

**MINUTES OF BARNTON PARISH COUNCIL  
PARKS AND RECREATION GROUNDS COMMITTEE ON  
MONDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2010**

**PRESENT:-** Mr K Reading, Mr J Wills  
Mesdames: Ashdown, Hughes, Robinson, and Kirsopp.

**APOLOGIES:-** Ms V Vickers

**VISITING CLLRS.** Mrs. D. M. Gray

**In attendance:** Mr A Redley (Friends of Anderton & Marbury – FOAM) and Mr D James (Park Ranger) both for item 76/11/210 only,

**MINUTE P&RG 074/11/10 - DECLARATION OF RESERVES:**

Mrs H Kirsopp as reserve for Ms V Vickers

**MINUTE P&RG 075/11/10 – DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**

None declared.

**MINUTE P&RG 076/11/10 – QUESTION TIME / OPEN SESSION:**

**Friends of Barnton Group:**

Mr Redley had been invited to the meeting to explain how FOAM had been established, in order to discuss the formation of a similar group for Barnton, especially in view of the new responsibilities with Gunnersclough Wood. He advised the development of close working relationships with the Rangers and with the Mersey Forest Group. This group had created a file, full of advice and information about the management of woodlands. They were also very helpful in helping to set up the formalities of such a local organisation, together with a great deal of help with overheads, insurance and publicity.

The Mersey Forest Group could provide an annual grant and help with the establishment of a website and associated technical support. It will be necessary for the Parish Council to undertake a tree survey and to make an assessment of other issues relating to Access, as well as Health & Safety.

Mr Redley was prepared to offer further advice, if required. FOAM had 160 Members paying between £8.00 (single membership) to £15.00 (family membership), with 24 members offering regular help with work tasks.

He advised the Committee not to rush into a Management Plan, at this stage, and Mr James advised ensuring that any Surveyors and Tree Fellers had the appropriate qualifications, promising to send a list of the required qualifications to the Clerk. He recommended that the Mersey Forest Group be approached for related advice re: suitable contractors.

**MINUTE P&RG 076/11/10 – QUESTION TIME / OPEN SESSION:**

**Friends of Barnton Group .....Contd.....**

It would also be necessary to contact the Planning Department to ascertain the details of any tree preservation orders.

Mr Reading and Mr Wills were concerned about access, the state of the footpaths and any relationships which should be established with the Trent & Mersey Conservation area. A general discussion followed relating to the three quotations received (MINUTE P&RG 067/09/10 – GUNNERSCLOUGH WOOD – refers) for the Tree Surveys and associated Management Plan

AGREED:

- i). That the Clerk be requested to ascertain the qualifications of the chosen contractor (once the qualification list had been received from Mr James)
- ii) That, subject to the satisfactory outcome of i) above, Mr Scott (Hartford) be invited to undertake the Tree Survey, only (£610.00).
- iii) That Mr Redley and Mr James be sincerely thanked for their help and advice

Proposed: Mrs A Robinson

Seconded: Mr J Wills

Unanimous

**MINUTE P&RG 077/11/10 – MINUTES:**

AGREED.

- i). That the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th September 2010 be approved.

Proposed: Mrs J Hughes    Seconded: Mrs A Robinson    For: 4    Against: 0    Abstain 2

- ii). That the minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd September 2010 be approved

Proposed: Mrs A Robinson    Seconded: Mrs J Hughes    For: 3    Against: 0    Abstain 3

**MINUTE P&RG 078/11/10 – RUNCORN ROAD RECREATION GROUND – MULTI-USE GAMES AREA AND REDUNDANT PLAY EQUIPMENT:**

An estimate of cost had been received from the grounds maintenance contractors (Mr J Hughes), in relation to the removal of the old play equipment, being two climbing frames and associated matting (£410 + VAT) and the re-siting of the Multi-use Games Area (£820 + VAT).

AGREED:

- i). That the quotations be accepted and
- ii) That the Clerk clarify exactly what is proposed by the re-siting of the multi-use games area, to include appropriate sketches, such that this can be agreed with representatives of the residents in conjunction with parish councillors

Proposed: Mrs A Robinson

Seconded: Mr J Wills

Unanimous

**MINUTE P&RG 079/11/10 – RECREATION GROUNDS – SAFETY INSPECTIONS:**

The reports from the safety inspector for October 2010 were received. It was noted that much of the work was of low priority and that many issues raised in the previous report had been dealt with, in the interim. However, it was:

AGREED: that the Clerk

- i) Arrange for the wet pour surfaces on the Nursery Road Recreation Ground be to repaired at the earliest opportunity.
- ii) Prepare a draft letter for the Chairman to sign, reminding all residents in the areas near to the Runcorn Road Recreation field, that dogs were not to be exercised on the playing field

Proposed: Mr J Wills

Seconded: Mrs A Robinson

Unanimous

It was further AGREED:

- iii) that the issues surrounding the boundary fence and unauthorised access to the Runcorn Road Recreation Ground, be discussed under an Agenda item at the next Full Council Meeting

Proposed: Mr J Wills    Seconded: Mrs C Ashdown    For: 5    Against: 0    Abstention: 1

**MINUTE P&RG 080/11/10 – GUNNERSCLOUGH WOOD:**

AGREED: That the letter received from Anderton with Marbury Parish Council be Noted, but that the Clerk be requested to clarify the public order issues as they appeared to relate to Bashed Wood

Proposed: Mr J Wills

Seconded: Mrs H Kirsopp

Unanimous

**MINUTE P&RG 081/11/10 – JUBILEE CORNER:**

Being made aware of continuing concerns about this site, Members noted that there had been fewer complaints in recent weeks and that the Memorial itself had not been defaced, although other locations were considered. Consequently, it was

AGREED:

That every effort should be made to keep the Corner tidy and that the Clerk be requested to ascertain the cost of daily attention to the site

Proposed: Mr J Wills

Seconded: Mrs A Robinson`

Unanimous

**MINUTE P&RG 082/11/10 – BUDGET FOR 2010/11:**

The unspent balance reported by the Clerk amounted to £4,927.12, but Members noted that an earlier decision (MINUTE P&RG 078/11/10 – RUNCORN ROAD RECREATION GROUND –

MULTI-USE GAMES AREA AND REDUNDANT PLAY EQUIPMENT) had reduced anticipated costs by £1,270. The available balance was, therefore, £6197.00.

AGREED: That the Clerk be requested to allocate from the balance, as follows:

i) Gunnersclough Woods – first payment of Loan deposit	- £2,000
ii) Nursery Road Recreation Ground:	
Lighting Repairs	- £ 750
Gate Repairs	- £ 950
Water Fountain Repairs	- £ 250
Teenage Shelter Repairs	- £ 200
iii). Runcorn Road Recreation Ground:	
Removal of old Play Equipment	- £ 410
Re-siting of Multi Use Play Equipment	- £ 820
	<b>Total: £5,380</b>

Proposed: Mr J Wills                      Seconded: Mrs A Robinson`                      Unanimous

**MINUTE P&RG 083/11/10 – BUDGET FOR 2011/12:**

NOTED

**MINUTE P&RG 084/11/10 – FORMER BRITISH LEGION CLUB – MEADOW DRIVE:**

The concerns reported by Cllr Mrs A Robinson were noted, in addition to new concerns relating to the adjacent vacant Social Services building. It was

AGREED:

That the Clerk be requested to make the strongest representations to the British Legion, on as many occasions as may be required, to demand that British Legion building be demolished at the earliest opportunity.

Proposed: Mrs A Robinson`                      Seconded: Mr K Reading                      Unanimous

Chairman ..... 24th January 2011