

SHEPHERDSWELL GREEN SPACES GROUP

VILLAGE HALL 2 DECEMBER 2024

PRESENT:

Mike Sitton (Chair)
Bomber Fagg
James Perfect
Luca Jones
Kat McArdle
Denise Baker
Nigel Baker
Gemma Caister-Softley
David Cox
Carole White
Sue Taber
Barry Crush
Julia Harper
Cathy Hayes

FEEDBACK FROM PARISH COUNCIL – NOVEMBER

Chair expressed dissatisfaction at response from PC following last meeting.

KMc noted that this group needs to ensure that it represents views from across the community.

Question was posed as to whether the group should seek to incorporate other working groups eg Meadow View, Reed Meadow – general feeling was that we should focus on Recreation Ground, at least for now.

General agreement that we should not spend time on drawing up Terms of Reference.

CW asked what the group wants to achieve, and also noted that we need a strong spokesperson to speak to future PC meetings

Agreed that we should look for a regular agenda item on future PC meetings so far as possible. A short written report should be submitted in advance so that Councillors can be briefed; this should incorporate clear recommendations, which are then voted upon.

General discussion then followed to explore recommendations for January PC meeting, and following was agreed:

- Seeding of all goal mouths in early Spring 2025, requiring areas to be fenced off for a few weeks to allow re- growth
- Remove existing storage which has effectively been condemned, and replace with circa 22' shipping container (estimated cost £5k to PC including dismantling existing and installation of new)
- Play Area - fencing to be repaired or replaced**; disabled access to be improved; explore new activity stations as part of a rolling programme of improvement over coming financial years
- Repair dog waste bins and ensure a system for regular stocking of new bags (dog walkers have offered to do this on more than one occasion if PC provides bags)**
- Basketball Area – tarmac requires work to repair surface

- Pollarding of tree overhanging Meadow View has left tree debris that needs to be cleared ASAP**
ST & CW noted that the three items marked ** have all been reported to the Parish Clerk for action.

SHEPHERDSWELL SPARTANS FC

JP provided update on funding for pop-up dugouts. A revised bid has been made to the District Council's Community Fund after further information was requested, and a decision is awaited.

ENGAGEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE

KMc reported on her work to engage with members of the community regarding green spaces in the village. She noted that some of the people with whom she spoken are only interested in their own selfish agenda and are unwilling to commit to joining SGSG. She has followed up expressed interest from the Primary School via its School Council, with herself and Mark Watson attending a meeting of the School Council during Democracy Week. Young People are now considering what they would like to see in their community green spaces. MS asked for these thoughts to be brought to a future meeting.

NB suggested that it may worthwhile looking to invite Playground Equipment suppliers to attend a future meeting of SGSG/PC to explore options for a re-designed/extended play area, perhaps as a longer term project drawing revenue from a number of financial years.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Discussion ensued to (hopefully) finally agree which Green Spaces should fall under the remit of this group. A strong view was expressed that there should be a clear focus on the Recreation Ground, allowing other existing Working Groups to maintain their focus on other areas in the village. This position can be revisited moving forward, perhaps leading to more consolidated approach in the future.

AOB

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 20 January, tbc

Frequency of meetings needs to be agreed moving forward, with a view from some members of the group that monthly will become too frequent.