



**NAILSEA TOWN COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on  
Wednesday 27 April 2022 at 7:52pm at the Tithe Barn, Church Lane, Nailsea.

**PRESENT:** Cllr Argles (in the Chair), Cllr Barber, Cllr Bird, Cllr J Blatchford, Cllr Frappell, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Kushner, Cllr Lees, Cllr Miller, Cllr Packham, Cllr Watts and the Assistant Clerk, the Comms + Media Officer, Cllr Houlbrook, Cllr Smith and representatives from the NPFA and the GSSC, and members of the public.

**EL23/22 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from the Clerk, Cllr Ellis and Cllr Middleton.

**EL24/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Hunt declared a personal interest in agenda item EL27/22 as she lives near the Grove.

The Assistant Clerk declared a personal interest in agenda item EL28/22 as she has plots at the Whitesfield Road site.

**EL25/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public that wished to speak.

**EL26/22 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 MARCH 2022**

The minutes were confirmed as an accurate representation of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

**EL27/22 PLAYING FIELDS AND PLAY/RECREATION AREAS**

**a) Report by a representative of Nailsea Playing Fields Association (NPFA) and Grove Sports and Social Club (GSSC)**

Maureen and Simon give their apologies. John Fox will present this report.

The NPFA Meetings was held on Monday 11 April at 19:30 at Grove SSC. The next meeting will be held on Monday 9 May 19:30 at Grove and Councillors are welcome to attend.

Finance: The 2021 -22 accounts have now been finalised and are ready to go to the accountants. NPFA have paid the bulk of the Groundsman's costs plus the rates and administrative costs for the financial year. We have used the Covid Grants, as a way of assisting the sports clubs through a difficult two years. We will resume the normal distribution of costs between the clubs in 2022 – 23.

Greenfield Crescent: Due to staff shortages, West Country Groundcare cannot continue to maintain the Greenfield pitches. We are entering into an agreement with Glendale. They will be carrying out repair work caused by moles and cutting the grass during the summer. NPFA will pay for this initial contract as NJFC will not be using the land and will not have budgeted for this work. We hope continue pitch improvements gradually, over the next few years.

Grove Playing Fields: There are a few football matches left which will take place on the NUFC 1st team area. Cricket has commenced on the western area by St Mary's Grove. Around 80 children have signed up for the 'All Stars childrens' training sessions on Friday evenings which will start shortly. Somerset Schools Competitions will take place on the whole site in May/June, again this year.

Damage to equipment: NCC regularly suffer from damage to their equipment; nets sight screens and covers. The items cannot be easily put away and fall prey to unsupervised children, who treat them as climbing frames. This involves the club in a lot of additional expenditure. The covers been severely damaged recently. NCC will be considering how they will raise the £8 - £10K needed for the replacement of two of the three covers. They are currently awaiting materials for the repair of their artificial nets following damage caused by Storm Eunice and replacement of the nets on the grass pitches.

Fun Run: Multi Coloured Fun Run Gove Playing Fields Sunday May 8:10am – 4pm. There will be a lot of adults and children wandering over the site at various times of the day and the car park has been closed for safety reasons. Please attend on foot.

Dog notices: We are working with the Clerk to determine the best location and design for notices, within a realistic budget. Wherever possible we will re-use existing notices and attach notices to walls to minimise the expense of posts. NTC & NPFA will work together on an article for North Somerset Times to alert the public to the issues and to the fact there is a PSPO (public space protection order) in force on the land. Grove Preschool are particularly keen for the public to recognise the risk of unsupervised dogs to children.

Nailsea Bike Show: Will take place at Grove this year 10-11 September. Maureen has reviewed the evidence for our decision not to host the event in 2023, as follows: *The sports governing bodies will not continue to allow the clubs special dispensation to defer or relocate games. The increased size of the event is outgrowing our car park. Grove takings were not significantly higher on Bike Show weekends over the three events we have hosted, the Ring'o'bells being the primary financial beneficiary. We routinely host Charitable events for the benefit of the community. Whilst we acknowledge our decision has disappointed some Councillors, we ask that the discussions remain private so as not to adversely affect NPFA and Grove's reputation in the town.*

Woodspring Ladies Football Club: We invited Ian Ridge to speak at our latest meeting and hope to work with him in his search for better facilities and to promote Women's sport in the town.

