

BARWICK in ELMET and SCHOLES PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **BARWICK in ELMET PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE** meeting held on Monday 29 March 2021 at 7.30 pm by remote access.

PRESENT: Councillors Phil Maude, (Chair), Claire Hassell, Glyn Davies, Graham Slater and Howard Bedford together with representatives Pam Binns (Bowling), John Swift (Cricket), Adrian Riddington (Mount Saint Mary's Football Club), Simon Fenton (Tennis), Linda Turp (Village Hall) and the Clerk.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 26 October 2020, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record that the Chair be authorised to sign.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- **Cess Pool.** It was recently discovered that the cess pool had filled up with rainwater which was entering through a small hole near the top of the tank (this hole allowed the alarm sensor cable into the tank). The alarm was going off. Mount Saint Mary's contacted Cllr. Remmer following which, the contractor had been notified and had emptied the tank and would cap off this hole to prevent reoccurrence. The club had played twice since the cess pool was installed. Cricket commented that whilst it was not terrible, the ground near the cess pool was very rutted and that they were unable to get a mower on it and suggested a ton of topsoil levelled with a rake would restore this to how it had been prior to installation. The Clerk would liaise with Cllr. Remmer to see if the contractor could address this.
- **Trustees.** The sports clubs represented appraised the Committee regarding progress in appointing new trustees.
- **Hedge cutting of boundaries using the Parish Council (PC) contractor.** The PC were seeking to save on costs due to economies of scale by having a single contractor to maintain all PC boundary hedges and had offered the clubs opportunity to be part of this agreement and be invoiced on a pro-rata basis. If the price was right, then all the clubs were interested. However, the Clerk was struggling to get quotes both from local contractors and from those operating further afield. Suggested alternatives were put forward.
- **Bird's eye fencing on the Verity Strip.** The PC had considered several quotes having met contractors on-site. A preferred contractor had been chosen and notified. He had replied on 17th March advising that he was waiting to hear from his suppliers before giving a start date. The Clerk would chase him up. Cricket had agreed to maintain the section of fence adjoining their car park.
- **Barwick in Bloom container.** It was noted that Barwick in Bloom were no longer proposing a container on the Sports Fields or on the Allotments.

5 CLUB REPORTS

5.1 Cricket Club

Cricket reported that they managed to play a few games the previous season. They have a strong junior section helped by the fact that Covid-19 lockdown rules allow sports for that age group. He reported that there had been a problem with a covered area being used by children

of about 13 to 14 years old who cover up the closed-circuit television camera. A new state of the art camera costing £500 with zoom-in functionality will be fitted on 16th April and the previous camera would be relocated to overlook the square. The cricket club representative is currently putting in about fifteen hours a week. Damage had been done to the square (two or three of the strips were ruined) after it had been used by four boys wearing football boots with studs for five a side football. The season starts on the 10th April. The club has liaised with Mount Saint Mary's regarding use of the pitch. Cllr. Maude had sent the cricket club a copy of a report regarding the Verity Strip which would be considered by the PC at its next meeting, this contained proposals about the freehold. There was discussion about using the parish newsletter to promote the various clubs in the parish, the cricket representative would email links.

5.2 Village Hall

The Village Hall had very little to report in terms of bookings due to the lockdown associated with the pandemic. The Hall would be used on 6th May as a polling station for the local elections and appropriate risk assessments had been done. The Hall can reopen on 17th May but is lacking a treasurer and as such, will remain closed until this position is filled. An interested person has been given details and a definite response was awaited (this was expected on the Thursday following the meeting). The previous treasurer stood down a year ago and has been carrying on with the work until such time as a replacement could be found but is not able to continue. Knowledge of spreadsheets is necessary. Of previous hirers, only line dancing had sought to resume (from 19th May). If they supply the wording, the PC would put an appeal on its website and Facebook pages for a new treasurer. The Trustees of the Village Hall are shown on the Charity Commission website.

