

# **BARWICK in ELMET and SCHOLES PARISH COUNCIL**

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

Held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 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), Karen Lewis (Bowling Club) and the Clerk.

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

Pamela Frisby (Bowling Club), Rob Smedley (Shadwell United)

### **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 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 having been circulated be confirmed as a correct record and that the Chair be authorised to sign.

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

- The sports clubs represented appraised the Committee regarding progress in appointing new trustees. Cricket had notified the Parish Council (PC) of their new Trustees with a document which was signed and witnessed. Trustee information from Bowling Club was awaited, the Bowling Club representative would pursue this.
- The Clerk had emailed Leeds City Council (LCC) about grass cutting as concerns had been expressed at the October meeting that the installation of two 2½-metre swing gates would result in the grass on the Scout area not being cut. It was noted that since grass cutting resumed in the Spring, the area had been cut.
- There had been a suggestion at the October meeting that there be a standing item in the newsletter listing contacts for each club. It was noted that contact information for the clubs was on the new PC website.

### **5. CLUB REPORTS**

#### **5.1 Bowling Club**

Bowling Club reported that the green is ready for play and the hedges and lawn had been cut. The previous chair resigned early in 2020 and a new Chair was being sought with the possibility that they may also need a new secretary. There was one lady's team, and one in Cross Gates, one veteran's team and two Tadcaster teams. They had about fifty members. They had tried using social media for the first time to recruit new members (having previously relied on flyers) and this had resulted in several enquires. Membership was free of charge for new people for the first year. It was suggested that they take advantage of the website, and the newsletter to highlight the benefits the sports clubs can offer, it was noted that LCC are closing greens, which makes the Scholes green even more attractive. In previous years, fees have been £25 for social membership, £4 just to visit and £45 for the team players. Match fees are additional. The club were looking to fill gaps in the various age brackets (for example in the age bracket between 50s and those eligible to play for the veteran's). Cllr. Walsh asked if Scholes residents pay a different fee to those not resident in the Parish, the Bowling Club representative confirmed that the fees are the same regardless. Monday and Tuesday nights are available for potential new members to try out the facilities, woods being provided by the club. There had been an issue with people coming through the fence from the football field side, this had been addressed. There had

been issues with people not being able to find the green (an example was cited of a utility company employee going down Rakehill Road).

## **5.2 Scouts**

Scouts were back, they had had the okay from the Scouting Association UK in line with the National Youth Association and were allowed to go indoors and outdoors. The executive committee had decided to only offer outdoor meetings, starting that week. All those attending would be in uniform. Scouting as an activity is exempt from the rule of six. All activities were fully risk and COVID assessed in line with current government regulations. They may be hiking to and from the hut locally. They would not use the inside until the end of term or even September for the younger ones (who might struggle to socially distance). There were two new toilets for the huts and the water meter had been installed and an email sent. The fence at the bottom was being used appropriately by the people who were cutting the grass and the grass had been cut. There had been issues in the past with dog mess and other litter but that seemed to have been reduced since the gates went in. Scouts, nationally, had lost 10% to 30% (depending on area/region). The Scholes Scouts had lost somewhere between 12 and 15% over the lockdown period. During lockdown Scouts had used an online programme of activities. They'd offered support to the Barwick in Elmet Scout group who needed leaders. There were about sixty in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts who attended regularly. They expected numbers to go up to about eighty by the end of summer term. All the leaders were thanked (many of whom are key workers with commitments outside of Scouts). Both adult volunteers and members embraced the switch to online activities during lockdown and leaders had worked hard to provide a varied online programme. They'd still got a waiting list. Normal fees were £50 per child, per term but they hadn't been charging that recently because of the reduced programme due to the COVID lockdown. As of Easter, they had had to charge the full membership fee as they have to pay capitation to the national association. The fee covers neckers, badges, meetings. Additional fees are only levied for extra activities such as visits to the farm at Temple Newsam, ice skating or visits to Stockheld Park at Christmas. Scouts were encouraged to provide information for the newsletter and the website.

## **5.3 Cricket Club**

The Scholes Cricket Club representative reported that they had had two games at the time of the meeting in contrasting weather conditions. They lost an hour due to snow in the first game and the second game was played in warm weather. The wickets was in excellent condition, but the outfield was not so good due to wet weather. The football field gets waterlogged, and the footballers then encroach on the outfield and cause damage. The ground was uneven causing the ball to pitch dangerously. As it had now dried out, it was difficult to address this in spite of efforts to roll it out (the roller being a light roller designed for the square). There was a meeting with Cllrs. Brunt and Slater to discuss possible solutions including chaining the goalposts together. Cllr. Maude and Cllr. Slater had had discussions about options for drainage, there being a large capital cost to be justified. Cllr. Slater had spoken to a local farmer regarding a suggestion that the ground be spiked, mole ploughed, rolled and spiked again but this can only be done in the summertime. The football season had been extended. The ground is clay from four inches down but was like a dust bowl at the time of the meeting. The PC had arranged for a waggon load of scalpings to be put down for Rakehill Road and the local farmer had agreed to spread them out and fill in the potholes. Membership was down to about twenty. Fees were £20 a year; £10 match fees were additional. There were no cricket teas at the time as the pavilion cannot be used (teas are normally covered in the match fees). Cricket were encouraged to provide information for the newsletter and the website. There were no children as qualified coaches would be needed. Five Star Sports were suggested as a possible solution to this, for example running a boot camp. Cricket needed the contact details for Shadwell United Football Club as a cup

game was coming up that Sunday, they would use the email address advertised in the Parish newsletter.

#### **5.4 Pavilion**

A report had been circulated. The PC had taken over the running of the pavilion following the demise of the Tennis Club and had produced a plan to create something everyone could use. An application for Planning permission had been submitted to LCC. In the last few days, they had requested more information. Attempts to reintroduce football to the village had resulted in Five Star sports relocating from the school and in an approach from Shadwell United for their junior teams. Litter and dog mess was probably the biggest issue on the sports fields. A request to LCC for a couple of litter bins at the entrances to the sports field had been declined.

#### **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

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

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 7:30 p.m. – venue subject to pandemic restrictions in place at the time.

The meeting closed at 8:20pm

Chair

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021