



Minutes of a Meeting of the Playgrounds Committee of the Goring-on-Thames Parish Council

Friday 7th November 2025 at 11.00am, Council Office, Station Road

Members Present: Cllr Barbara Newman (Chair)
Cllr Mike Stares
Cllr Nick Mallen
Cllr Brian McKenzie
Anna Povey
Laura Kelly

Officers Present:
Assistant Clerk Mike Harper

Public and Press:

None.

Public Session – Prior to the Start of the Meeting

None.

Meeting Started at 11.00.

25.34.1. To receive apologies for absence and substitutions. (LGA 1972 s85(1))

None.

25.34.2. Declarations of Interests (LA 2011 s31)

25.34.2.1. To receive Declarations of Interest

None.

25.34.2.2. To consider requests for dispensations.

None.

25.34.3. To approve the minutes of previous committee meetings.

25.34.3.1 Meeting held on 26th August 2025.

It was agreed the minutes were an accurate record of the meetings and they were duly signed.

25.34.4. To receive a report on feedback from parents since the opening of the Bourdillon Field playground.

An informal survey of the parents of children using the playground was carried out asking what they thought, what they liked best, what changes might be made and what other items of equipment they would like to see included. The responses were very favourable, there were few negative comments and, while there were many suggestions for different types of play equipment, there were no outstanding candidates for additions.

25.34.5. To discuss possible ways forward for the provision of a pump track and teenage shelter and agree actions.

It was noted that the Committee's terms of reference currently did not provide it with scope for a consideration of further recreational needs in the Village. However, in discussion, the Committee felt that there was evidence of a need for a pump track as children had created an informal one next to the Bourdillon playground. It was also felt that there was little provision for older children and teenagers generally and that the idea of providing a pump track and a teenage shelter was worth exploring. Now that the Committee's work on Bourdillon was largely completed and that on Gardiner Field is expected to be done early next year, it would be appropriate to ask Full Council to agree to revise the Committee's terms of reference to enable it to consider further options for recreational activities.

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to recommend to Full Council that the Committee's Terms of reference to include 'To explore options for recreational activities for children of all ages, including teenagers, in the Village.'

25.34.6. To consider and, if thought fit, approve the following motion: In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw.
Confidential papers

No members of the public were present.

25.34.6.1 To receive the Gardiner Field Working Group's recommendation for the supply of a new playground at Gardiner Field and to making a recommendation to Full Council accordingly.

The Evaluation Working Group presented its conclusions after consideration of the three tenders submitted. The group came to a unanimous decision to recommend one supplier for the Committee to recommend in turn to Full Council. However, there remain details to be agreed with the favoured supplier. Details of the bids and the Group's recommendation will remain confidential until the completion of the process and the award of a contract.

Resolved: unanimously agreed to support the evaluation committee's recommendation of the preferred supplier to Full Council.

25.34.6.2 To recommend to Full Council the addition of 2 play items and work to repair the grass surfacing and edging at Bourdillon Field playground.

The condition of the Bourdillon playground surface was poor – mainly because of the very dry weather when the equipment was being installed and heavy use once open. Quotes for the work had been received but no decision had made on which to accept. A slide had been suggested as one of the additional ply items to be added, but the Committee felt that more thought needed to be given to what would be the best options.

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to recommend to Full Council the re-surfacing at Bourdillon playground.

25.34.7. To review the Action List and agree any further actions.

Action List

The Action List was reviewed and updated. The Committee asked for a proposal for regular safety inspections and maintenance for both playgrounds to be brought to the next meeting

25.34.6. To confirm the date of the next meeting: Date to be agreed.

The date of the next meeting is to be agreed.

There being no further business to be transacted, the Chair closed the meeting at 12.15pm