set up between the Parish Hall Committee and the Parish Council to undertake an investigation and develop proposed solutions for:

- The development of an alternative positioning for the Sports Wall
- The development of or re design of the access point for the upper field
- A programme for the preferred option(s) to be refined and commissioned with a view to the works being undertaken as soon as possible, allowing for any restrictions which may be in place at that time

This project and solutions are urgent for action given the potential for incursions into the playground, but also the accessibility to the upper field as the weather worsens into winter.

A nominee is sought from the Parish Hall Committee to work with a nominee from the Parish Council on the development of the project.

Simon Lucas
October 2020