

SHEPHERDSWELL GREEN SPACES GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 28 APRIL 2025

VILLAGE HALL, SHEPHERDSWELL

1. Attendees

Nigel Baker (Chair), Aidan Softley, Denise Baker, David Cox, James Perfect, Sindy Denyer, Lynne Ring, Bomber Fagg, Julia Harper, Sue Taber

Lynne was welcomed to the group as a new member.

2. Apologies

None received.

3. Matters arising not on the agenda

Nigel and Denise visited Shepherdswell Primary School to return the tapestry of hopes and aims the was presented at the last SGSG meeting. Mrs Moon offered an opportunity to see the school's newly refurbished Library. The school is happy to be involved in future consultation events relating to proposed refurbishment of the Rec Ground Play Area, that will be key to any successful funding applications.

Poo bags are now in place across the village (four dispensers).

Draft Action Plan will be reviewed at a future meeting.

4. Bank Account

David confirmed that the Group's bank account is now fully operational with Metro Bank. Signatories are Nigel Baker (Chair), David Cox (Treasurer) and Luca Jones (Secretary) – any two from three to sign. There are two separate accounts, which can be used for different projects. There are no bank charges incurred with this type of 'community account'.

5. DDC Community Development Team

Nigel and Denise met with Chloe Knight, Community Development Officer at DDC, on 11 April to discuss funding for refurbishment of Recreation Ground Play Area. A very helpful meeting. Chloe has directed us to the ESPO Framework of Outdoor Play Area Suppliers; all of these suppliers have been selected for their experience and ability to provide customers with a comprehensive range of products at excellent value. Chloe suggested that we explore three firms that have been used by DDC – Safeplay Playground Services, Wicksteed and Kompan UK.

We have also secured use of the CDT's bus to use as a focus for future consultation events, as well as use of their facilities to print consultation paperwork and leaflets. Suggested

venues for consultation events include the primary school and the car park adjacent to the play area. Leaflets could be circulated via: Parish Magazine, PC website and to pupils/parents via their school bags. Contact also to be made with Pre-School in order to reach slightly younger age range and their parents.

Discussed possible funding routes – National Lottery will consider awards between £20 – 100k. Sindy noted that smaller amounts might be available through supermarket-led community grant schemes e.g. Tesco, Co-Op. As well as Parish Council support, County and District Councils are another possible route to be considered.

6. Project Updates:

- Spartans FC Container

Three quotes have been secured to supply a one trip 20' container, in green. All include a 12 month warranty, as required by the Football Foundation. In addition, one quote has been received to cover costs of removal/disposal of existing trailer from the site. The Parish Council has provided a letter of approval to undertake necessary works, as well as funding of up to £2k. Aerial photos of the site have been secured, indicating location of the proposed storage container. Work will now commence on a funding application to the Football foundation. An in-depth discussion was held about timing of any works, assuming a successful funding application, to avoid any damage to the rec ground; agreed that the time window would be between mid June and the end of August, although final decision would require agreement of PC.

- Recreation Ground Play Area

All agreed that any re-development of the Play Area would need to include a new fence (not wooden) and a rubberised surface that will facilitate disability access. It was agreed that David will contact Commercial Play to seek a revised design that incorporates ideas from the young people's feedback, including zip line, more challenging climbing stations, sunken trampoline and accessible roundabout. The provider will be asked to provide two designs - one based on existing footprint and another which allows for an increase in area. Draft designs will be submitted for PC discussion and approval prior to commencement of funding applications.

- Reed Meadow Working Group

Sue reported on successful planting of five rows of saplings. Protectors still need to be put in place. A significant number of saplings remain unused (35 blackthorn, 20 dogwood, 25 hazel and 10 dog rose) which could be used for hedging around the new container and/or other projects in the local community.

- Meadow View

Sindy reported that this area is in a dilapidated state, with overgrown brambles/ivy and broken fencing. The site will be visited by the Group at its forthcoming 'mobile' meeting in early June.

- Actions following Tree Survey

Sindy confirmed that two plum trees will be planted in Reed Meadow, close to the picnic benches. She confirmed that all felled trees identified in last year's Tree Survey will be replaced, but possibly in different locations tbc.

7. Village Green Christmas Tree

A permanent tree has been planted in the middle of the Village Green, which will be decorated each year at Christmas.

8. Cricket Square

An agenda item requested by Barry, who was not present at the meeting. The group was shocked to hear reports of a recent injury to a child, who fell onto one of the metal fence posts surrounding the wicket. SGSG has expressed concern about this fencing on previous occasions, and was pleased to note it will be replaced with a plastic fence in the near future. Comments were also made about the disproportionate size of the roped off area in relation to the small number of games being played, and repeated previous requests for a smaller area to be protected moving forward.

9. Private FaceBook Page for SGSG

Nigel suggested the use of a FB site for SGSG members to circulate agendas, minutes and other documents. James recommended the use of a private WhatsApp group rather than FB. This was agreed by all, and Nigel will put this in place asap.

10. AOB

None

11. Dates of Next Meetings

Monday 2 June – 'mobile' meeting to visit and review green spaces in the village; meet outside the Scout Hut at 7:00pm

No meetings in July/August

Monday 8 September, 7pm at Village Hall