

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

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

held on Monday 24 October 2022 at 7:30 pm in Barwick Miner's Institute.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Claire Hassell (Chair) and Graham Slater together with representatives Steve Collett (Allotments), Mike Cooper (Barwick Bowling), Jayne Dickinson and Karen Lewis (Scholes Bowling Club), Raymond Budd, Chris Swales and John Swift (Barwick Cricket), Gary Proctor (Scholes Cricket Club), Adrian Riddlington (Mount Saint Mary's football club), Craig Barker and Jon Bliss (Scholes 1<sup>st</sup> Scouts), Simon Fenton (Tennis Club), Linda Turp (Village Hall), one resident and the Clerk.

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Walsh.

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

### **3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Playing Fields Committee meeting held on the 11 April 2022, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and that the Chair be authorised to sign.

### **4. UPDATES ON ITEMS DISCUSSED**

All matters were dealt with under the respective headings below.

### **5 CLUB REPORTS**

#### **5.1 Mount Saint Mary's Football Club (MSM)**

Last season, MSM operated two teams. The first team won the Barkston Ash FA Challenge cup with a 2-0 victory over Bardsey at the ground of Tadcaster Albion. The second team reached the final of the BML Sports Cup where they were beaten 3-1 by Wetherby Athletic at the ground of Selby Town FC (The Fairfax Plant Hire Stadium). They finished second in division 3 winning promotion to division 2. They were 4<sup>th</sup> in division 2 of the Yorkshire Amateur League (sponsored by Absolute Warehouse Services Limited) having played 5, won 4 and lost 1. This season, they were back down to a single team, the first team having retired. This was due to the overlap with the cricket pitch making the season too short to fulfil two sets of home fixtures whilst avoiding the cricket season. Following an approach, the manager had moved on. The combined team has taken the place of the second team in the league hierarchy. In terms of improvements to the facilities a new external fire door had been fitted. The secretary and the assistant football manager were keeping the area tidy with a strimmer. The representative reported that he had painted the metal posts and that club were now considering plastic posts. He had also painted the clubhouse in the summer and reported that referees no longer use the changing room as they come fully ready for the match. He gave a summary of the financial position as follows; £1,339 spent on grass cutting from June to September, £32 on water, £80 on electricity and £180 on ground rent. There were other costs such as petrol, kits and training gear. Fund raising events were being planned, for example a romantics tribute act, tickets were £10, the hire charge was £1,000. They reported on changes to the contacts list.

#### **5.2 Scholes Cricket Club**

It was reported that Scholes Cricket Club had started the season well and finished sixth in Division One of the Wetherby league. That league had now disbanded and Scholes Cricket Club would play in the York league in 2023. Officials from the York league had been to see the

facilities and given a positive report. The square was looking good. Scholes Cricket Club reported on the following areas of concern.

- Firstly, concerns about people exercising dogs. The field was being used by professional dog walkers, a couple of weeks ago there had been twelve dogs on the field. 99% of dog owners act responsibly and pick up after their dog. They noted that the bottom gate used to be kept locked. There was also damage being done to the pitch due to people throwing balls for their dog to collect, this was a health and safety concern as it resulted in unpredictable behaviour by the cricket ball if it hit a damaged area of the pitch.
- There were also concerns about recent works done on the football pitch (part of which overlapped the cricket pitch). An attempt had been made to address historic problems of waterlogging by the digging of drainage channels. They felt that only half a job had been done and some of the channels had sunk. Some of the channels had been filled with clay rather than topsoil, the filling of these channels with topsoil had started that week. cricket were unhappy about the effect of this work on their outfield and the boundary had been brought in as a result (they had lost five metres from the bottom of the pitch). They were also concerned that the soil which had been removed to create the channels had been dumped in one corner of the field. Loose stones were being thrown (a potential cause of damage to the mower blades) and people were even turning up with spades. There had recently been an increase in their ground rent. Unable to use the football pitch, people were now moving the portable goal posts onto the cricket outfield and using it for training. There was no longer weekly football coaching by 5\* Sports.

