



AXMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK:
ANDY COMERFORD
EYRE COURT HOTEL
2 QUEENS STREET
EX12 2NY
Tel no: 07895 910543

A meeting of Axmouth Parish Council, Playground Committee was held on Wednesday 24th January 2024, at 7pm at Axmouth Village Hall.

Those present:

Cllr J. Condron, Cllr E. Staff, Mr. I Hunt, Mrs. P Sweetland (arrived 7.30pm).

In attendance:

Andy Comerford (Clerk).

1. To receive and acknowledge apologies.

Apologies received from Mr P Britton (Prior appointment).

The Clerk confirmed the meeting was quorate.

2. Declaration of Interests: **None .**

3. Election of Chair:

Mr I Hunt was proposed by Cllr Condron, seconded by Cllr Staff. Mr Hunt said he was happy to be Chairman in the short term but didn't want a long term role.

Mr Hunt was unanimously elected as Chair.

4. Additional Committee members.

It was agreed that the Committee required 2 more members of the public and additional support for the committee should be sort from parents and grandparents of children and the community that used the facility. Cllr Condron agreed to write an open letter for publishing in Axmouth News and the website to seek support.

5. Terms of Reference.

The existing ToR's were reviewed. It was agreed that the references to the Playground Working Group should be replaced by the Playground Sub Committee.

It was agreed that the number of members of the public should be increased to 4.

Fund raising should be added to point 8.

The Playground maintenance budget noted in the Parish Council accounts of £500.00 shall be for the use of the Playground Committee without reference to the Parish Council.

The ToR's should clarify voting rights.

The revised ToRs will be finalised at the next meeting and submitted to the PC for approval.

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6. Maintenance.

Mr Hunt explained that he maintained the site with weekly visits on a Wednesday. He further reported that, along with Mr Britton and Mr Wiseman, a report of remedial works had been produced. Cllr Condrón added that he had inspected the site as well and combining the reports quotations should be sort to bring the playground up to standard. The Clerk reported that the annual inspection was booked for the end of February or beginning of March.

Cllr Condrón asked what would happen to the existing funds held by the Playground Association. The Clerk stated that the funds should be transferred to the PC accounts with the total to be included in the earmarked accounts. This could then only be spent on the Playground with the Committee making recommendations to the PC on how it should be spent. The Annual Inspection fee was paid for by the PC as a separate budget item and, as mentioned in point 5, the Maintenance budget was available for immediate repairs and should be used by the Financial year end

7. Playground Association and transfer of Assets.

Cllr Condrón asked what the position was with the Playground Association assets. The Clerk said that the assets would need to be transferred to the Parish Council. Currently the playground assets were listed on the Responsibility for Council assets list to indicate which Councillor was responsible for monitoring the condition of the assets. They had not yet been added to the List of Council assets for accountancy purposes. The funds held by the Association had not been transferred as yet.

There was discussion over who was responsible for the Playground. It was agreed that the Playground Committee was now responsible for the Playground. The Clerk said that he didn't think the playground Association had existed for a little while as a quorate body, which called for at least 5 members to attend meetings, but Mr Hunt, Mr Britton and Mr Wiseman had managed it until now with little help or support.

It was agreed that the Clerk would produce a statement to be signed at the next meeting by Mr Hunt and Mr Britton formally closing the Association and transfer the assets.

It was agreed that the Playground was a tremendous asset and a well used facility for the Community that would be supported by the Council whose aim would be to continue to maintain it to the highest standards, seek public opinion for development and ensure its availability to the children of village in the future.

At 19.20 Mrs Sweetland joined the meeting. She offered to join the Playground Committee and this was unanimously agreed and would be an excellent link with community.



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8 Any Other Business :

- a) Cllr Condron said that, given all the hard work that had got the playground to where it is now, the role of the Committee was one of guardianship with an eye to regular weekly maintenance needs, one-off repairs as they arise and how it can be improved. There is a reasonable amount of space available that could be developed but kept relevant for the changing needs of the children of the village. Cllr Staff agreed and said she was interested in two avenues of development. The planting of native trees utilising the current projects that have been set up to promote this activity. Cllr Staff was also keen to investigate if the area could also be used for adult wellbeing initiatives such as outdoor yoga or just a tranquil area. She had spoken with Cllr Hall who felt this could be possible providing the lease allowed it and safeguarding procedures were followed. Cllr Hall also felt that community health and wellbeing projects were normally well received and attracted funding. Mr Hunt added that he would like to see an area seeded with wild flowers once the maintenance issues had been bought up to date.

Mr Hunt said that we need to keep in mind that it is primarily a children's playground and that if adults were using the area they need to keep that in mind. Mrs Sweetland said she supported the idea of planting areas and landscaping as it would soften quite a harsh area.

- b) Mr Hunt reiterated that the maintenance work was the priority. Cllr Condron proposed a list of works be produced and quotations sought for carrying out the work. The Clerk confirmed that 3 quotations should be obtained.
- c) Cllr Staff said that she was not a maintenance person but would be very happy to investigate funding streams that may be available. This was agreed

9. Future Meetings.

The Clerk asked what meeting frequency was required. Initially quarterly meetings had been suggested. Mr Hunt suggested monthly meetings for now but then review it once all the maintenance issues were up to date and a meeting pattern could be established. This was agreed.

Next meeting to be booked for Wednesday 27th February.

Meeting closed at 19.50hrs.

Signed _____ *Ian Hunt* _____ Date _____ 27/2/2024 _____



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