

BARWICK in ELMET and SCHOLES PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE meeting

held on Monday 15 April 2024 at 7:30pm in Barwick Miner's Institute.

PRESENT: Councillors Stella Walsh (Chair), John Hayton and Paul Walsh together with representatives Steve Collett (Allotments), Ian Vallbank (Barwick Bowling), Jayne Dickinson and Karen Lewis (Scholes Bowling Club), Chris Swales and John Swift (Barwick Cricket Club), Dan Whitaker (Scholes Cricket Club), Jon Bliss (Scholes 1st Scouts), Phil Bagley and Sue Sidebottom (Tennis Club), Linda Turp (Village Hall), Lynda Wright (Barwick Bowling and Village Hall) and the Clerk.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Danny Gallagher and Zoe Rainbow (Barwick and Scholes Football Club), Mount Saint Mary's football Club and from Cllr. Dales.

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 16 October 2024, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and that the Chair sign the minutes.

4. UPDATES ON ITEMS DISCUSSED

All matters were dealt with under the respective headings below.

5 CLUB REPORTS

5.1 Scholes 1st Scouts

The Group Scout Leader ("Chestnut") reported that Scholes Scouts had just celebrated its eightieth anniversary. They were formed in 1943 but as no one knew the exact date, 2024 had been chosen as the year to mark this anniversary. The Group Scout Leader had himself been involved for ten years and had recently been made aware that there used to be a wooden Scout hut opposite the shop. He had met members of the community who had historic connections to Scholes Scouts. The occasion was marked with a big cake and lots of photographs. Scholes 1st Scouts was down to about forty young people due to lack of leaders as potential leaders often had commitments elsewhere though parents were willing to help. The organisation was seeking to address this issue by an overhaul of the volunteer system making it easier to volunteer and more fun. Sunday 21st April would be the Saint George's day parade for the Wetherby District which was made up of fourteen Scout groups. The Wetherby District was in turn, one of eight districts which made up the Central Yorkshire Scout County. All the Wetherby groups would be coming on the 21st but this event was open to the public regardless of any Scout membership. The hut was in good condition. Both Barwick in Elmet and Scholes groups would be involved in events to commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the D-Day landings.

5.2 Tennis Club

Tennis Club had rejoined the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). They had recently held a social event in the Village Hall (including a live band) to raise funds for the refurbishment fund. Ninety people had attended at £10 a ticket and there had been a raffle and games. The court had been professionally cleaned in February. The annual tidy up had been done on 7th April. They had plans to resurface the court in the next few years (but not using a carpet surface due to concerns about vandalism). The fencing needed a refresh, especially near the Pavilion. They were applying for grants, it would cost £30,000 to do the whole of the perimeter fencing. Most grant

fundings needed some evidence that the Club had attempted to raise funds itself. Barwick Tennis Club had entered a mixed team into the Barkston Ash league. The idea of a men's team had been parked. An LTA approved coach was linked to the Club. Adult coaching on a Tuesday evening at 6pm was due to start on 23rd April. There were two slots for junior coaching on a Saturday afternoon, 2:30pm to 3:30pm for the younger age bracket and 3:30pm to 4:30pm for older children. Sessions could be booked and paid for on the website, membership of the Club not being a requirement. The courts were available for social tennis on a Sunday from 10:30am to 1pm (even during the winter months). The Club would be involved in three tournaments this season. The Club had accounts with Facebook and Instagram and planned to close the website as their details would be on the LTA website. Membership renewals would be due on 1st May, prices had gone up from £25 to £30 for individual membership and from £30 to £40 for family membership. The Club needed security lights. They had a membership of fifty but as this includes family memberships, there were between a hundred and ten and a hundred and twenty individuals making up this number.

5.3 Pavilion

The Chair reported that there was no longer a separate Pavilion subcommittee and the running of the Pavilion had been brought under direct Parish Council (PC) Control. The key fob entry system for access to the multi-use games area had been suspended for a trial period of a year. This was due to health and safety concerns regarding children who did not have a key fob and were climbing over the fence. Access was still restricted to daylight hours. Up until the Easter holidays, there had been no issues but there had been children riding around on bikes and being abusive during the Easter break. There was a special offer price of fifty percent discount on ad-hoc bookings which was running to the end of May. Current regular users included a personal trainer, a yoga class, a pop-up Post Office and an adult football team and a girl's under fourteen's football team were looking to also use the facilities.

5.4 Mount Saint Mary's Football Club (MSM)

MSM were not represented but had sent a report - see attached appendix.

5.5 Barwick in Elmet and Scholes football Club.

Barwick in Elmet and Scholes football Club were not represented. They had played most of their home games using Barwick's pitch as the pitch at Scholes was too wet.

5.6 Scholes Cricket Club

Scholes Cricket Club were getting ready for the start of the season. The league had delayed the start of the season by a week due to the number of clubs whose pitches were still too wet to play on. Scholes Cricket Club had now managed to establish a second team who had been voted into the league.

