

BARWICK in ELMET and SCHOLES PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE meeting

held on Monday 17 April 2023 at 7:30 pm in Barwick Miner's Institute.

PRESENT: Councillors Graham Slater, Stella Walsh and Gillian Williamson together with representatives Steve Collett (Allotments), Mike Cooper (Barwick Bowling), Jayne Dickinson and Helen Simms (Scholes Bowling Club), Chris Swales and John Swift (Barwick Cricket), Gary Proctor (Scholes Cricket Club), Adrian Riddlington (Mount Saint Mary's football club), Jon Bliss (Scholes 1st Scouts), Andrea Gilliland and Sue Sidebottom (Tennis Club), Linda Turp and Lynda Wright (Village Hall) and the Clerk (Chair).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Dales and Hassell. It was agreed that in the absence of the Chair of the Parish Council, the Clerk chair the meeting.

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 24 October 2022, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record, in the absence of the Chair, Cllr. Slater signed the minutes.

4. UPDATES ON ITEMS DISCUSSED

All matters were dealt with under the respective headings below.

• 5 CLUB REPORTS

5.1 Pavilion

Bookings were going well and things were ticking along. A yoga class for mums meeting on a Thursday had started to use the Pavilion. The Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) was getting used more especially by youngsters, often with dads in attendance. The tennis court was well used during the winter, especially on a Sunday morning. A cycle rack with shelter had been donated by Balfour Beatty. This exceeded the requirements of the Pavilion and Scouts had agreed to take it, They just wanted to know when and how. There had been concerns about possible anti-social behaviour when the facilities were first proposed. Cllr. Slater was pleased to report that there had been a little bit at the start but there were no major issues. There was a concern about youngsters climbing over the fence, in particular to get out especially during school holiday periods. It was noted that girls were just as involved in this as boys. There had also been concerns at the start about litter and graffiti, the concerns about graffiti had so far proved unfounded but there was a small amount of litter. A new defibrillator had now been fitted and an order had been placed with a local electrician to do the necessary wiring. It was hoped that this will be done within the week. Regarding the sports fields, there had been issues with dogs and dog fouling and members of the dog walking community had arranged a meeting a couple of weeks previously which was also attended by three Parish Councillors and members of the 1st Scholes Scouts and Scholes Cricket Clubs. One of the outcomes of this meeting was that the responsible dog owners would ensure that dog mess was cleared up regardless of whether it was from their own dog or not. The professional dog walkers who used to use the field had not been seen for a couple of weeks. Shadwell United Junior Football Club would return in the autumn. Topsoil had been purchased to fill in the ruts, Cllr Slater

confirmed that this job would be completed the next week (week commencing 24th April). A consultation on proposals for a playground for older children had been circulated. There had been a hundred and twenty-one replies, two of which had been discounted due to insufficient information being provided. 96% of those who replied were supportive of the idea. 13% didn't want it on the sports field, 8% had no preference and 78% thought that the sports field was the best place. Alternative suggestions included Scholes Lodge Field and the school grounds. 55% wanted the facility to be locked at night. Over 50% said that they would use it at least once a month, 20% said that they would never use it. There had also been a separate consultation via the school. Some wanted a skate park, other suggestions included a trampoline, a zip wire, tyre swings and monkey bars and one had said that they would never use it. The consultation included an open day, the main concerns expressed were regarding anti-social behaviour, drug use and children being led astray. The parents of those who said that they would use the facility did not have such fears. A Police inspector had sent an email saying that he would be happy to allow his child to use the facility and that provision of such a facility would not make any difference regarding the level of anti-social behaviour or drug use. Cllr. Slater advised that the proposed playground required planning approval. Members of Scholes Bowling Club, Scholes 1st Scouts and Scholes Cricket Club expressed their views voicing concerns about safeguarding. Scouts had had an executive meeting about this proposal, they support the idea, but not the location. Bowling Club also support the idea but commented on suspicious activity regarding cars using Saint Philip's church car park and similar concerns about the car park at the Pavilion. The 121 replies did not include those received through the school. There was a concern regarding the size of the plot which would reduce the area for the football pitch to less than the minimum requirement for adult football matches. Cllr. Slater noted that there was a lack of volunteers to run activities in Scholes. Informal enquiries had suggested that the school were not supportive on surrendering some of their land for such a project, however, there was a suggestion that consideration be given to a formal approach to the school. There was a view that the lack of enquiries by teams wanting a full-size football pitch was due to surface rainwater not draining away and that the recent drainage work might make the field more appealing. An offer had been made to a member of what used to be Scholes Tennis club to see if there was any interest in using the facilities, this had been declined.

