

# BARWICK in ELMET and SCHOLES PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES of a meeting of the **SCHOLES PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE**

Held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7:30 p.m. by remote access.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Phil Maude (Chair), Claire Hassell, Glyn Davies, Graham Slater, Karen Dales, and Stella Walsh together with representatives Gary Proctor (Cricket), Jon Bliss (Scouts), Helen Cox (Women's Institute) and the Clerk.

A member of the Women's Institute was in attendance seeking a venue for a walking netball team. This was an established team which had used Barwick Village Hall prior to pandemic restrictions and since then, had been using Scholes cricket field. However the pitch was now too wet to continue. They had used the sports field car park the previous Wednesday and were seeking to continue to do so provided none of the other clubs had any objections. They have a group of six (they are allowed six per host and have two hosts but one of the hosts is not willing to play at present). They have insurance, risk assessment documents provided by England Netball and health check forms. The insurance only covers those who are members of the Women's Institute. They would use the car park on a Wednesday morning from 10:30 to 11:30am. There was a suggestion that Barwick Tennis courts be considered but most are Scholes residents and the car park space is adequate. No vehicular access would be needed. All those present at the meeting were in favour of allowing the car park to be used for this purpose.

### 1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

### 2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 having been circulated be confirmed as a correct record and that the Chair be authorised to sign.

### 4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- There had been a suggestion that there be a standing item in the newsletter listing contacts for each club. Confirmation would be sought that this was now happening.
- Keys had been obtained for the car park barrier where needed.
- A reply was awaited from a local farmer regarding drainage. The farmer had offered to source a mole-plough suitable for the football pitch. This would be tied in with the recommendations of Cllr. Remmer.

### 5. **CLUB REPORTS**

#### 5.1 **Scouts**

The Group Scout Leader reported on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. 1<sup>st</sup> Scholes were following guidelines set down by the National Association and as such, there had been no indoor activities since March and the hut therefore not used (leaders had occasionally been in to carry out necessary checks). Many of the leadership team are involved with the National Health service and as such, unable to give time to virtual Scout meetings at the height of the pandemic. The secondary water meter had not been installed, however there were plans to refurbish the hut in January which would include installation of new toilets and the opportunity would be used to fit the meter. The National Association had introduced a traffic light scheme, green being going back to operating as before restrictions were introduced, red meaning no activities whatsoever and amber/yellow allowing limited

activities outdoors involving fifteen youngsters and five adults (excluding carers) with social distancing rules being applied (Scouting had been declared exempt from the rule of six by the Government). Scholes Scouts had done one or two hikes using the hut as a starting/finishing point. They may use the field, they have a Covid action plan in place, this had been approved by District and by Region and has been submitted to National Headquarters. A risk assessment for Covid-19 readiness levels had been completed and approved. Scouts had stopped charging for membership since March but nevertheless still have overheads. They had lost about 10-15% of the membership since the lockdown began and now have 54 in Scouts and about fifteen in Explorers having had about eighty members prior to the start of the restrictions. Financially, Scouts are coping without regular income and are not concerned at this stage but the current situation is unsustainable in the long term. They are charging a nominal £10 per child per term fee starting from September and have received the business rates grant from Leeds City Council (LCC) which had helped. Fees may go back to normal from January. The main concern is safety and online Scouting activities are being run, for example a Zoom call involving twelve under-eights (the use of mute helping to control excessive exuberance). Darren Hill remains involved as the Explorers leader but any contact with the Scouts should go via the Group Scout Leader (Jon). The bottom end of the Scout area is open to the cricket field. Scouts are planning to install two 2½-metre swing gates. This is to discourage those who exercise their dogs on the Scout area. The Clerk would notify LCC so that the grass cutting is not overlooked. All international scouting is suspended and the European Jamboree postponed to summer 2021. There had been a virtual challenge camp over the summer with over three-hundred people attending and one person singing by a campfire. Explorers will be moving their meetings to Saturday mornings (10am to 12 noon) after the October half-term.

## **5.2 Cricket Club**

Cricket reported that it had been a challenging season in which no play at all was possible for the first half of the season. There was concern pre-season that no play would be allowed at all this year but luckily restrictions were eased mid-way through the season which allowed the Leeds & Wetherby Cricket League to arrange a meaningful league program. The Pavilion had not been used except for toilet facilities. Players would sit in their cars if play was affected by rain. Matches were played under strict social distancing guidelines with restrictions as to which areas of the pavilion could be used. The batsman at the non-striking end having to run along a specially marked out line. In spite of all the restrictions cricket were pleased to get some matches played and had had a very successful season finishing top of Division 2 and gaining promotion to Division 1. The ground had been maintained in good order throughout the season and the square had been cut, aerated and re-seeded as already preparation is underway for next season. Like Scouts, there are issues with those who exercise their dogs on the pitch. Most pick up but there are a minority who don't and there are issues with litter – especially plastic bottles.

## **5.3 Bowling Club**

Bowling Club Scouts were not represented.

## **5.4 Pavilion Users**

Cllr. Slater gave a report in the absence of representatives of Pavilion users. Shadwell Juniors have been using the pitch. Being juniors, they don't need a full-size pitch which has considerably reduced the overlap with the cricket pitch. They had put a small amount of weedkiller in the mix used for white lining which had scorched the grass. There no concerns about this but it was noted that it reduced their ability to move the pitch a few yards to reduce wear on the grass in key areas. Five-Star Sports use the pitch on a Saturday morning for coaching. There had been a complaint when they had positioned their goalposts on Scouts land but that had been resolved by agreement between both parties. Parents sometimes park on Rakehill Road and the children then climb over the gate to the cricket

pitch. Lettings are being built up, one children's party has been held. Another had been planned for the coming weekend for someone outside the parish but this enquiry had been declined as not appropriate under current guidelines. The Pavilion is being used by a youth group, most of those attending are Scholes residents. This meets on a Wednesday evening from 5pm to 6:30pm and caters for 7-12 year olds, twelve meetings in two groups. Plans are being considered to develop the tennis courts under a project called "Vision for the Future".

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- The Sports Clubs are subject to a 99-year lease signed in 1978/79. The named trustees on those leases have no current involvement in the clubs and Cllr. Maude is looking for each club to advise the Parish Council (PC) of the current trustees. Cricket Club advised that the list of contacts supplied to the Clerk be considered as the current trustees.
- Regarding the "Vision for the Future" and provision for youth, the PC are keen to engage with young people to ensure any provision is in line with what they want. The Group Scout Leader confirmed that Scouts would be happy to be involved in any consultation and advised that Scouts are used to this being very consultation lead as an organisation.
- All present were asked if they had any concerns about vandalism. Neither had had any issues, Scouts had suffered damage to a marquee but that was due to wind damage and the marquee not being sufficiently secured. Cricket had found a few Nitrous Oxide cannisters on the Sports Fields and empty beer bottles. The PC had plans to invite the local Police Community Support Officer to a future meeting to specifically address concerns about anti-social behaviour.

## **7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 7:30 p.m. – venue subject to pandemic restrictions in place at the time.

The meeting closed at 8:25pm

Chair

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021