Grove lease: We understand that NTC are working on a lot of issues at present. The sooner we can get the ball rolling on discussion of the lease, the sooner sports clubs will be able to access funds and make plans for improvements of the site.

#### Grove Sports & Social Club Report

Meetings were held on Monday 21 March and Monday 25 April. I have already reported on most of the events prior to 16 March in your previous minutes. The next meeting will be held on Monday 16 May 19:30 at Grove and councillors are welcome.

Finance: Bookings are increasing and weekly takings are similar to 2018-19 pre-Covid levels. We have sufficient funds in reserve to pay the £42K we owe on the loan with an additional cushion of around £25K,

Wind damage: We now have a new sports hall roof at a cost to our insurers of £42.5K. We await internal repairs which should commence at the beginning of May, the majority of which will come under the insurance claim. We await our claim for loss of earnings and also await claim settlement for a £1860 bill for electrical repairs. We have taken the opportunity to reduce the wattage of bulbs in the sports hall from

2800W to 840W and from 500W to 140W for our car park flood-light, at our expense of around £2,700.

Cleaners: Our new contract cleaners, Weston Support Services, are proving very satisfactory.

Preschool fence: This has now been replaced and we hope to spruce up that side of the building during the school summer holidays.

Rules: We are working on updating the wording and format of our rules in time for our July AGM and will shortly be attaching a new GDPR policy document to our website.

Tills: We are investigating options for the upgrading of our bar tills

Staff Salaries: These have been reviewed in line with the National minimum wage and the management differentials

Future Events:

Woodspring Ladies Presentation Evening	07.05.22
Toby Riley Colour Fun Run	08.05.22
Toby Riley Charity Disco	14.05.22
Nailsea Junior Football Club Presentations	20.05.22, 21.05.22 and 22.05.22

**b) Dog Control Signs for the Grove**

The signs were noted by the meeting.

**c) Letter from Val Smith regarding the placing of a bench at the Grove**

The Assistant Clerk advised the meeting of cost of the last bench to be installed at the Grove in June 2021, which totalled at £1,513.60 without a plaque, and will reply to Val Smith advising of this whilst also highlighting that costs may have substantially changed since this.

**EL28/22 TO DISCUSS NAILSEA ALLOTMENTS AND THEIR SELF-MANAGEMENT**

It was requested that Nailsea Allotments are added onto all future Environment and Leisure meeting agendas going forwards and updates provided.

*Cllr Steel left the meeting at 8:43.*

It was felt that the allotments are requiring a lot of the office team's time, which they are unable to provide effectively at present. The sites currently do not fund themselves, and this is not taking into account a percentage of staff salaries, print costs, postage fees or any additional purchases needed, e.g. new padlocks.

**EL29/22 TO NOTE WORK RECENTLY CARRIED OUT BY NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL'S PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY TEAM FOLLOWING REQUESTS**

*Cllr Lees left the meeting at 8:51.*

The meeting noted the works.

**EL30/22 UPDATE ON SPILSBURY WOOD**

The Assistant Clerk advised the Council on her meeting with a representative from the Forest of Avon Trust and the next steps that have been suggested. It was advised that

a lot of the processes cannot be undertaken until later in the year, so works will need to remain paused until this time.

The meeting noted the report.

**EL31/22 SUB-COMMITTEE AND WORKING PARTIES**

**a) Climate Emergency Working Party 8 March 2022**

The meeting noted the minutes.

**EL32/22 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**a) Statement of Income and Expenditure as at 19 April 2022**

The meeting noted the statement.

**b) Specified Reserves 2021-22 linked to Environment and Leisure Committee**

- i) Play Equipment £28,000**
- ii) Skate Park Project £10,000**
- iii) Climate Emergency Fund £5,000**

The meeting noted the Specified Reserves.

**EL33/22 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

It was advised that 'Lords and Ladies' plants which are listed on the A&E toxic list are growing around the Trendlewood Park play equipment. Cllr Bird and Cllr Tonkin have notified the relevant members of the North Somerset Council Parks and Open Spaces team to action.

The meeting closed at 8:58pm

Chair's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_