

# **BARWICK in ELMET and SCHOLES PARISH COUNCIL (PC)**

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

held on Monday 14 April 2025 at 7:30pm in Barwick Miner's Institute.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Stella Walsh (Chair) together with representatives Jayne Dickinson and Karen Lewis (Scholes Bowling Club), John Swift (Barwick Cricket Club), Dan Whitaker (Scholes Cricket Club), Jim Ballance (Garforth Villa Blues Girl's Under Fifteen's Football Club), Annie Runcie (Garforth Villa Blues Boy's Under Thirteen's Football Club), Craig Barker (Scholes 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Cllrs. Hayton, Maude and Remmer and representatives Danny Gallagher and Zoe Rainbow (Barwick and Scholes Football 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 28 October 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, Jon Bliss had stood down as Group Scout Leader of Scholes 1<sup>st</sup> Scouts after many years in this role. He was thanked by the Chair on behalf of all those present for his contribution.

Leeds City Council (LCC) would continue to cut the Scholes Sports field grass (Cricket and football pitches and Scouts area) but would start to charge for this from 2026.

### **5 CLUB REPORTS**

#### **5.1 Scholes 1<sup>st</sup> Scouts.**

Numbers were healthy but in many cases, had still not reached pre-Covid levels.

- Beaver Scouts – twelve plus three leaders and two young leaders.
- Cub Scouts – seventeen plus two leaders. One of the two leaders was on long term sick and Cub Scouts were reliant on weekly parental support.
- Scouts – Eighteen. Five of these were from Barwick in Elmet as they were struggling for leaders. This was a temporary arrangement but could become permanent.

Grant funding from the Community Fund had paid for a new fire pit (which was being built) and contribution towards the cost of the evening. Financially, Scholes 1<sup>st</sup> Scouts were running at a slight loss but money from gift aid, grant funding and money from reserves allowed them to keep subscription fees the same.

- Bonfire night was a big success attracting eight hundred to a thousand people. There had been a small entry fee.
- The lighting on the veranda now had "cut-off" timer switches to prevent the lights being accidentally left on and setting a good example to Scout members.
- They now had the use of a green bin for recycling.
- The Scouts now had a clothing rail which meant that uniform which was no longer needed could be put there and those needing uniform could take from the rail free of charge.

- The first aid kit had been relocated from the kitchen as the kitchen was sometimes locked making the first aid kit inaccessible.
- Other new things included a raised bed for planting, new signage for the hut and a flagpole.

Scouts 1<sup>st</sup> Scouts had put up a sign on the entrance gate to the main field asking the grass cutter to also cut the Scouts area. Scholes Cricket Club had expressed concerns that this sign at been put up without consultation. There was an inner access gate to the Scouts area which was closed and signposted as private land in order to deter dog walkers but was never locked but on occasions, the grass cutting contractor had not cut the Scouts grass because of this.

There was a vacancy for Group Scout Leader (see item 4 above). Jon Bliss was still involved in other capacities including that of treasurer. Craig Barker was the Building and Maintenance manager in addition to his role as Scout Leader.

Planned events for 2025 included a Saint George's Day parade, commemoration of Victory in Europe (VE) day, a barbeque (date to be confirmed) and another bonfire event.

## **5.2 Tennis Club.**

Tennis Club were doing well including two members, Dave and David. David Bosman was the new secretary replacing Andrea Gilliland. Last November, the Club rejoined the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) which brings certain benefits including public liability insurance. The Club were now competing in a new league (the Leeds league) which was a men's only league. The Club were in the Barkston Ash league, which was a mixed league, but the club had been struggling with availability of ladies for this tournament. The Club had had its Annual General Meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> January. The tennis courts also needed resurfacing. The surface was particularly bad where the lines are. One option would be to replace the tarmac with carpet which would be a cheaper option. Membership renewals were due on 1<sup>st</sup> May. Tournaments would take place on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 22<sup>nd</sup> June and 21<sup>st</sup> September (the Trevor Kitchen Tournament, the Keith Monkman Tournament and the Leslie Collett Tournament respectively). The Club would engage the services of a LTA affiliated professional tennis coach who would come each week. A taster session had been run on 29<sup>th</sup> March. Financially the Club had £25,000 in the bank. They were trying to extend junior memberships and had been speaking to the local primary school and to the Cub Scouts. They would be having a table at the triannual Maypole celebration. The boundary fencing was in poor condition, a full replacement would cost about £22,000 and the club was looking at grant funding. They had made an application to the post code lottery for funding. One option would be to only replace the worst part of the fencing and do the rest at a later date). There were windows for applications in March, June and September. The March deadline had been missed due to documents supporting the application not being received on time. Concerns were expressed regarding the safety rail alongside the steps going into the ground (the lease wasn't clear whether this was a PC or a Tennis Club responsibility).

## **5.3 Pavilion.**

The Chair reported that the Scholes Sports Pavilion was well used. The pop-up Post Office on a Thursday afternoon was well attended. A cleaner had just been appointed with responsibilities including picking up the litter left on the multi-use games area (MUGA). The Key fob entry system was no longer being used.

## **5.4 Garforth Villa Blues Girl's Under Fifteen's Football Club.**

The team manager reported that he had a squad of fourteen players. The previous season they had comfortably won promotion from Division 3. The step up to playing at a higher level was proving challenging. Recruitment of new players was also challenging as girls of this age have interests other than playing football, however, a couple of players had been successfully recruited from another team which had folded. The Club were enjoying the facilities at Scholes including the

benefits of car parking. Financially, Garforth Villa were in a strong position. The girls would be attending a beach tournament in Bridlington in June. The manager confirmed that a burn mark on one of the tables was an old mark alleviating concerns that it had been caused by it being left too close to a heater. The selling of refreshments on a match day was raising about £120 a time.

