

Sutton St. Nicholas Parish Council

Minutes of the Virtual Extraordinary Meeting of Sutton St. Nicholas Parish Council, held on Thursday 20th August 2020 at 7.15 pm via WebEx (no, SPC/TF/167)

Councillors Present

Cllr Ron Gow
Cllr Richard Andrews
Cllr Ann Burke
Cllr Sharron Haworth
Cllr Ian Nicholas

In attendance

Tony Ford – Parish Clerk

Members of the Public – 2

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received and approved for Cllr James Hitchcock.

Cllr Ron Gow informed the Parish Council that Cllr Stan Gyford had rendered his resignation due to personal reasons, and that he would be writing to him to thank him for his contribution to the Parish Council.

2. Disclosable Pecuniary Interest Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensation.

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interest by members in respect of items on the agenda.

Councillor	Y e s	N o	Agenda Item		DPI or NPI
Cllr Ron Gow		√			
Cllr Richard Andrews		√			
Cllr Ann Burke		√			
Cllr Sharon Haworth		√			
Cllr Ian Nicholas		√			

4. Sutton Playing Field

Cllr Ron Gow asked for comments from councillors, there was a consensus that the issues raised in the Annual Inspection Report should be addressed, views were split on whether the playground should be open at once and inspection required work being done when opened or that the Playing Field should remain closed to allow for work to be done and opened as soon as possible.

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that it was likely that somethings would have to be done before opening as the Playing Field had been closed for five months and things such as play bark would need to be topped up as previously planned,

Cllr Ron Gow asked Councillors if they were happy in principle for the playground to be opened subject to the Annual Inspection actions were completed. All Councillors present agreed.

A member of the public was of the view that the playing field should be opened, as it was a facility enjoyed by children, who need somewhere to play freely, and highlighted how much her grandchildren enjoyed visiting the playing field. It was also felt that users should take

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responsibility and ensure that they cleaned the equipment before and after use, as she would.

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that as part of the process and to comply with Government Guidelines and the Parish Councils insurance company the Parish Council must do a risk assessment. It was agreed that the Risk Assessment used by Balfour Beatty would form the basis of the Parish Councils Risk Assessment.

The Parish Council then carried out and completed its risk assessment, it was agreed that the Clerk would draft an action plan with likely costs based on the agreed risk assessment.

The Parish Council also noted the following remarks made by its insurers

As far as insurers are concerned you would only be criticised if you just opened the play equipment and took no action whatsoever. By doing your risk assessment, putting up signs etc you are doing what is required.

The Parish Council was reminded of the damage done to the swing seat by youths from outside the village, who had ignored the closed sign and climbed over the padlocked gate. The Parish Council also noted the female who put a small child and dog over the gate before climbing over herself.

It was agreed that the Clerk would see if the swing seat could be repaired and if not have it replaced.

The Parish Council would have extraordinary meetings as required to ensure quick progress.

Action Chairman to sign Risk Register.

Action Clerk to complete Action Plan