

BARWICK in ELMET and SCHOLES PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE meeting

held on Monday 28 October 2024 at 7:30pm in Barwick Miner's Institute.

PRESENT: Councillors Stella Walsh (Chair) and Paul Walsh together with representatives, Peter Elliott (Barwick Bowling), John Swift (Barwick Cricket Club), Danny Gallagher and Zoe Rainbow (Barwick and Scholes Football Club), Dan Whitaker (Scholes Cricket Club), Jon Bliss (Scholes 1st Scouts), David Willoughby 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 Cllrs. Dales, Hayton, Maude, Remmer and Shoesmith and representatives Steve Collett (Allotments) and Jayne Dickinson and Karen Lewis (Scholes Bowling Club),

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

4. UPDATES ON ITEMS DISCUSSED

Since the last meeting, Mount Saint Mary's football club had vacated the facilities at Barwick in Elmet. Enquiries from other open age clubs had not led to any formal hire agreement and at present for this football season there are no teams using the pitch or changing rooms in Barwick. There are now two teams playing at Scholes, Barwick and Scholes football club (an open age team) and Garforth Villa Blues under fifteen's girl's football club.

5 CLUB REPORTS

5.1 Barwick Village Hall

All the regular bookings and the coffee mornings were doing well. On the 27th September, £379 had been raised for Macmillan. Coffee and tea were served at the event, which featured things such as name the teddy, guess the number of sweets in the jar, a tombola etc. Those who supported the event were thanked. The car park lighting and marking of the disabled bays had been sorted. The Hall had been closed for four days to allow resurfacing work to be carried out. Following this, seventeen areas of floor had lifted resulting in the Hall being closed for a further week. The contractor was dealing with this. The floor had been retaining too much moisture and every piece had to be put back down. The Christmas market would be on 1st December 2024 from 11am to 3pm and the Village Hall Committee were hoping for a successful year. The defibrillator outside the Village Hall had been used at the time of the recent power cut (a workman required medical attention). A number of people had asked if another training course on the use of the defibrillator could be run. Cllr. P. Walsh advised that he was happy to run free CPR class for not-for-profit community groups, possibly in March 2025 to be held in the Village Hall. There would be a meeting of the trustees on the 5th November.

5.2 Scholes 1st Scouts

Financially, Scholes 1st Scouts were doing well due to COVID grants. They were continuing to attract about forty young people. Scouts were running at a small loss and making up the difference by fund raising efforts. Fees has not changed since 2018. In the past, half of the profit from fund raising went to Scouts with the other half going to charity. This year, profit had been

used to subsidise Scouts own costs and if there was any money leftover, this would be given to charity. As mentioned last time, the changes resulting from the overhaul of the volunteering system would be coming into effect on 28th November. The Annual General Meeting had been held two weeks' previously and this had resulted in six new adult volunteers coming forward. Hut maintenance was going well. Gas and fire safety cheques had been carried out and fire drills were up to scratch. There were no snagging issues. The cost of utilities was going up. There were currently forty-six young people, however, not all of these were affiliated to Scholes 1st Scouts as some were being sent from Bawick in Elmet. During of the pandemic, Scouts nationally had lost 30% of the young people, all of whom had returned once the lockdown restrictions had been relaxed. 5% of the adults had stopped coming during this period and not all had returned following the relaxation of the restrictions with there now being 25% fewer adults. Barwick Scouts were now sharing the hut with Scholes until such time as they could get back up and running again. A portion all the subscriptions collected by Barwick Scouts was going to Scholes as a contribution towards their costs. At Christmas, the older members of Cub-Scouts would be moving up to Scouts. There would be an event to celebrate bonfire night which would be on Saturday 9th November 2024. There would be an emphasis on colour in the firework display rather than noise in order to alleviate concerns of those whose pets would be frightened by loud bangs. It was also hoped that having one central event would reduce the likelihood of people having fireworks in their own back garden. There continued to be concerns about the lack of grass cutting. Leeds City Council had been doing this but had recently been questioning their contractual obligations to do so. Scouts were obliged by the rules of the National Association, to display "*private land*" notices, however, such notices had cast doubt by grass cutting contractors as to whether they should cut the grass or not. The grass had been cut recently and Scouts were asked to wait to see whether grass cutting would resume in March 2025. Last time the grass was cut, the contractor just did an oval and didn't cut right to the edges. Barwick and Scholes football club said that the grass was typically cut on a Friday and that one of the Scholes Cricket members would message as soon as the blades hit the grass and suggested that someone from Scouts be around in order to ensure that the contractor was fully aware of the area that needed to be cut. The football club had put up a sign instructing the contractor to cut their pitch. Cllr. S. Walsh often saw the contractor on his tractor and agreed to speak to the Ward Councillor about this. Last year, Scholes 1st Scouts had paid £1,500 to have the boundary hedges cut back 25% just before the mowing season. The lack of proper cutting of the field had led to that money having been wasted as the verges had grown back without being mown. Scholes 1st Scouts would be putting a sign on the gate to instruct the grass cutter to do the Scout field in the hope this would get them to do it.

