

Agenda Item 11 July Meeting – Recreation Ground Security

I recently met Mark Pankhurst of the cricket club at the recreation ground at his request to discuss the security of the site.

This had arisen because of a social media posting (11.1 attached) which shows traveller vehicles parked on a cricket pitch including two on the wicket itself.

In addition to pitch damage there is a risk that valuable equipment could be stolen.

An improvement to physical security on-site has been requested.

Wooden Stakes Around the perimeter on the north and east boundaries, wooden stakes have been driven into the ground, 80 in all. Some of these have rotted and started to disintegrate and are easily removable for access. Some on the track to the north of the recreation ground (leading to Underhill House and Went Acre) are placed too far apart to prevent vehicle ingress (11.3).

A more reasonably priced solution would be to replace the damaged ones and insert additional posts along the track. Posts would have to be well-seasoned, so they do not clash visually with existing posts. Full replacement is an option and would also give the impression that access is very difficult.

Gate Access Currently the gate is a single cross bar supported by a brace (11.4) which opens onto a retainer (11.5). The retainer is unstable but not in itself a security issue. The gate is secured to the entry posts by a chain and combination lock. There is no damage to the gate itself.

Should council decide that the gate requires replacement, the estate would need to be consulted as it currently matches the gate across the track to Underhill House.

Proposals:

1. To consider replacement of all or some of the wooden posts
2. To consider whether a replacement gate is required

Phil Burgess

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