### **5.3 Pavilion**

Cllr. Slater reported on the new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) which had been completed in May. There had been issues at first with anti-social behaviour and the Police had been involved. More recently, grant funding had been obtained for a defibrillator and it was hoped that this would be in place by the end of the year. Regarding the drainage on the football pitch, there was no doubt that this needed to be done (the representative of the allotments stated that the waterlogging of the pitch had been an issue since at about 1973). A number of quotations had been obtained (one nearly twice as much as the other). Following the work on the pitch, there had been issues with settlement, seed had been put down. After waiting until mid-July, Cllr. Slater, acting on the advice of a local farmer, began filling the trenches with clay. A couple of tons of topsoil had recently been obtained and work had begun putting this down, about a quarter of the pitch had been done, it would then be spiked and rolled by a local farmer. Following the spell of dry weather, the sand had bled into the cracks. 5\* Sports would suspend their bookings after the coming week. Regarding the pile of spoil, there were aspirations for a consultation for a playground for older children and the spoil could be used for this. There were comments that this was not well located (being out of sight) and a strip of land by the side of the existing playground, used by the school but held in trust by another body might be a more suitable location. The proposed playground would be fenced off with access from the car park. Regarding dogs, a sign saying that dogs must be kept on a lead would be put up and existing signs suggested financial penalties of £2,500, however there were challenges regarding enforcement of any restrictions. Visits by Leeds City Council (LCC) dog wardens had been effective in the past. The cricket square was roped off. Scholes Cricket club had Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) on their Pavilion. This could be a discussion item for the PC Finance and General Purposes Committee and cricket were asked to produce a paper to inform any such agenda item. The use of the Pavilion as a warm hub and the upgrade of the heating was being looked at.

#### **5.4 Barwick Cricket Club**

Barwick Cricket clarified the position regarding the Wetherby league, which would continue as a Junior League only. The first team had finished the season top of the league which in any other year would have made them champions but in 2022, the four highest placed teams went into a play off and Barwick were beaten finalists losing by fifteen runs. The second team finished fourth in division two. About half the second team were juniors promoted to play for the senior team. There five junior teams plus All Stars. The summer coaching sessions had attracted about fifty children each day, however, Yorkshire County Cricket Club (YCCC) were cutting the funding for this. In terms of the facilities, new toilets had been fitted which improved the facilities, especially for the ladies. The club had been one of the first in the area to get an electronic scoreboard about twenty years previously. They had now upgraded to a new scoreboard which included Duckworth-Lewis adjustments for reduced overs matches affected by the weather. Cricket Club had hired professional help to remove the thatch on the wicket and would do so over the next few years. They would remove the pile of soil. The club would compete in the York league in 2023. This league was organised on a regional basis and some of the rules of the league differed to those of the Wetherby league, e.g. overseas players were not allowed. The club now had four fully qualified umpires. The club had been given a year's grace to install sightscreens at both ends. Due to the slope of the pitch, one of these would have to be twenty-one feet high to be effective and therefore a mobile screen was being considered. There were plans for new nets for next season to replace the existing fixed net which was not flat and dangerous. They would be two back-to-back fixed nets done professionally. The Pavilion had been completed in 1997 and there had been improvements since then to all parts of it apart from the changing rooms, there were plans for these to be refitted. Capacity was an issue given the number of junior teams and the All Stars. Girl's cricket was a growth area on the club would launch a girl's section next year. One coach was in place and the club was waiting for one more to coach under 12s girls, this was being supported by the English Cricket Board (ECB). Although the junior section was strong, only a small number of these progressed to the senior team and some players were being picked off by bigger clubs. One of the thirteen-year-olds played for YCCC. There was a good community spirit but direction of travel was a concern, Barwick Cricket could end up with a great club but very little cricket. Barwick Cricket Club had fenced off their square and used CCTV. Barwick Cricket club reported that there had been vandalism, probably by the same people who had done damage at the Village Hall (see below). The parents admitted that they can't handle their own children. There were burn marks on every one of the covers.

#### **5.5 Scholes Bowling Club**

The club won division 4 of the Barkston Ash league and won promotion (Saturday fixtures). They won division 3 of the Cross Gates league being undefeated all season (Wednesday evening fixtures). Scholes A finished second in division one and Scholes B finished fifth (out of ten) in division 2 of the Tadcaster Evening League (Thursday evening fixtures). They finished sixth out of eleven teams in division 2 of the Tadcaster Vets League (Wednesday afternoon fixtures), they were joint top of the averages. They had regained the Sleights Trophy winning their home game. There was a tri-age competition at the end of the year. They had ten new members (membership being free in the first year). They were renewing the Bowling Green doing work on the crown. Scholes Bowling Club complained that the mound of soil which was just the other side of their boundary hedge (see above) attracted anti-social behaviour, fighting and industrial language which caused them some embarrassment when other teams came to Scholes to play league matches). Some youngsters had managed to get onto the top of the clubhouse garage. It was suggested that this be an agenda item for the next Parish Council (PC) meeting and Scouts and Cricket were invited to submit reports for consideration.

## **5.6 Barwick Bowling Club**

The club had gained one or two new members and the indoor bowling season had now started. The numbers for indoor bowls had dropped but an advert in the Barwick forum had resulted in five new members.

