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**A meeting of the Chairman's Committee was held on  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020,  
remotely via zoom at 7.30pm**

**Parish Councillors present:** Mrs E Buckland, Mr A Forbes (Chairman), Mr K Joyce (Vice-Chairman), Mr I Kilpatrick, Mr G Lloyd, Mr T Nicholson, Mr G Paterson (Vice-Chairman), Mr V Slater, Mrs L Stephens, Mr J Taviner, Mr L Van Haaren and Dr P Watkins

**Clerk:** Mrs L Rampton      **Deputy Clerk:** Ms C McGrath

**Members of the public:** None

1. **Apologies for absence.** No apologies had been received
2. **Declarations of Interest and the Clerk to consider & decide upon any requests for dispensation from members to allow them to participate in a discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she may have a disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest.** As no interests had been declared, there were none.
3. **Public Participation.** With no members of the public present, there was none.
4. **Committee to consider the possible re-opening of the Winscombe Skate Park – the park is currently closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.**  
*Giving the statutory notice. this meeting had been convened in accordance with minute 18d from the Parish Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020*  
Members were advised of the following facts when deliberating this item:
  - a. Advice from Parish Council Insurers stated that “as the insurance is based on compliance with the law, the decision of opening the skatepark is that of the council. If the skate park were to reopen, so long as the latest Government advice and guidelines were adhered to, the insurance policy would provide cover as standard”
  - b. Government advice issued 1<sup>st</sup> June updated guidance for the 'providers of outdoor facilities on the phased return of sport and recreation in England'. This advised that activities should only re-open when it was considered safe to do so. Until the council considered it safe and responsible to re-open outside activities, they should remain closed.
  - c. The same guidance further advised that 'cleaning protocols should be put in place to limit coronavirus transmission in public places. Touchpoints such as gates and handrails should be particular areas of focus for increased cleaning.
  - d. Current Government Guidance for outdoor gyms (such as adult exercise equipment) as well as play areas is that these are to remain closed. This is due to the higher risk of close contact and touching of surfaces.
  - e. Whilst the skate park is padlocked closed and notices being displayed to this effect, these were being ignored with individuals climbing over fences and gates to gain access. As previously advised, local Police have been attending site to 'move-on' groups of users not respecting Government advice.
  - f. Pictures of the amount of broken glass along with evidence of a substantial increased litter, largely through alcoholic beverage cartons, bottles and packaging had been sent to members in advance of the meeting.

In discussion, a number of differing opinions were expressed by members with main points including:

- g. Local observations advised that skaters were not 'socially distancing' and the risk of disease transmission remained high in the south-west of the country.

- h. Current misuse of the skate park was not considered a good enough reason to officially re-open the park.
- i. Should the skate park officially reopen, it would likely attract an increased number of users.
- j. Members had opposing opinion that social distancing advice was being observed at another local skate park that had reopened for public use.
- k. The practicalities of sanitising touchpoints such as hand/grab rails between users was not considered possible.
- l. With other local outdoor skate parks reported as being open, the loyalty of some users could be lost from the parish, and local business suffer as a consequence?
- m. The continued closure of the Winscombe skate park was considered to be unusual by some.
- n. Closure of an area that could be reopened encourages defiance amongst users, and this will be used anyway.

In conclusion to the discussion, risk assessment reports for another local skate park that had been reopened should be requested, along with the opinion of our local police team regarding this matter.

**It was proposed that the Winscombe skate park is reopened with immediate effect, with the matter to be reviewed at the next Parish meeting to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020**

**Proposed: Cllr G Paterson                      Seconded: Cllr E Buckland  
6 in favour, 6 against**

***In order to retain the status quo, the Chairman cast his deciding vote in opposition to the reopening of the skate park at this time.***

**5. Parish Council Dog Waste Bin Empty Contract**

*This matter had been included at this meeting to deal with a matter that required an immediate decision of the Parish Council.*

The contract to empty the 10 Parish Council owned dog waste bins had expired in January 2020, and the Parish Council at the February meeting had delegated decision in engaging a new contractor to the Clerk. Covid-19 events had overtaken that process and with the previous contractor withdrawing his service on 1<sup>st</sup> April, NSC had stepped in to assist on a temporary basis using contractors that would otherwise have been engaged in duties that had been closed due to the pandemic. With lock-down gradually lifting, the NSC dog bin empty service had now been ceased as contractors resumed their normal duties.

Two bids had been received for a new Parish Council contract to empty Parish Council owned dog bins for the forthcoming 12-month period.

**It was proposed that the dog bin empty contract for the 12-month period should be awarded to Weston-Super-Mare Town Council at a cost of £6.00 per bin per empty.**

**Proposed: Cllr J Taviner                      Seconded: Cllr K Joyce                      All in favour**

**6. Matters for information**

- **Woodborough Inn** – the Chairman advised of a telephone call from owners of The Woodborough Inn advising of plans to possibly place tables and chairs to the front of the premises on the Village Green to enable a socially distanced service to be provided to those wishing to drink and dine at the public house. Rights of access to the Village Green would not be restricted.

**Meeting Closed:                                      8.10 pm**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Parish Council Chairman)

Date \_\_\_\_\_