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**Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting of Woodmancote Parish Council (WPC)  
held at The Skittles Room, The Bull Inn, Mock Bridge, Henfield on Tuesday 04 June 2024, 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr R Noel, Cllr Dixon, Cllr Austin, Cllr Batchelor, Cllr Donald, Cllr W Noel.  
**Others Present:** The Clerk and 6 members of the public including three children.

**2024 - 080 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Morris.

**2024 – 081 Minutes**

The minutes of the WPC Annual Parish Meeting of 14 May 2024 were RESOLVED subject the agreed amendments.

**2024 – 082 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest from councillors regarding items on the agenda.

**2024 - 083 Blackstone Playing Fields – new playground equipment and site**

Cllr R Noel agreed to include public participation within the Council's discussions about the new playground.

He updated councillors with the quotations he had received from potential playground equipment suppliers selected by himself and Cllr W Noel. Three companies had supplied quotations – Elevate Play, Creative Play and locally based North Park. During discussions with suppliers, it had become clear that to install a new rubberised matting surface similar to the old base would substantially add to the cost of the new playground. Creative Play proposed that the base be made out of grass mats on a different grass site which could then be maintained through strimming. Cllr R Noel confirmed that Sussex Cricket was happy to relocate the playground site to allow for this provided it was sufficiently away from the pitch and that the Playing Fields groundsman would be able to trim the ground.

Cllr R Noel explained the current budget available to spend on the new playground. WPC would be providing £10,000 and Sussex Cricket would be donating £10,000. The total purchase would be made through the Council which could re-claim VAT giving a total budget of £24,000 for the new playground and associated costs. He confirmed that Sussex Cricket would still be liable for insurance cover of the new equipment.

Further funding could be provided through HDC S106 monies of around £1700. And Cllr W Noel suggested applying for a Co-op or One-Stop community grant, and the Sussex Rampion Community Benefit Fund grant. Cllr Austin suggested that the wood from the old playground could be shredded and re-sold.

Cllr R Noel distributed playground designs submitted by the three potential suppliers to councillors and members of the public. All the plans included swings, a slide and climbing frame. Members of the public (and submissions to WPC via the Blackstone WhatsApp group and email) suggested the following additions: Monkey 'pull-up' bars or a ladder to provide a greater challenge for older children, and a bench for parents.

Having discussed the three proposed plans and quotations, councillors agreed to appoint Creative Play as the new playground supplier, including installation and site relocation, and that Cllr R Noel would request a further quotation to include the above equipment suggestions. He also confirmed that he would establish the exact amount of S106 monies available for the project, and Cllr W Noel agreed to establish whether further community funding grants would be available to cover the additional equipment costs.

#### **2024 – 084 Community relations**

Cllr R Noel invited members of the public to get involved with the WPC emphasising that there were two parish councillor vacancies. He also mentioned that Woodmancote was looking for two Neighbourhood Watch volunteers and volunteers for the Community Speedwatch project

It is the Council's aim to complete the new playground by the end of the Summer and to organise a celebration of its opening with an event day at the Blackstone Playing Fields.

Cllr R Noel outlined the contents of a WPC community leaflet to be distributed to all households encouraging resident so to get involved, outlining the Council's achievements, information about the playground opening event and its bio-diversity group etc.

It was agreed that Cllr R Noel would draw up a draft A5 four-page leaflet for approval at the next WPC Ordinary Meeting. He also mentioned that in future it might be possible to build a community village hall in the area of the Blackstone Playing Fields not included in the Sussex Cricket Ground lease and to begin fundraising for this facility.

#### **2024 - 085 Date of the next meeting – 11 June 2024**

The meeting closed at 8.36pm

**Cllr R Noel – Chair**  
**Woodmancote Parish Council**