

**MINUTES OF LEISURE FACILITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 17th JUNE 2025 AT
MILLFIELDS PAVILLION MILL WAY NEEDINGWORTH AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT:

Cllr R Fountain
Cllr E MacPherson
Cllr S Mortlock
Cllr J Neish
Cllr C Pearce
Cllr A Whyte

IN ATTENDANCE:

Miss J Bowd (Parish Clerk)

There were no members of the public present.

1. To Elect a Chairman.

Resolved: That Cllr Pearce be elected as Chairman (Prop Cllr MacPherson 2nd Cllr Whyte) All in favour.

2. To Receive Apologies for Absence.

None.

3. To Elect a Vice-Chairman.

Resolved: That Cllr Fountain be elected as Vice Chairman (Prop Cllr Whyte 2ND Cllr Mortlock) All in favour.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 2025.

Resolved: That the minutes of 15th April 2025 be signed as a true and correct record. (Prop Cllr MacPherson 2nd Cllr Whyte) 4 in favour, 2 Abstentions.

5. Millfield's

- 5.1 To consider report on parking by Colt's football.

Cllr Mortlock spoke about previous discussion which suggested an A Frame sign for parking. Clerk confirmed that a quote of £55 had been obtained and forwarded to the Colts Chairman.

Cllr Neish felt payment should be 50/50 split. Cllr MacPherson agreed stating that it gives more sense of ownership and responsibility.

Resolved: That a sign be purchased for display by the school car park, costs to be shared but if lost then the Colts will need to replace. A traffic "warden" is also to be stationed by the school directing parking onto the playground. (Prop Cllr Mortlock 2nd Cllr Fountain) All in favour.

- 5.2 To consider requirement to replace fencing along access road.

Clerk provided a report identifying areas of concern.

Cllr Whyte asked if the area to the left of the main gate could also be included in the quote.

Resolved: That the Clerk obtain quotes for mesh fencing 4-5 feet in height with a metal top rail. (Prop Cllr Whyte 2nd Cllr Neish) All in favour.

- 5.3 To consider request for NUFC to play Sunday league matches at Millfield.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding: -

- Wear and tear on the pitch.
- Additional costs i.e. cleaning/electricity/water.
- Pitch maintenance.
- Number of matches.
- Terms of the existing lease.

Resolved: That a 1 season trial be approved subject to: -

- Maintenance of the pitch being carried out (seeding) by NUFC No Nitrates to be used.
- No other users of the pitch to be permitted.
- Regular pitch inspections to be carried out by NUFC.
- Fee of £350.00 for the season of Sunday matches to be paid. This will be reviewed at year end when true costs are known should a second season be requested.
(Prop Cllr Pearce 2nd Cllr Neish) All in favour.

6. Overcote Lane playing field.

- 6.1 To consider repairs or refurbishment of the matting under play equipment – under 12's play area.

Clerk provided report.

Cllr Mortlock leaves 7.55pm returns 7.56pm

Resolved: That the Clerk obtain quotes for resurfacing. These to be considered with recent RoSPA recommendations. (Prop Cllr Whyte 2nd Cllr Neish) All in favour.

- 6.2 To consider resident request for hedge works on boundary of playing field and 43 Harris Crescent.

Report provided advising that approx. 2 years ago this area was cut back. Boundary is hard to establish as there are 2 fences with an area of no man's land in between.

Resolved: That the Clerk advise the housing association needs to cut back prior to the resident having fence erected. (Prop Cllr Neish 2nd Cllr Whyte) All in favour.

- 6.3 To consider request from Little Crickets to use playing field for outdoor sessions.

Cllr Whyte spoke to say that there are signs up advising of no organised sport/games. Yet Colts do train regularly, and Scouts also noted playing football on 17/6/25.

Cllr MacPherson felt it was difficult as it would be good to encourage the activity.

Cllr Mortlock felt that the PC could not stop the request.

Resolved: That the request be approved on a free of charge basis although a small donation would be welcome. As this is a commercial activity Clerk to request copy of public liability insurance. (Prop Cllr Neish 2nd Cllr Whyte) All in favour.

- 6.4 To consider replacement of bollards to no parking area with a full-length barrier.

Cllr Fountain requested this agenda item.

Report provided but he spoke advising of the difficulties and stated that in his opinion it was an ill designed scheme.

Cllr Neish spoke to say that he did not see a reason to change. The current barriers serve their intended purpose yet still make the entrance seem welcoming.

Cllr MacPherson was concerned about additional costs.

Cllr Pearce felt that the post holes should be raised above ground level.

Cllr Mortlock spoke to say she had personal experience of removing the bollards and could empathise. She suggested removing the 2 outer bollards retaining just the middle one.

Resolved: That the Clerk arrange for "cuffs" or "cones" around the bollards to prevent stones falling into the sockets. If this does not resolve the issues matter to be brought back. (Prop Cllr Whyte 2nd Cllr MacPherson) All in favour.

7. Items to report.

- Cllr MacPherson reported concerns with overhanging tree in cemetery near her late husband's grave. In doing so she stated it was really a matter for environment but that she did not sit on that committee.

Being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm

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Chairman

Date