

**MINUTES OF ST CUTHBERT (OUT) PARISH COUNCIL
AS TRUSTEE FOR DULCOTE RECREATION GROUND
HELD REMOTELY ON MONDAY 19th AUGUST 2024, 7PM**

Present: Cllrs M Mitchell, P Blatchford, M Cooke, J Zorab, K Hoogesteger

In Attendance: Mr R Coulson (Administrator/Assistant Clerk); 1 Member of the Public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies from Cllr E Danson

Resolved: To approve the reasons given for Members' Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

The Assistant Clerk reminded Trustees that they are also Parish Councillors, any decisions they make at Board of Trustees Meetings must be made in the best interests of the Charity and not the Council. **All Trustees declared a PERSONAL interest as Parish Councillors.**

3. Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no items requiring the exclusion of the press and public

4. Approval and Actions of Minutes 05th February 2024

Resolved: To confirm and sign as correct record the minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on 05th February 2024.

5. Public Speaking Time

The member of the public in attendance took a portion of their allotted time to thank the Trustees on the quality of the groundskeeping at the Dulcote Recreation Ground, praising the maintenance of the grass and hedgerows. They also observed that the young tree on the Recreation Ground is doing well. They used the remainder of their time in regard to the Annex B document which detailed the technical challenges of installing an accessibility ramp. During this time, they reiterated their desire to see plans for an accessibility ramp at least pursued and indicated that they would be willing to organise fundraising to donate to the project.

Action: The Assistant Clerk is to continue pursuing the plans for a ramp and explore the limitations of the project given the Tree Protection Orders on all of the trees surrounding the site.

6. Administration

Accounts: The Assistant Clerk reported that he had circulated the Trustees Annual Return for 2024 and that the accounts presented represented the balances of £1336.81 (Business account) and £135.44 (Treasurers account). Cllr Blatchford queried the presence of annual deposits of ~£30 into the Treasurers account.

Action: Assistant Clerk to investigate these deposits and inform the Trustees when an answer is found.

Cllr Zorab queried what the £350 outgoing from the Business account was intended for. The Assistant Clerk informed her that the £350 was intended for paying for concreting services to fix the degraded entryway at the top of the Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED: The Accounts presented were approved by Trustees present.

Governance: There were no items raised regarding the governance of the Board of Trustees.

7. Maintenance

The Trustees were informed of the already completed maintenance along with associated costs by the Assistant Clerk.

Cllr Blatchford stated that the cracks in the bucket seats of the swings on the site are not indicative of any mechanical failure and will not require action as of yet. Trustees agreed that this repair was not considered urgent and could therefore be paired with the relevant repairs after the annual inspection.

RESOLVED: To pair the repair of the bucket seats in with the necessary repairs after the Annual Inspection.

8. Wall Repair and Access Ramp

The Assistant Clerk informed the Trustees of the quote offered by one contractor along with the stated opinion that the wall does not require urgent attention but would be better dealt with now rather than waiting until it deteriorated further. In addition, the action of removing the Ivy covering the wall was reviewed.

RESOLVED: To pass on the required work to Asset Management for them to review the required expenditure to remove the Ivy and subsequent work on the wall itself.

The issue of the access ramp was also reviewed, the Assistant Clerk offered a short summary of the results the Clerks had gotten investigating the potential for an access ramp to be installed on the site. Given the wide range of TPO's and the height of the Recreation Ground itself, the project was likely to cost several thousand pounds and would be hampered by limitations due to the protection of the surrounding trees. The member of the public in attendance voiced her commitment to seeing this project at least pursued and indicated that she would be willing to fundraise for the project.

RESOLVED: To hand the project to Asset Management and investigate the potential for it to be pursued. The Assistant Clerk is to investigate how restrictive Tree Protection Orders have been in the past and possibility to remove one of the trees to facilitate the installation of this ramp.

9. Date and Venue of Next Meeting – 17th February 2025