

MEETING OF THE EB RECREATION GROUND WORKING PARTY

held in the

Church Hall

at

7:30 pm on Wednesday 17 January 2018

Those in attendance:

Terry Cantlon, Chairman
David Buss, Parish Councillor
Jonathan Ponting, School Governor
John Tresidder, FOEBRG
Sally Tresidder, FOEBRG

Brian Martin, Resident
Richard Pearce, Football Club
Mark Bown, Football Club
Jack Morgan Football Club
Lesley Wensley, FOEBRG

1. **APOLOGIES:** None.
2. **MINUTES:** The minutes of the November meeting were agreed as being a correct record by those present.
3. **ACTION POINTS FROM LAST MEETING**
 - **Football Club** to maintain a log of problems and incidents and pass to the Parish Council. **Not yet done. RP to action.**
 - **Football Club** to ensure all football matches dates to be passed to JT. **Not yet done. RP to action.**
 - **JT** to continue with data collection and sweeping before practice and matches until end January. **Actioned.**
 - **BM** to provide costs and wording for proposed improved signage. **Actioned.**
 - **TC** to present signage costs to November PC meeting for approval. **Actioned.**
 - **TC** to establish if signage costs could be funded by Parishes Together. **Actioned.**
 - **RP** to supply contact details of a sign writer and establish if the FC could contribute towards the cost. **Actioned.**
 - **RP** to provide a sketch of his proposed area for exercising dogs. **Not yet done RP to action.**
 - **TC** to put to November PC meeting the need to repair the steps to the recreation ground and a finger sign to the rec. **Actioned.**

4. **MATTERS DISCUSSED**

Our remit

The WP's objective was restated as being to address the impact of animal fouling on the use of the recreation ground and attempt to find a system of control that was acceptable to all parties.

The WP's input was sought to determine if there is anything else we should be

investigating within the remit. Peripheral to the remit, education and signage was included and progress has been made both on the content and type of signage required to promote the rec and provide contact information. In principle cost was agreed to be met by the PC at its November meeting. Budgets for production were around £60 per sign.

Results of monitoring

The 'sweeping' of the football pitch had been carried out over a four month period, which demonstrated that it was an approach to controlling faeces that could be sustained.

The results of the sweep by FOEBRG showed there were 64 incidents of fox and 3 incidents of dog faeces cleared. Identification of the animal faeces was disputed by the FC. MB of the football club produced a hand written list and photos showing evidence of 37 faeces recorded between 24/11/17 and 17/01/18. Fox faeces do appear to be the predominant problem, although this does remain disputed.

The majority of the WP was in agreement that a 1m fence around the pitch would not resolve foxes fouling.

The FC reported no incidents of halted games over the four month period, which reinforced that 'sweeping' was a viable method of controlling faeces. It was however noted that 'sweeping' was not a 24/7 solution and could only be effective at the time it was carried out.

FOEBRG were asked if the "sweeping" would continue all year or just for the football season. FOEBRG confirmed that it was their intention to clean up all year.

Options for control

Summary of the alternatives suggested by the WP:

1. Continue with residents sweeping the field before matches. This has been trialled over four months with no disruptions to matches reported. For: no fence; cleaned pitch. Against: not 24/7; not whole of Rec.
2. Fence off areas by tennis court and treed area for exercise area for dogs off lead. Dogs on rest of rec on lead only. For: a compromise solution which negates the need for a fence dominating the central area of the rec. Against: residents may feel 'corralled'.
3. Secure an extra tract of land from CDE adjacent to the rec for exercise of dogs off lead. Dogs on rest of rec on lead only. CDE has been approached for their consideration of this proposal and a decision is awaited (chances of approval: low). The attraction of this proposal was the complete rec area was 'open to all' thus maintaining the status quo.
4. An additional option to move the football pitch elsewhere, was considered undesirable, as the FC contributions to maintaining the area are welcome. However, should the FC rise in the league in the future they may need to consider alternative grounds to meet FA requirements anyway.

Additional comments

Dogs should not be allowed to run freely from the entrances into the rec out of view of their owners. An extended gate system would aid this.

The WP should report back to the PC that its deliberations have shown that a fence would not be effective in preventing foxes fouling.

A written report needs to be prepared, draft to be discussed with the WP in mid February and final version to be presented to the PC's 27th February meeting.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jonathan Ponting asked to be excused from the next meeting as he had stated the school's position at each meeting and did not feel that he could add any more on the basis of his brief. He reported that a direct approach to the school had been made by the FC and that the school had written re-stating its unchanged position.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was proposed that the WP's next meeting should be on Friday 23rd February

PS following the above meeting I received the following response from CDE regarding leasing an extra tract of land:

Dear Terry

I am emailing in response to your email of the 18th January regarding an extension of the Rec ground in East Budleigh onto Estate land to accommodate the exercising of dogs. This request has been internally discussed, the agricultural land is held in a long term agricultural tenancy and we are not able to consider this as an option. Our position remains the same.

Regards

*Clare James
Estates Surveyor*