## **5.7 Allotments**

The access track (known as the Verity Strip) which was shared with Cricket Club was discussed. The Clerk had sent a quotation to Cricket Club following a meeting earlier in the year between members of Cricket club and Councillors. There was still interest in getting this sorted and the agreement still stood but Cricket Club felt that the percentages were out of tune. The boundary hedge at the top had been cut on the afternoon of Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October, the owners of the land adjacent to the allotments needed to cut the boundary hedges on their side. There was currently a waiting list. No frosts were expected until about the 7<sup>th</sup> after which the water supply would be turned off. Membership of the National Allotment Association had been reinstated. A survey of plot holders had indicated that a majority were favourably disposed towards setting up an allotment association separate from the PC. A meeting would be called to take this forward. It had been a good year for fruit and an average one for vegetables.

## **5.8 Village Hall**

The Village Hall was doing well with regular bookings and the coffee mornings were doing well also. There were three new classes to the Hall, Yoga, Baby Sensory and Bilingual Singing. There was a baby and mum group learning Spanish. An electrical upgrade had been completed and the Village Hall electrics were good for the next five years. It was hoped to commence improvements to the ladies' toilets during the first week in January. The supper dance to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had been a success. In June, the Village Hall celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its opening and on the evening of 8<sup>th</sup> October there had been a supper dance with a 1970s theme. The Christmas market was planned for 4<sup>th</sup> December. There were plans for 2023 including bringing back afternoon tea and supper dances and events to commemorate Britain hosting the Eurovision Song Contest and the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. There was concern about vandalism in the bin recess area. The locks and chains on the bins had been broken, they had lasted two days. There had also been abusive writing on the panel of the front doors and there were burn marks on doors. Future incidents would be reported to the Police and would also be reported to the Parish Clerk. The Village Hall were looking to extend the CCTV to show the bin area. It was noted that there was no longer a youth club in the village although there used to be a bus.

## **5.9 Scholes 1<sup>st</sup> Scouts**

It had been a busy six months (mostly positive), the Scouts were still operating with post covid changes. Financially Scouts were doing very well, mainly due to covid grants. It had been a year since the resumption of activities following covid restrictions and Scouts had endeavoured to hit the ground running. The barbeque to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had gone really well. Bonfire and barbeque fundraising events were planned. Scouts were planning to have an event in lieu of the Scholes gala (which no longer took place) and hoped to create the same atmosphere. At the last Playing Fields Committee meeting, they had reported membership at about forty, it was now back up to fifty, mostly under tens and at most, twelve over the age of fourteen (the younger ones would eventually filter through to this age bracket). There had been a big recruitment drive at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), held about five weeks earlier, which had almost doubled the management leadership team. About 50% had been saved on energy bills due to new lighting and heating. An external canopy had been erected on the side of the Scout hut enabling the

Scouts to hold twice as many outdoor events, it was big enough to get two-hundred people under it. The field had been landscaped and there had been a 20% increase in available land by cutting back encroaching vegetation. The boundary hedge with Bowling Club had also been cut back. There was still a need for more adult volunteers to work directly with the young people. There were also concerns regarding grass cutting. LCC cut the grass on the football and cricket pitches and regular grass cutters would also cut the grass in the Scout area but it would occasionally get missed if the person cutting the grass was not the usual grass cutter. Scouts wanted to know who to contact when this happened. The PC had a bespoke agreement with LCC for grass cutting which they were happy with and Scouts were therefore asked to contact the Clerk in the first instance on those occasions when the grass wasn't cut.

#### **5.10 Tennis Club**

Tennis Club reported that it had been a good year. They had fifty members, forty-two adults and eight juniors. There had been about seventy members just after COVID and the club had now resumed charging membership fees. There had been a £5 increase in fees to £25 for an adult, £30 for a couple and no charge for children. Adult coaching had been offered, one-hour sessions about once a week runs by coaches from Whitkirk. The championship went well. All the work in running the Tennis Club was done by a core group of members. The team finished last in the mixed division 3 of the Barkston Ash Lawn Tennis league (level on points with the team that finished second to last). They reached the semi-finals off the knockout plate competition, which provided useful experience playing a team from a higher division. Court maintenance was being planned. The club had spoken to other clubs and got quotations. There were issues with insufficient people being able to serve on the Committee. They were having an extraordinary general meeting the following week to elect a new treasurer and a social media person. They were trying to decide between a full resurfacing or repairs and were applying for grants funding (for example from Sport England) to supplement their own fundraising efforts with a view to doing the work at the end of next summer. A full resurfacing would cost at least £35,000. They had saved up £18,000 to £19,000 and ensured that their annual income exceeded expenditure year on year to build up a reserve for capital projects.

**7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Monday 17 April 2022 at 7:30pm in the Miner's Institute.  
The meeting closed at 9:02pm.

Chair  
Monday 17 April 2022