

The Parish Council of Alfrick and Lulsley
New Public Facilities in Alfrick (Section 106 funding)

Minutes of a meeting of the committee to consider New Public Facilities in Alfrick on Wednesday 27th November at 19:30 in the Village Hall Alfrick.

Attending; Chair; Cllr A Cooper, Cllrs; Ms B Brown, R Ashton, T Clarke, B Martin, Dist Cllr Ms S Rouse, Mr M Hammond, MHDC.

By invitation; Ms B Gaskell, B Golden, Ms G Clarke, I Laydon, M Warne, Ms S and G Dodwell.

Clerk to the Council; G M Brewin.

Apologies: Ms H Tarragon, A Pearce.

Agenda

1. Members' Apologies for absence

The apologies from Ms H Tarragon and A Pearce were noted.

2. Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in agenda items.

3. Confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 10 October 2019

These had been circulated in advance of the meeting, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

4. Financial Matters

There were no expenses.

5. Procedure for allocating funds - confirmation of what does and does not qualify to use 106 money.

Mr M Hammond, Contracts and Developments Manager at MHDC set out the requirements to be met to qualify for section 106 funding - noting that MHDC held £70,918 available for this parish. Funding would remain available for a period of 10 years.

Projects must be caused by an increase in demand from housing developments in the parish.

They could be new, an extension of existing facilities, or refurbishment of old facilities, but must all indicate a response to an increase in demand as a result of housing development.

Funds were not available for matters such as redecoration, repair and maintenance, etc relating to existing facilities. It was important to note the new aspect of any work to be done in making a claim under this heading. The chairman noted that there were other projects that might be considered as the committee work progressed.

These were;

A communal shelter on the playing field.

Outdoor accessible toilets at the Village Hall.

Improved drainage on the playing field.

Signposted walks through the parish.

In discussion it was noted that projects were not limited by the funds available but could be enhanced by further funds made available by the Parish Council or other funding activities within the parish.

6. Group Reports

a) Enhanced tennis/multi-sport area - Cllr T Clarke with Ms B Gaskell and M Warne.

An initial review of the existing tennis court indicated that the area was unsuitable for extension to a full-size court or developing into a multi use games area. There was also the problem of the existing tennis club membership which was restricted and would need to be resolved.

Work was in hand to identify other areas where these facilities might be located.

b) Childrens' play area - Cllr R Ashton with Ms G Clarke and Ms H Tarragon.

This group's report is set out below.

As a group we first met at the village hall to look at the possible sites in Alfrick for a play area and to discuss what we would be looking for in terms of equipment from potential providers. We also have considered that whilst the children's population in the parishes is perceived as low, we should consider all demands on the new facility including from visiting families e.g. grandchildren both pre and post school which would increase usage. There are local parents that have expressed support and Shop and Café customers have said they would welcome this facility.

S106 money is not just for the current population, we should not lose the opportunity to provide for any increase in the number of local children. To back this up, surprisingly, there were 112 children out of 605

residents in 2014/15 in Alfrick, also the local authority will, in future, be placing families in the local social housing when they become vacant, which will naturally lower the age of the local population. In addition, we note that parents will drive quite a distance to use a good play area which could bring trade to the locality, shop/cafe for example.

We identified 3 potential areas within the Village Hall and playing field vicinity that could be used for differing sizes of play area, 2 on Village Hall owned ground and the left-hand side of the playing field by the entrance. The Village Hall owned sites would have to be developed with the VH Committee approval. We would also take into consideration any views that the show committee put forward in the PC owned field. We believe that a play area would be an addition to the show facilities.

1. The grass between the shop and the tennis court. This is small (approx 10m by 8m) and only suitable for a toddler area that would need to be fenced to keep dogs out and children in.
2. The area beyond the tennis court, a triangular area which is further away from the car park and shop and would require a path as well as any play equipment. We are unsure of the suitability of this area due to drainage issues, but it would be large enough to provide equipment for toddlers and older children alike.
3. The left-hand side of the playing field between the gate and football pitch and the ditches to the side of the field. A larger area (approx. 12m by 22m) which has enough room for toddlers and juniors. This could be increased if the hard standing in the top corner of the field was reduced allowing the football pitch to move up. We have contacted several providers and 3 have already visited the site with one (Wicksteed) providing 2 detailed quotes, the price difference dependent on the surface used. £45.8k for grass mats and £58.3k for rubber mulch. These quotes are for the full spec but can be broken down to 2 different areas for toddlers (12.6k or £18.4k) and Juniors (£31.6k or £38.3k) respectively on the surface provided and including a 24% discount on list price.

Touchwood have quoted £30k for a wooden tower structure plus between £5k and £10k for surfacing, not including travel, accommodation, plant and psi inspection.

Playdale and Creative Play have visited and surveyed, and both their quotes are due in early December. We have price lists for both these companies and can compare the base elements to a certain degree, but the equipment will be different. We also have a limited quote from the Playground Co, but they have not visited yet.

If we decide on a toddler area on site no 1 above as this provides for children that have nothing in the area and would add to the village facilities. This could be achieved at a relatively low cost as the equipment does not require expensive groundwork, maybe grass mats to keep the ground becoming too muddy in the winter. We recommend that we use the playing field for both toddler and junior equipment alongside each other as there is enough space & the junior area does not need to be fenced.

We also think a play area could be an asset to the show and they should still be able to provide the same entertainment and stalls in the larger field.

c) Parish Allotments - Cllr B Brown with A Pearce, Ms S Dodwell and G Dodwell.

The group had identified the size of plot needed for allotments for the parish and discussed the problems involved with other allotment organisations.

It was agreed that a notice would be put in the Sphere magazine in February asking for those interested. A search was continuing to identify a suitable location.

d) Adult outdoor exercise - Cllr B Martin with I Laydon and B Golden.

This group had identified suitable equipment which would consist of eight exercise devices costing £9360 with an installation cost of £2422 and delivery charges of £585 giving a total cost of £12,367.

The full costing is set out in appendix 1

7. Next stages

The working groups above would hold an informal meeting in the Fox and Hounds Lulsley on the 15th of January to coordinate their efforts.

8. Items for the next meeting

Consideration of the Chairman's list of four additional projects that might be considered together with any other ideas proposed within the parish.

Information to be included in the Parish Council's winter Newsletter.

9. Date of the next meeting

Wednesday 26th February at 19:30 in the Village Hall Alfrick, agreed.

The meeting closed at 21:25hrs

Minutes confirmed.....