5.3 Tennis Club

Tennis Club reported that their aspirations to improve their facilities had been boosted by some potential revised costs for the fencing, bringing that potentially within reach and they had taken the decision to move on this first and then concentrate on the court surface as a second phase. The resurfacing being much more expensive and would therefore take time to raise those funds. Plus, the side netting part to the slope was particularly poor due to youngsters who congregate there, either attempting to get in, or using it as a break from running down the slope by the steps. Helping this to be done was the receipt of two small grants, one from Festival Republic for £4,000 and one community grant from the Ardonagh Group, (on behalf of a member) for £500. So, they would be proceeding with this project as soon as they finalised some details. They had also replaced the felt roof of the clubhouse, which was leaking, partly due to vandalism, unfortunately an ongoing issue. They completed all their club competitions despite the poor weather and finished third in the Barkston Ash mixed doubles league. Their membership remained stable, however, spreading the word about tennis facilities on their doorstep for all remained a priority. They believed that their current committee contacts were updated by email to the Clerk a short while

ago; to add to that, the representative had taken over the role of Secretary and his contact details would be shared with the Clerk after the meeting.

5.4 Pavilion

The Chair reported that there was a never-ending problem with litter on the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). It seems that local retailers have some degree of responsibility regarding litter from products which they have sold and it was suggested that a letter go to Leeds City Council regarding the shop. The trial to suspend the key fob system had ended and it had been agreed to make the end to the use of key fobs permanent. A process would be put in place for people to return their key fobs and get back their £5 deposit. The Chair sought the advice of Tennis Club regarding maintenance of the net.

5.5 Garforth Villa Blues Girl's Under Fifteen's Football Club

This team were not represented at the meeting and hadn't sent a report.

5.6 Barwick in Elmet and Scholes football Club.

The football club reported that things were going okay following a slow start to the season. They were short on games due to being redone. The last four fixtures had been away from home. They had a squad of thirty players. They love the facility and have received complimentary comments from match officials. They have been well supported by local businesses and enjoy a good relationship with the Gascoigne Arms public house. They play their fixtures in the Leeds Combination Sunday League. The hedges had been cut back. Fund raising events included a race night in the Gascoigne Arms public house had raised £720. One Of the representatives regularly cleans the showers. There was a concern that the pitch might start to turn during the winter months. They were using facilities at Seacroft for training. They asked if the unused pitch at Barwick could be used as an alternative in the event that the pitch at Scholes was unplayable. The pitch at Barwick needed cutting but the Councillors present could see no reason not to agree to this, however, this would have to be considered by the full Parish Council.

5.7 Scholes Cricket Club

Scholes Cricket Club reported that they had been promoted but this was maybe too soon for the second team. Barwick Cricket Club had loaned them juniors. They now had a dozen juniors compared to just one the previous season. A new site screen had arrived the cost of which had been funded by a Community Fund grant. Scouts 1st Scouts were thanked for allowing this to be stored in their area behind a locked gate until it could be put up. The pile of spoil behind the goal posts had now been removed. There were concerns about divots which had been created by someone using the cricket pitch in order to practise their golf. The square had been cut that day for the first time and would be scarified and fertiliser put down.

