

Diptford Playing Field Group AGM minutes

30th October 2023, Diptford Village Hall. 19.30.

Present:

Mike Cox (Chair)

Ralph Mortimore (Secretary)

Sue Franklin

Nick Zeiher

Steve Parker Davidson

Louise Lethbridge

Steve Hill

Nancy Hill

Jeremy Randell

Helen Price

1 Apologies

Tessa Clarke (Treasurer)

Lisa Roberts

Becca Filtness

2 Minutes

Minutes from the 2022 AGM were read and approved.

3 Annual Report by Chair

A summary of the years activities was read by Mike Cox, mentioning carrying out a user survey, renovating the activity frame bridge, reviewing options for the activity frame legs anchor points and dual swing base re-surfacing. The Parish Walk was mentioned which, following cancellation, is now planned for April 2024. Final mention was given to the Parish Council for handling the current safety issues with the pine tree at the Playing Fields entrance and the tennis court fencing which is hoped will be resolved ASAP.

A useful explanation of the history of the playing field was provided by members of the Parish Council. The land was gifted in the 1970s and the Parish Council were appointed as Custodian Trustees. A tennis club operated on the site from 1977, and generated an income, but this stopped after advice that covenants on the land did not permit this. Day to day running is managed by Diptford Playing Fields Group, and the 'Amenity Trust' can potentially fund any larger purchases, expenses and are registered as a charity.

As the years have gone by the need for repairs and maintenance has increased due to age of equipment. The roles of the Parish Council and the Playing Fields Group in this matter was discussed and clarified.

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The Diptford Playing Fields Group will undertake the general promotion of the playing field, endeavour to generate additional funding for future use and to assist in the day-to-day running of the playing field, liaising with the Amenity Trust / Parish Council.

The Parish Council undertakes the cost of grass cutting, other ground maintenance (including tree surgery) and the maintenance of the on-site equipment, along with the bi-monthly safety inspections and also the annual indemnity insurance.

With regards to generating funding for playing field it was agreed that Mike Cox would approach Ali Kohler the Parish Clerk, as she has expertise in fund-raising.

The replies to the public survey undertaken earlier this year provided a useful basis for the future plans to be considered to enhance the appeal of the park.

4 Financial Report

The bank provider was changed this year and the current account stands at £1475.84.

5 Election of Committee

Mike Cox has stepped down from the Chair role after many years to allow a new villager to provide direction for the coming year. Ideally, someone who has a family interest at heart e.g. someone from within the village and a parent with children who are regular users, but not limited to.

Ralph Mortimore was re-elected to the role of Secretary for the coming year.

Tessa Clarke was re-elected to the role of Treasurer for the coming year.

6 Events for 2024

The Parish Walk 2023 had to be cancelled due to inclement weather, but it is planned to be re-run in April.

Other events discussed included a BBQ in the park and other social gatherings – further suggestions for events will be actively sought.

7 Maintenance and Inspection Report

Currently the playing field is closed pending an inspection this week by a tree specialist to establish what work will be needed to render the Monterey Pine safe to allow the reopening.

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The upright supports for the perimeter fencing of the tennis court are in need of urgent repair/replacement and it is agreed that the court will remain unavailable for use until the work is carried out.

The ongoing use of the court was discussed with a view to resurfacing it and also to allowing it to provide further sport activities.

Quotations are being considered by the council for the re-anchoring of the activity frame along with repairs to the swings, metal slide and skate ramps.

Other items currently on the inspection report will be reviewed to establish priorities for their attention which is the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Outside of this, the Playing Fields Group will look to include a canopy for the BBQ area, options for an adult activity gym together with necessary funding and carry out general tidy up activities such as weed control through the year.

8 Any other business

None.

Meeting closed at 21.30.