

SHEPHERDSWELL GREEN SPACES GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2025

VILLAGE HALL

Attendees

Nigel Baker (Chair), Luca Jones, Aidan Softley, Denise Baker, David Cox, Sindy Denver, Carole White, Julia Harper, Bomber Fagg, Gemma Caister-Softley, Sue Taber

Apologies

Kat McArdle, James Perfect, Barry Crush, Mrs B Moon [Sibertswold Primary School]

Mark Smythe has withdrawn from the group.

Welcome

Everyone introduced themselves. Nigel explained that Mike Sitton has resigned from the group, and that he would chair this evening's meeting. A permanent Chair to be agreed later this evening.

Various attendees thanked Nigel for his input to last week's Parish Council meeting, where he reported on the previous meeting of SGSG.

Minutes of the last meeting [04.12.24]

Agreed as true record.

Update from minutes

Shepherdswell Spartans – via email, James confirmed that the Football Club bid to Dover District Council has been successful, allowing the purchase of pop-up dugouts, goal nets and gazebo for player changing.

Following presentation to last week's Parish Council, Nigel updated on the Group's recommendations:

- Seeding of goal mouths to be completed as soon as the PC's Small Works Contractor is in post. This includes both the lower football pitch and also practice goals on the upper recreation area.
- Dog waste bins have been replenished with bags; as soon as fresh supply arrives, Nigel and Denise will take on responsibility for refilling dispensers as required [key to be provided by Parish Clerk]
- Basketball area – area of damaged tarmac has been reported
- Football trailer – an estimated cost of £5,000 to dismantle, remove and replace with a container was reported to the Parish Council. Bomber is undertaking more detailed

research [see separate item below] and will be reported to the Council at a future date.

- Play Area – Nigel has spoken to Mark Watson (Chair of Parish Council), agreeing that this will be a longer term project, hopefully involving a partnership of co-funding [Parish Council and External] over a number of financial years. Next steps will involve undertaking research to explore costed options to improve and renovate the Area.

Areas of future focus

Football Trailer – Bomber has undertaken further research and updated the Group with figures for a 20' Container, to be located on the existing site. Dismantling and removing the old trailer and installation of a nearly new 20' container would cost £5,000; works would need to be completed in the summer months when the ground is hard enough to support heavy machinery required. The container would provide space for storage and changing facilities during inclement weather. It was agreed that SGSG would seek financial support from the Parish Council to enable this work to be completed [most likely in the 2025/26 financial year].

Youth Hut – Regarding the long unfinished work to the rear of the Youth Hut. Latest drawings to be circulated by Bomber, allowing group to understand current plans and to consider further possible adaptations. Scout Group and Spartans will then be approached to discuss possibility of a shared use space, incorporating showers, toilets, referee room and changing facilities alongside a 'bunk house' space for use by organised youth groups. A discussion re use of the extension as public toilets was also discussed; this drew opposing views from the group, with concerns expressed over public safety, cleaning and vandalism.

Public Spaces Protection Order 2025

At last week's PC meeting, it was agreed that there will be no response made to Dover District Council regarding any proposed changes to the current Order that is under review over the next few months.

Chairperson

Nigel was confirmed as Chair of SGSG following the resignation of Mike Sitton last month.

Any Other Business

Tree Survey Report – copy has been circulated to members of the Group for info. A number of trees are marked for removal at the Recreation Ground and Plantation. Timescale unknown. Strong support shown for principle of 'one for one replacement' of all felled trees, preferably a variety of species.

Membership of SGSG – Nigel will provide some words for March PC Magazine, encouraging other members of the community to join the group.

Report re Cricket Square by Mark Norcliffe – copy passed to Nigel by the Parish Clerk just before the meeting. Unclear how this has arisen – was it commissioned by a Parish Councillor? It is understood that it will be discussed at PC in February. Was agreed that Nigel will raise with Chair of the Parish Council in order to understand background and, if necessary, to seek a deferment to March meeting of the Council to allow proper engagement of SGSG.

Frequency of Meetings

Agreed that SGSG would continue to meet monthly at least for now. Future dates as follows (all Monday, 7:00pm at the Village Hall):

- 17 February
- 17 March
- 14 April

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