

BARWICK in ELMET and SCHOLES PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the SCHOLES PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

Held on Monday 11th October 2021 at 7:30 p.m. in the Pavilion

PRESENT: Councillors Phil Maude (Chair), Claire Hassell and Graham Slater together with representatives Gary Proctor (Cricket), Jayne Dickinson and Karen Lewis (Bowling Club) and the Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Walsh, Scouts.

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 19th April 2021 having been circulated be confirmed as a correct record and that the Chair be authorised to sign.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- Trustee information from Bowling Club had been supplied.
- The new dog-fouling signs had been put up but people were still exercising their dogs across the field. Cricket stressed that the vast majority of dog owners are responsible but the actions of a few reflect badly on dog walkers generally. There was a suggestion that their square is fenced off in similar manner to that at Barwick. Used poo-bags are often left on the Cricket Pavilion steps or hanging in hedges. The new bag dispenser is empty. This had been installed by Leeds City Council with an expectation that the Parish Council keeps it topped up (at £30 a refill). The field is used by professional dog walkers - some of whom are seen using their mobile telephones and not watching the dogs. There has also been a case of a professional dog walker using the field to coach other professional dog walkers. The pandemic has increased dog ownership. There was a suggestion that the gate from the car park to the field could be locked using a key-fob entry system and this was something which the Parish Council will consider.

5. WAYS THE PARISH COUNCIL CAN HELP THE SPORTS CLUBS INCREASE MEMBERSHIP

Bowling club lost several members due to the pandemic lockdown as they did not resume bowling once restrictions were relaxed. The Parish Council offered to help the clubs using its newsletter, website and social media channels.

There was a suggestion of celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II by having Barwick versus Scholes matches with the Parish Council providing trophies. Bowling Club already have this as an annual fixture (since 1973) and Cricket would struggle to get a team out, especially on a Bank Holiday. Lots of players for both clubs are not resident in the village and cricket club are down to just one team. It was suggested that Bowling Club move their annual fixture against Barwick to the weekend of the Platinum Jubilee and they seemed favourably disposed to this idea. The Clubs were asked to discuss this suggestion and advise the Parish Council if they wished to take up the offer.

6. CLUB REPORTS

6.1 Cricket Club

The Scholes Cricket Club representative reported that they had finished half-way down Division One of the Leeds and Wetherby Cricket League having won promotion the year before. Covid19 pandemic rules had eased, the Pavilion was open once more but cricket teas were still not happening. They had tried the new one-hundred form of cricket and Scholes had been chosen to host the finals of a cup competition for both first and second teams. There had been positive reports about the venue noting that the square was good. There were concerns about the future of the league and it seemed likely that the league would fold. Three teams would be leaving the league (including Barwick and Caribbean) and the league was in discussion with the York League to form a South York division – a meeting later that week had been arranged which would decide this. There were concerns that the portable goal posts were sometimes left on the outfield, this would hopefully be resolved when Shadwell United started using a full-size pitch and two of the portable goals could be removed. The pitch was sometimes wet – the Parish Council were considering drainage - see below. They had a playing membership of fifteen.

6.2 Bowling Club

The club play in several leagues. To encourage new people to join, there was now no fee for new members. The club was Covid secure. There were third place finishes for Scholes 'A' and Scholes 'B' in their respective leagues (Tadcaster Evening League), Scholes had finished third in division three of the Crossgates and District Evening Bowling League and Scholes 'A' had won the 2021 Richardson Cup. The green would be closed for maintenance (topsoil to increase the crown by about four inches, scarify and feed). Barwick had won the annual competition against Scholes. Membership was over thirty. They play on Tuesdays, Wednesday's and Thursday (women's teams).

6.3 Scouts

Scouts were not present but had sent a report – see appendix A.

7. Pavilion

The pavilion reopened for normal hire during the earlier part of the year and following the loss of the personal trainer, began a search for a replacement income stream. A replacement had been found and the number of sessions each week was building. Birthday parties had also resumed as well as 5 Star Sports on Saturday mornings. The Parish Council were using the pavilion for several meetings each month and the added Internet access was hoped to make the facility more attractive for other meeting profiles.

A Santa's Grotto event was planned for December 11th to run along the lines of last year's successful visit by Santa to Scholes. Planning approval for the proposed Multi-Use Games Area pitch and outdoor gym was granted in May which meant grant funding could be applied for and notifications came through in early September of successful applications to the Emmerdale Fund, FCCL Landfill fund and Veolia Landfill fund. All the funding was now in place and it was hoped that work would begin in early December and take three weeks to complete. Part of this work would include lighting for the car park. Shadwell Football Club had returned and were playing matches on Sundays. The football field was being looked at with a full new land drainage system being likely to be installed in the 2022 Easter School holiday period – see below.

The Parish Council were also at the early stages of creating a children's adventure play area on the football field next to the Bowling Club hedge. This would be for children 7 to 11/12 years old but cannot be done until the field has a modern drainage system in place.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Parish Council were considering allocating funds to pay for improved drainage to the field. One of the biggest costs is transportation of equipment on a low loader (about £3,000). Scholes (Elmet) Primary School are having similar work being done over the Easter 2022 holidays and therefore the proposal is to arrange the drainage work to be done to tie in with that being done at the school.

Ground rents have been fixed at £75 since 1991 and the two clubs were asked for their reaction to a proposed increase to £100. Both were comfortable with that. It was highlighted that if either club were struggling financially, then the Parish Council has a grant scheme to support as necessary.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 25th April 2022 7:30pm at the Pavilion

The meeting closed at 8:45pm

Chair

Monday 11th April 2022

Appendix A - Report submitted by Scholes Scouts.

1st Scholes Scouts.

We currently have 54 young people within the Group. 16 Beavers (6-8 yrs old) 13 Cubs (8 – 10 yrs old) 12 Scouts (10-14)

Wetherby District also run a Unit from our Hut of Explorer Scouts (14-18 yrs old) which currently have about 12 attendees.

We have about 12 adult volunteers at the moment but are keen to expand our Executive Committee (as we have quite a few vacancies there).

Financially, we are very solvent. We have had excellent support from the Council via grants that were available over the lockdown which allowed us as a charity to support the young people and parents by not charging fees while we were not able to meet, and now put us in a position where we can upgrade the building to improve our facilities.

Scouts have been able to meet outdoors since the Summer and are now also able to start meeting again indoors, so things are almost back to where they were before the lockdown (with the added conditions of regular sanitising, keeping an awareness of social distancing etc.)

In fact, our AGM is our first public meeting since the lockdown.

Our major news for this year is hoping to add an external canopy to the side of the Scout hut to facilitate better outdoor activities and to provide a shelter for people and equipment. We have already refurbished the toilets at the Hut and are updating the fire systems in line with opening of the hut to more indoor activities over the darker months.

As always, the Scout Group is very keen to work with the other members of the Sports Field Association, so please forward my apologies to all who are attending and assure them that I can always be approached with any queries or help/assistance we as Scouts can offer the Community and other members.