

# ETCHINGHAM RECREATION GROUND (Queens Garden) TRUST

(Registered Charity No. 1093289)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Etchingham Recreation Ground Trust

held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 held at 7.00pm in the Parker Hall, Etchingham

**Trustees Present:** Cllrs John Barnes (Chairman), Mrs M Barnes, Mr C Boylett, Mr D Lambert and Ms R Turner.

**Also present:** Ms P Barton – Secretary to the Trust.

**01/19 Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs S Barrow and R Beeney.

**02/19 Minutes of the Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018:** were agreed and signed as a true record.

**03/19 Appointment of new Councillors to Etchingham Parish Council:** it is to be noted that three new Councillors have taken their seats on Etchingham Parish Council: Cllrs Robert Beeney, Doug Lambert and Roma Turner. It should also be noted that Mr Frank Brophy, Mrs Annette Childs and Mr Geoff Lucas no longer serve on the Etchingham Parish Council.

**04/19 Report on the activities of the Trust for the past year:**

Reports on the activities of the Trust were tabled, approved and attached to these Minutes at Appendix A and B.

**05/19 Update on the repairs and replacements to playground equipment and funding:**

The update is included in the Report at 04/19

**07/19 Finance:** There were insufficient financial transactions during 2018-2019 to require publication on the Charity Commission website. The Report for the Trustees is however attached to these Minutes at Appendix B.

**08/19** There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

Signed .....

Dated .....

## **APPENDIX A**

### **ETCHINGHAM RECREATION GROUND (Queen's Garden) TRUST Registered Charity Number 1093289**

#### **ANNUAL REPORT – 2018-2019**

The year began well with a start date being established for the work needed in Queen's Garden however the effects of the intense heat and dryness of the year created issues in the surfaces required beneath the two swing units to be replaced. So permission had to be given to completely replace the surfaces, including the foundations, which increased the costs of those two units to such an extent that work on the other units had to be postponed until funds could be made available and only the work necessary to render them safe could be done.

This also meant, of course, that any hope of doing any work on VIPER also had to be delayed apart from making good a damaged piece of the perimeter fence.

Consultation with the insurers (Zurich Municipal) has made it increasingly apparent that a more robust regime of inspection and maintenance for playground equipment is going to be required going forward in order to retain proper insurance cover for the Council. The recommendation from Active Risk Services Management (the annual inspector) was that weekly inspections should be carried out and documented during busy periods, during the winter season reducing to once a month but with caution. There are courses available at varying levels and it might be that with the new council in May 2019 consideration might be given to undertaking this at the Trustee's expense.

During the course of the year, regrettably, drug paraphernalia was discovered behind the shelter in VIPER and vandalism also occurred. These incidents have been reported to the PCSO who is increasing visits – particularly at dusk and after dark - the advice to reduce the vegetation around the perimeter to create better visibility from the public pavements will be actioned. A professional tree survey, required across all Parish Council land, would also include both playgrounds within the remit.

CIlr Boylett began investigating various sources of on-line donation and after opening appropriate bank accounts by the Trustee was able to create regular on-line giving opportunities via shopping sites which he then went on to advertise to the village. Donations from this source and direct payments to ERGT came in from these efforts. Other sources of funding are also being actively sought.

Budgeting forward will be supported by Parish Council building into its budget, and therefore the Precept requested, an on-going build-up of funds against future maintenance and replacement. This cannot be used against the immediate needs of maintenance and replacement as the amount to cover that would increase the precept requested disproportionately.

The Annual Inspection gave rise to some minor remedial work that has been undertaken and offered further advice on work needed going forward. All further work will have to await the new financial year and the new Council as Trustee.

The New Year brought the welcome information that the CIC would be considering helping with the work required in VIPER. However, it was eventually decided that as replacement not repair would be necessary this raised the expenditure to such an extent that CIC would have to retract their offer. However, CIC did assist the Parish Council in another area easing the burden of its budget overall.

Schemes and estimates have been obtained from a number of reputable companies to update and renovate Queen's Garden – if innovative plans can be created it will be more feasible that RDC would help support as will not make grants towards repairs and replacements that should have been budgeted for on an on-going basis. Once the new council is established a Working Party will be set up to look at the plans, the estimates and acquisition of sufficient funding to achieve the desired result of fully functioning recreation equipment for the village.

# **APPENDIX B**

## **Playground fundraising**

*ERGT 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019*

Not a great deal new to report at present, there have not been any further online donations and GAYL donations are transferred to the bank quarterly, the total so far paid to the bank from online donations and Give as you Live (GAYL) is £870.01, there is a further £38 pending from Give as you Live.

Also, there has been £195 in cash and cheque donations, when the pending payments are received the total will be £1,203.

There is change to the donation page, previously the donation page was everyclick.com, that is the same business as GAYL and the funds raised through both were sent into the same account. GAYL have rebranded so that everything operates under the same name, which makes everything clearer to potential supporters, the donation page is now located at <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/etchinghamplaygrounds> I have tested the old link and currently that directs to the new page, so we should still get visits from anyone who stumbles across the old link.

There are currently 18 people signed up for GAYL, although only eight of those have made online purchases that have generated donations, just those few contributors have created donations of over £50, at no extra cost to them, £35 of that has been raised by just two shoppers. £50 raised from just eight people shopping online, how much could be raised if 100+ people were using GAYL every time they spend money online. More people need to be encouraged to sign up to GAYL.

*Cllr. Colin Boylett*