

MINUTES of the meeting of Feering Parish Council Playing Field Committee held on Monday 6th. April 2016 at 9.30am in the Parish Office

Present: Cllr P. Lees (Chairman), Cllr M. Lakin, Cllr K. Evans and Kevin Money (Clerk)
Also present was Simon Gibbs

10/2016 Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Lees welcomed all to the meeting especially Simon Gibbs
There were no apologies for absence

11/2016 Declaration of Interest

Cllr Lees declared an interest in Item 15 on the agenda

12/2016 Questions from the public – There were no public at the meeting

13/2016 Minutes of meeting held on Monday 15th. February 2016

Cllr M. Lakin proposed and Cllr K. Evans seconded that the minutes be signed as being true and accurate record of the meeting. **This was carried unanimously**

14/2016 Update on Condition of Playing Field

Simon Gibbs informed Councillors that, thankfully, the grass is not growing therefore there is not too much cutting needing to be done. He intends to do some slitting later this week. He has to order some fertilizer and will order in next couple of weeks so that he can start spraying for worms and weeds later this week. The field is in good condition regarding weather conditions and he has rolled the Football pitch. Cllr P. Lees asked about the "health & safety issue" on spraying the field. Simon Gibbs assured the Councillors that there is no issue with any health & safety issues in spraying the field. Simon was going to talk to Graham regarding strimming around the fences. Simon has already contacted Graham Bendell regarding the moles on the field. An invoice from him will be sent to the Clerk in due course. Another effort to place Geotextile membrane will be placed around the football container as soon as possible.

Cllr P. Lees thanked Simon for his report and at this point of the meeting Simon Gibbs leaves the meeting

15/2016 Play Equipment / MUGA

• To get update on funding options

The Clerk had received a letter from "Award for all". The application had been refused because the application did not clearly show the need for the project by showing any problems or disadvantage that exists for children and young people in the community that would be addressed by installing new play equipment. We are unlikely to get any further funding from external sources due to the restraints being placed on charities.

• Consider development of Action plan for play equipment

Cllr M. Lakin informed the meeting that £10,000 had already been received from ECC CIF fund, and if £5,000 is taken from reserves then if the clerk places a request in the Parish magazine and on Facebook for additional funding of £5,000 this project can then be completed.

• Annual inspection and consider monthly handyman reports on equipment.

Councillors asked the clerk to contact Graham to clear the weeds and moss on the roundabout and matting. To do a general maintenance of the area.

The Councillors agreed to postpone to the Annual inspection date until the next meeting and to make a decision on looking for independent inspector. The Clerk was asked to

contact the school to ascertain who they used for their inspection. The inspection should take place between April & May.

- **To consider MUGA repairs and lease options with ECC.**

The lease is due to expire in July '17. Cllr P. Lees explained he had attended a meeting at ECC with regard to education and neighbourhood plans. He informed the meeting that if the primary school is academised under the "forced academy legislation" the land would have to be leased to the DFE for 125 years at a peppercorn rent. If the school is academised under the "Non forced academy" procedures, then the land is leased to the academy chain for 125 years. He also mentioned that the rule on facilities is that any facility used by the schools children for 8 or more years can be included in this. He felt this would obviously have implications for the school hall and the Muga and it also appears that there is no scope for any compensation from ECC or any other body or for allowing an appeal against the compulsory leasing of the playing field land. Cllr P. Lees was asked "When is Feering school becoming an academy"? He pointed out all non-academies must be academised by 2020/22, but Essex are very keen to academies schools earlier where feasible. After a detailed discussion Councillors agreed that the clerk to send a letter to "Fields in Trust" asking them if they were aware of situation, and also asking them their position on this new "academy procedure".

Councillors agreed that after receiving a response from "Fields in Trust" legal advice should be sought.

MUGA repair issue.

Cllr P. Lees informed the meeting that a quotation of £38,000 had been received by the school to repair the surface and drainage.

Councillors agreed that this was an excessive amount and asked the clerk to contact an independent surveyor to inspect the drainage problem for the MUGA and see what can be done

16/2016 ANY OTHER PLAYING FIELD MATTERS

- Any other matters to consider for the next Playing Field Management Committee Meeting Agenda.

The Clerk was asked to contact East Anglian Fencing for 2 quotations to replace the fence running alongside footpath 16. The clerk was informed that if the footpath was to be closed for the works to be carried out then the company would need a certificate (section 50) to close the footpath.

Following the new Byelaws for Feering Playing Field then it was suggested that new signs are obtained.

17/2016 AGREE DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Playing Field Management meeting would be Tuesday 7th. June 2016 9.30am

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 11am and thanked everyone for attending the meeting

Signed..... 7th. June 2016
Paul Lees