5.7 Barwick Cricket Club

The joint-Chair of the Club presented the report. They were in the same league as Scholes Cricket Club and therefore the week delay to the start of the season due to wet conditions affected them too. The Club had spent the close season tidying. Water damage due to a faulty pump had brought down a ceiling. The Pavilion was used regularly by a bridge club and Cricket were grateful for their support. Junior cricket would be starting in a few weeks' time and there would be cricket five or six nights a week. The Club had applied to the Community Fund (Festival grant) for money for a water harvesting system. The first team were now in Division One which meant matches are fifty overs each and therefore start at 12:30pm with many away matches being played at the far side of York. The Club now had a Frogbox which allows people to watch games live over the Internet and they have a YouTube channel. This was not cheap but can generate revenue from advertising. The joint-Chair expressed concerns about proposals for

a beer festival on either 7th or 14th September, the latter date being the last home game of the season which the Club proposed to mark with events of their own. They had had previous issues when the beer festival coincided with a home game with people encroaching on the pitch. The Club's insurance would not cover them if a cricket ball hit someone attending the beer festival. There were about seven-hundred people at the last beer festival some of whom used Cricket's showers as toilets.

5.8 Scholes Bowling Club

The Chair of Scholes Bowling Club reported that they had nearly finished the paving round the green but the contractor had run out of slabs and matches had had to be rearranged. This work had been ongoing through the winter. Scholes Cricket Club were thanked for the loan of their equipment. The Club would be playing in the same leagues as last year but now had two ladies teams. Planned events included a tournament against members of Scholes Cricket Club. In June there would be a doubles event. In July would be events for Elmete Ladies and would be finals day. In August, there would be the Sleights Trophy (against Barwick) and in September, the trios followed by the close of the season. About forty people play for Scholes Bowling Club and there were nineteen social members and one junior. They had started a hundred club and had raised money using easyfundraising (when buying goods online using easyfundraising, the retailer gives a percentage of the sale to a charity chosen by the purchaser). This had raised £100 since Christmas. The Club had put up its fees for the first time in five years from £45 to £50 and £1 per match. Social bowling had been moved to Friday afternoons. They had received a Festival grant award for pruning.

5.9 Barwick Bowling Club

The Chair of Barwick Bowling Club reported that the Club had entered the same leagues as before. They had about fifty members with a membership fee of £52 a year and an income of £2,500. Fundraising included a Lottery Bonus Ball. A lot of jobs had been done in the winter months, usually it was the same group of people who carried out the work. The toilets had been repainted, gutters cleaned out and the hedge height had been reduced considerably at a cost of £1,500, most of this was leylandii and buckthorn. The reduction in height made future maintenance easier. A skip had been filled with waste. The footpath had been jet washed. A laurel had been dug out and the area made into a rockery. Planters had been made ready, emails appealing for funds had been sent and one of these resulted in a donation of £200. They had spent £2,500 to £3,000 over the winter. Social activities included regular round robin competitions.

5.10 Allotments

Like many of the other clubs, the allotments had been affected by the wet start to 2024. In the two days leading up to the October 2023 Playing Fields Committee meeting (16th October) there had been two days of heavy rain. On 19th October 2023, the meteorological forecast had suggested nine consecutive days of rain and this forecast proved to be accurate. The plot holder reported that his plot was under water for the first time since he rented it. There were a few new faces at the allotments. The Clerk confirmed that membership of the National Allotment Society had been renewed. Regarding the proposals to form an Allotment Association separate from the PC, the view was that plot holders would like to maintain the existing relationship with the PC but maybe an internal committee could be formed to organise bulk purchases and keep a eye on plots not being adequately maintained. One plot holder was building a very large shed. Last year was a disappointing year for fruit but this year, the amount of blossom on the trees pointed to a better harvest. Sadly, the plot holder who kept bees had lost them all.

5.11 Barwick Village Hall

The representatives of the Village Hall reported that regular bookings and coffee mornings were doing well. The Christmas Market on 3rd December 2023 had been successful and there were

plans to repeat this in 2024, this being the third year that this event had taken place. The lowering of the boundary hedges and the increased use of closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras had had the desired effect in reducing instances of vandalism but there had been complaints from neighbouring properties that the lights of the CCTV cameras were flashing in their homes. Three weeks previously, there had been an instance of youths at the back of the Hall playing loud music and smoking weed. Police patrols were being done. Village Hall reported that a new kitchen had been installed and they now had an automatic boiler. They hope to lay a new floor when funds become available. The Trustees wanted to know about progress regarding the light in the car park and the remarking of the disabled bays. The Clerk reported that quotations had been sought for the work on the lights and having seen appropriate documents (public liability insurance, method statements, risk assessments etc.) a contractor had been awarded the work and was expected to do the work in the very near future. Regarding the disabled car parking bays, the Clerk had approached Leeds City Council (LCC) Highways and in the absence of a response, had obtained quotations for the work. However, LCC Highways had then replied to say that they would do the work and rather than pay a contractor, it had been decided to accept the offer from LCC Highways even if it meant having to wait longer. The Clerk agreed to chase up both the contractor doing the lights and LCC Highways regarding their respective jobs. The Village Hall also reported that their notice board needed replacing as it was blowing open and was wet and soggy inside. There was a question as to ownership of this notice board as it was not listed as a PC asset (although the PC had stood the cost of replacement glass some years earlier after one of the panels had been broken).

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- MSM football Club were down to one team.
- The Chair reminded everyone that she was the editor of the PC newsletter and encouraged those present to use this to promote their activities and successes, the next newsletter would be produced in May.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 14 October 2024 at 7:30pm in the Miner's Institute.
The meeting closed at 8:55pm.

Chair
Monday 14 October 2024