5.3 Mount Saint Mary's Football Club (MSM)

Due to the recent lockdown, no matches had been possible since December 2020. At the time of the meeting, the First team were second in the Premier Division of the Yorkshire Amateur League having played ten League games winning seven, drawing two and losing one. The Reserves were second in Division Four of the Yorkshire Amateur League having played seven league games so far winning six and drawing one (still unbeaten). MSM had been successful with an online grant application and the FA Foundation offered £7,965 towards the overall cost of the purchase and installation of the new cess pool. With the £3,500 funding from the Festival application (from October 2019) £11,465 had been raised towards the £12,500 plus VAT required for the works carried and now completed. In order to fulfil their remaining fourteen fixtures, they had approached Leeds City Council who had had lots of similar enquires and managed to secure rental of a football pitch at Fearnville for April, May and June 2021 at a cost of £250 for the three months rent. The 2020/21 season was the club's fifth at Barwick and they had now signed a further ten-year Licence with the PC and are looking to continue with clubhouse and ground improvements. All being well, the 2021/22 season will start in September. The club continues to try to attract local players having put flyers in the library and in local shops but there had been no replies apart from one from the coach of the junior football team which used to share the pitch, but which has been unable to continue (there had been no contact from the junior team since before the first lockdown). They were asked to draw up an article for recruitment for the PC to publish where appropriate.

5.4 Tennis Club

Recruitment initiatives were discussed. Two years ago, they did a leaflet drop of the parish offering free of charge membership for a year and there was a big uptake. Membership is now £20 or £25, juniors are free. Those interested can sign up via email, website or Facebook. There's no booking system, anyone can use the courts at any time provided that they are members. Prior to the offer of free membership, the fees were £80 a year (membership runs

May-April). As with the other clubs, Tennis were invited to provide wording for the PC to use to promote the club. Contact information was already on the appropriate page of the PC website. The newsletter had just gone to the printers but potential new members were more likely to respond to digital media such as on the website and social media.

5.5 Allotments

Steve Collet has taken over from Ken Peaker and Pete Spearman as the representative for the Playing Fields Committee. All allotments taken (although there is a query over a half plot). One plot holder who specialised in chrysanthemums had died (his funeral been earlier that day). His plot had been taken over by someone wanting to grow apples for cider making. A tree survey done for the PC revealed one tree on the allotments in the top corner has a big hollow (probably a former badger set). This tree is one the boundary between the allotments and the adjoining field and therefore it would be established whose land it was growing on before taking any action. The plot holder nearest the tree was planning to put up a new shed and had been advised to wait until appropriate action had been taken regarding the tree. A water leak was being looked at in the morning by one of the plot holders. The good camaraderie at the allotments was reported.

5.6 Bowling Club

Bowling Club reported that they had been given the go ahead from the league to restart matches and that the green would be opening on Saturday. League matches are played on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday afternoon and on a Thursday evening. The green is free all day on a Monday and there is a social on a Monday morning. There's a banner on the gates giving contact information for those interested in joining. Membership is £40 which includes social activities. This does not include indoor bowls (played in the winter months) which requires a different membership fee. There is a selection of woods which new members without their own equipment can borrow. Cllr. Slater asked the Bowling Club representative for contact details for publication on the new Parish website.

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Tennis reported that there's been no vandalism of lights but in the past week, some youngsters had cut through the fence at the end of the courts closest to the houses on Schoolgate and got onto the courts. They were shouting abuse at residents. Tennis have managed to secure the gates, repair the fence and they have a conversation with the residents affected and promised to make the PC aware. Cllr. Bedford is taking the lead on Police liaison and attends regular meetings with the Police known as PACT (Police and Communities Together). He asked Tennis to email him details of the incident (details of the PACT meetings would be reported in the next newsletter). The representative of MSM is a Police Officer and also offered his support offering to act as a liaison with the Police.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 25 October 2021 at 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 8:55pm.

Chair
Monday 25 October 2021