5.2 Mount Saint Mary's Football Club (MSM)

MSM had played eighteen matches and won fourteen and lost four leaving them in third place one point behind the second placed team and looking good to finish second in the league and therefore win a third consecutive promotion. They had reached the final of the County Cup, a competition with 126 entrants. They would be playing Cawood from Selby. They were well-travelled having played matches at Boroughbridge, Burnley and Clitheroe and had also played Saltaire (Shipley) and Saint Margaret's, Leeds. The cricket season was about to begin so their final two home fixtures would be played elsewhere. MSM apologised to the Cricket Club after accidentally using weed killer in the marking machine for the line markings for their pitch. They confirmed that they were down to a single team.

5.3 Scholes Cricket Club

Scholes Cricket Club were now in the York league and would start the season the following Saturday away to Saxton. Two or three of the teams in this league were from the Selby area. Being in the York League meant that for some of their fixtures, they would be playing teams that they used to play. Ground preparation was well underway. They also commented that the new signs saying that dogs must be kept on a lead had helped and that members of the dog walking community were being more helpful. They had reseeded the ruts created by the drainage work where this overlapped with the cricket pitch. Until the seeds germinated, they

would move the boundary accordingly. They commented that the fastening together of the goal posts had helped.

5.4 Barwick Cricket Club

They now had a new magnificent, fixed net. This net could not be taken down. Both changing rooms had been refitted and they had new sightscreens, the bottom screen would be on wheels but the top one would be fixed. The need for sightscreens at the top was understood but due to the slope of the ground, the sightscreen at the bottom would have to be twenty-one feet high. Barwick Cricket had also joined the York league. They had resigned from the now defunct Wetherby league two years ago which had resulted in them being placed in Ebor Division 2, a higher division than Scholes (who had been allocated a place in the York league as a result of the Wetherby league folding). They would be playing some top clubs and the first team would probably struggle having lost the opening three batsman. There would be increased travel, e.g. to Pocklington. The rules of the York league do not allow overseas players. The second team were expected to be fine having been placed in Ebor Division 5 which was mainly made-up of clubs from the Wetherby league. Barwick Cricket club had a full junior programme at five different age levels. As in previous years, there would be five days of junior coaching in August and in 2023 there would be another three days in May. The All Stars (children aged 5-8 years old) and under 9's would continue, and outfield nets would be used. Cricket Club had agreed with the Parish Council to contribute towards the cost of making good the unmade track (known as the Verity Strip) which provided access to both cricket and the allotments. This track belonged to Leeds City Council but the Parish Council had a 125-year lease the terms of which required Leeds City Council approval prior to commencement of any works. The Clerk confirmed that he had heard from Leeds City Council who were putting together a simple legal document, he was trying to get a start date from the contractor who was to carry out the work and use this as a deadline for Leeds City Council to produce the legal document. Cricket would contact the contractor accordingly. Barwick Cricket club had several girls playing but not enough to form a separate girls team.

5.5 Scholes Bowling Club

Scholes Bowling Club reported that they were back up and running with fifty-six members some of whom were purely social members. They had teams playing in various leagues including one team in the Elmet League, one in the Cross Gates league, one in the Tadcaster veterans league, two teams in the Tadcaster evening league and one in the Barkston Ash league. There was also lots of social bowling on a Monday afternoon and mini competitions being organised. They had been trying to get quotations for works which needed to be done, half a dozen quotations had been obtained but none of them had been in writing. The Scouts representative and Cllr. Walsh would contact Bowls Club with suggested contractors. This year was their fiftieth anniversary, the event would be marked by three internal competitions with a finals day in June where there would also be a barbeque.

5.6 Barwick Bowling Club

Barwick Bowling Club were doing work on the ground. The new season was underway with two or three games having been played and they were hoping that the water would be okay. The first team and second team were where they were last year in terms of the leagues they were playing in including a match at Scholes. Newer people had come in. Three matches had been played by the time of the meeting in the Wednesday afternoon league (home and away). Work was being done on the green including cutting.

5.7 Allotments

The report above regarding the Verity Strip was noted. The water had been reconnected (the allotment representative had got very wet doing so). A new padlock was needed as the old

combination lock was no longer effective. All plots were fully taken and indeed there was a waiting list (one plot neglected in 2022 had been given to new people and another plot which was barely cultivated was under review). The Clerk reported that there had been no progress in setting up a separate allotment association as a date was awaited when a member of the National Allotment Society could come along and advise.