5.8 Barwick Cricket Club

Barwick Cricket Club reported that they had had a good season with the first team playing in Division One and the second team playing in Division Four of the York League. They had between sixty and sixty-five juniors some of whom had been used in the senior teams with some of the fifteen to sixteen year olds replacing players in the senior teams. The second team would be in the same league as Scholes in 2025. There were several junior teams, i.e. under nine's, two under eleven's, an under thirteen's and an under fifteen's team. The number of teams created time and space issues up to the end of July. The club had developed links with several schools. Three schools including Trinity came for a whole day. The club were looking to having a lady's cricket team to enter into a softball open-age tournament. All pitches had been done.

5.9 Scholes Bowling Club

The Scholes Bowling Club representatives had sent their apologies but had provided a report as follows;

- The paving around the green had finally been finished and they were very happy with the work done. The paths were much safer now for everyone. They were very grateful to the Barwick and Scholes Community Fund for awarding the club £3,500 towards the cost.
- They had had a good bowling season again this year. They had seven teams playing in five leagues. The Thursday A team won the Tadcaster league and the Saturday team won promotion to the second division in the Barkston Ash league. They were finally back to having two ladies teams playing in the Elmete League this year. Although it was difficult at times, as they only had one reserve to share between the two teams, they did manage to go all season fielding full teams. One of their ladies finished top of the league averages. Everyone had enjoyed the bowling season this year and they had plans for next season to increase the number of social internal events they run.
- This year it was their turn to host the annual Sleights Trophy Competition between Scholes and Barwick. They always enjoy this annual 'friendly' competition between the two clubs and both clubs work hard to keep it going. As usual both teams played really well, and the afternoon was enjoyed by everyone.
- They hosted the Elmete Ladies Merit Competition again this year and the Finals for the Barkston Ash League in September- both events raised funds for the club.
- They once again ran their internal club competitions which were well supported by most of their members and they held their finals day in July.
- Fundraising was an ongoing process. The 100 club had raised £700 and they would be running this again next year. Easyfundraising has raised nearly £200, they were hopeful that this would increase once everyone started their online Christmas shopping. Other funds were raised by internal events and hosting cup games.

5.10 Barwick Bowling Club

Barwick Bowling Club reported that they were playing in the same leagues as last year. They had managed to fulfil all their fixture commitments. Barwick A had played in Division two of the Barkston Ash League and Barwick B had played in Division Three of this league. In the Tadcaster Evening League, Badgers had one promotion to Division Two and Beavers had finished third in the fourth division (they might have finished second had it not been for a particularly strong team from Harehills). In the Cross Gates League, Barwick Bowling Club were relegated to Division Three. This team included new players. Elmete Ladies had had a good win this season. There continued to be social bowling and the club had contested the annual round robin Sleights Trophy. Social bowling was on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. They were very busy with ground improvements were being made with the addition of flowers and plants. There was a focus on making the bowls area low maintenance. Grass had been removed and weed suppressants planted. Expenses had also been incurred on the green itself. New people were coming in and a couple were going out. Financially, the Club were doing okay.

5.11 Allotments

The allotments representative had sent his apologies but had provided a report as follows; Despite the wet start to the year (the ground was still wet and cold when plants were waiting to go in) most crops had done quite well. There was a noticeable lack of insects as a result of the weather and it was hoped that the last wet winter and spring was a one-off and not the norm going forward! There had been some new faces at the allotments - some have made an immediate (and impressive) start, some hadn't. Most plots were currently taken. Further to the note at the last meeting, it was the consensus that a committee was required to manage the allotments and it was suggested that a letter/informal meeting could be arranged to progress this. Ragwort had appeared this year. The representative had had three sessions to remove all evident plants and hoped that this would have contained any spread. All holders would be made

aware before next year's flowers appear. Regarding hedges, he hoped that this year plot holders could all do their bit along the top hedge over the next few weeks. The side should be okay to trim but the tops would be a little more difficult. He would see what a pair of steps and a pair of shears could do along the middle section when he got back from his holidays.

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- The window for applications to the Community Fund was now open and representatives were encouraged to apply for grant funding.
- The Parish Council were in the process of buying Scholes allotments.
- There were proposals to have a clothing collection bank on the Village Hall car park to raise money for the air ambulance and feedback on this proposal was invited.
- There was a meeting of the Trustees of Barwick Village Hall on 5th November.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 14 April 2025 at 7:30pm in the Miner's Institute.
The meeting closed at 8:46pm.

Chair
Monday 14 April 2025