5.8 Village Hall

Village Hall reported that regular bookings and coffee mornings were doing well. The Christmas market on 4th December 2022 was a great success as was the afternoon tea on 11th March 2023. They are planning a dinner dance on 6th May 2023 to mark the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. Tickets were £25.00 which would include canapés, a toast to the King followed by a main course dessert and dancing and entertainment. Booking forms were available at the Post Office and Village Hall or online. Works on vanity units and sinks had been completed. The village hall had been the target of vandalism by a group of youths who had caused damage, upset and unnecessary expense. They had been in contact with the new local police officer who had advised them that he was on a mission to tackle this and had recently reprimanded seven youths and had obtained names and addresses. The closed-circuit television (CCTV) camera had been updated and fitted by a local security firm. There were now eight cameras outside which had been there about a month. Paint had been splattered on the building in various areas, the Police were aware. The footage would be looked at in the morning. There had also been felt pen drawings on the UPVC frames and in a separate incident, pressure on an open window had sprained the hinges. There were also concerns about litter. The hedge at the front would be lowered so that any anti-social behaviour would be visible from the road. Barwick in Bloom had relaid the grass which had been made bare due to electric scooters being used across it. The Village Hall had succeeded in preventing youths climbing onto the roof by chaining the Biffa bin which they had been using as a step. Although this was a successful measure, it meant that a member of the committee had to unchain the bin ahead of the fortnightly collection and rechain it afterwards.

5.9 Scholes 1st Scouts

This year, Scouts would be celebrating their eightieth birthday having begun in 1943. One surviving member from that time had been invited to the anniversary event in September. They were provisionally accepting the bike rack/shelter depending on its condition and whether they could arrange for transport/installation and had supplied the Clerk with a water meter reading. In the last six months, they had held various events. The bonfire night event was a massive success, there had been early indications that it would be so after the poster advertising the event was shared twelve times. The numbers attending were such that Scouts had to check on the permitted numbers for both the Scout hut and the surrounding area (500 and 1500 respectively). In the end, 960 attended and others were turned away for safety reasons. There were twelve volunteers and the fireworks were let off early. The heating had been upgraded and now used more effective infrared technology and all the lighting had been changed to light emitting diodes (LEDs). Intake had gone up since the previous Playing Fields Committee meeting, they had about 10 Scouts over 10 years old and about 50 under that age. Scouts were planning to do a barbeque at the church as part of the commemoration events to mark the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. The burgers were being sourced from a well-known butchers in Cross Gates and one of the leaders was felt to be particularly skilful in flipping burgers. They were also doing a barbeque as part of the village carnival event on Scholes Lodge Field on 10th June and would supply a marquee. There would be a major Scouting event at Bramham Park with 1,500 Scouts from across the county taking part. Scouts reported finding nitrous oxide canisters at the edge of the area and on the adjoining sports field. They felt that the grass was due to be cut soon. There were no concerns financially, and there was lots of fundraising going on. The lighting on the veranda was controlled from the

inside of the Scout hut. A tree on the boundary between the Scouts land and that of the adjoining cricket pitch had come down during a period of strong winds leading to concerns about the remaining trees. Members of the Cricket Club had no objections to disclosure of their contact details to representatives Scholes 1st Scouts for this purpose.

5.10 Tennis Club

Tennis reported on changes to their Committee, Phil Bagley was the new Chair and Helen Rogers was the new treasurer. Membership fees had been retained at last year's levels, i.e. £25 per member or £30 for a family membership. Adult coaching of one-hour sessions once a week were taking place, usually on a Tuesday. These were due to recommence on 18th April 2023. The Tennis club has not been a member of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) in recent years but is now re-joining. A condition of membership was the appointment of a welfare officer and the Chair was attending an appropriate event that very evening. A mixed team had been entered into the Barkston Ash league. Three floodlights needed renovation, these had been in place since 1990 but had had to be removed due to pile corrosion. They had aspirations to replace them with LED lighting. The courts needed resurfacing, this would cost £35,000. Also, the roof of the pavilion needed re-felting. They were looking for grant opportunities to provide the necessary funding. Social tennis was being played on Sundays. The membership was around fifty. There was hope for coaching to become available to the 13+ age range in the future. They had a set of keys to the Village Hall to use it for the toilet facilities. The Tennis Club reported previous issues with youths climbing on the pavilion roof but were not aware of any recent such problems.

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Cllr. Walsh reminded the meeting that she was the editor of the Parish Council newsletter and would be happy to receive material for inclusion from the various groups represented.
- Defibrillator training would be organised once the new defibrillator was working, and various clubs would be notified accordingly. It was noted that it was not necessary to have had training in order to use a defibrillator. In case of emergency, a telephone call should be made to the emergency services (999). The code to unlock the defibrillator cabinet would then be given.
- All instances of anti-social behaviour, vandalism and drug use should be reported to the Police and a crime number be obtained. Lack of reporting means that the Police assume a lack of crime and allocate their resources accordingly. In the case of people on the roof of buildings, a telephone call should be made to 999 as this is considered an emergency due to the increased risk of serious injury.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 16 October 2023 at 7:30pm in the Miner's Institute. The meeting closed at 9:03pm.

Chair
Monday 16 October 2023