#### **5.5 Garforth Villa Blues Boy's Under Thirteen's Football Club.**

The team manager reported that since coming to Barwick in Elmet, the Club had played a couple of matches and enjoyed the facilities of the changing rooms and the box goals. The boys were going on tour in May. The pitch had been rolled and cut and was in good condition. They had been selling sandwiches to raise funds. Like the girl's team, the previous season they had won promotion (in their case to the Selby league Division 1) and had found the step up to playing at a higher-level challenging. They had one more home league fixture to play and liaised with Barwick Cricket Club to find a mutually convenient date.

#### **5.6 Barwick in Elmet and Scholes football Club.**

The football club were not represented at the meeting (they were second in Division Three of the Leeds Combination Association Football League with one game left to play, away at the team top of the league).

#### **5.7 Scholes Cricket Club.**

At the previous Playing Fields Committee meeting, Scholes Cricket Club had given a very positive report including a promotion but in the weeks which followed, lost half a dozen first team players. This left just enough players to field a team but felt that it was likely that they would struggle in the coming season. The second team were in a better position helped by juniors being promoted into the team, they had had twelve juniors last year. They had been supported by season long loan players from Barwick Cricket Club. This benefited Barwick as it prevented players who were not being regularly selected for the men's teams from seeking to play their cricket elsewhere. The pitch had been tidied up and someone who had been damaging the pitch by using it for golf practise was no longer doing so. The hedge at the back of the pavilion had been cut back to help those using the public right of way. A couple of weeks ago, the mower had broken.

#### **5.8 Barwick Cricket Club.**

Barwick Cricket Club reported that they had had a good winter and that the pitch was looking good. They had two strong adult sides and had retained the loyalty of players not selected by season-long loans to Scholes (see above). There were eight to ten junior sides which meant that cricket was being played almost every night. Two grants had been applied for. One from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) for a new barbeque area. The other grant application had been made to the Garforth Lions towards the cost of a new mower which would cost £8,000 (as the old lawn mower was broken). Social events included a beer festival (4<sup>th</sup> May 2025). The money raised from this would be used to keep the subscription charges for juniors at existing levels. There had already been a wine tasting evening (including cheese). The new season was starting in two weeks. There would be an end of season barbeque. There would be three days of coaching for juniors in August supported by young coaches from the age of sixteen. They reported on a new irrigation system that was recycling rainwater in a 10,000 litre tank that would help them with watering the square through the summer months.

#### **5.9 Scholes Bowling Club**

The Scholes Bowling Club representatives reported that the new season had started the previous week and that they were still fielding teams as follows;

- Two teams on a Tuesday evening.
- One team on a Wednesday afternoon.

- One team on Wednesday evening in the Cross Gates league.
- Two teams In the Tadcaster evening league.
- One team on a Saturday in the Barkston Ash League.

The Club were doing well in terms of membership and financially, the Club was breaking even. Scholes Bowling Club were raising funds for things like a new mower and a new clubhouse. Fundraising methods included their 100 Club. The Club had entered a new Yorkshire County Crown Green Bowling Association cup, the Hutchinson Cup. This would be at the end of April against South Leeds Cons (Conservative Club) and would be held at Brighthouse Sports.

Concern was expressed that nearly half of the clubs run by LCC were facing closure which would have an adverse effect on the number of teams in the league. Membership fees for these clubs had doubled to £90 (compared to the £50 membership fee for Scholes Bowling Club). The Club had forty-five members but was unlikely to gain members from those clubs faced with closure as there were none nearby. Some members had joined the club at Fearnville at reduced rates in order to help them out. Clubs affected included Chapel Street, Harehills and Roundhay Park. The Club reported that there was a gap in the hedge which children were using to retrieve footballs. The Chair (or Cllr. Remmer) would take a look at this. The paving around the green had been finished in April 2024.

#### **5.10 Barwick Bowling Club**

Barwick Bowling Club were not represented at the meeting (apart from one person who was a club member but attending as one of the representatives of the Village Hall).

#### **5.11 Allotments**

The Clerk gave a brief report (as an allotment holder) in the absence of formal allotment representation. Most plots were fully taken with just one full plot, and two half plots still available for rent. There have been issues with the contractor responsible for the hedge cutting not getting this done before the start of the bird nesting season leading to complaints about overshadowing and lack of light affecting those with plots close to the boundary. The water supply (which was always turned off during the winter months) had been reconnected. The PC were still in the process of buying Scholes allotments.

#### **5.12 Barwick Village Hall**

All the regular bookings and the coffee mornings were doing well. On 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025, the Village Hall would be having an event to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day. The sale of tickets was going well being available online or by application forms which were available from the village Hall or the Post Office. The event included a two-course meal and a live singer with food being served from 6pm. On 26<sup>th</sup> September, There would be a fundraising event for the Macmillan Cancer Support charity. The Village Hall were looking to do this annually. Plans were being made for a Christmas market on 30<sup>th</sup> November running from 11am to 3pm. Fundraising for the new floor was going well with £13,000 of the £20,000 needed having been raised already. People were being invited to sponsor square metre of floor for which their names would be added to a wall of honour (they could donate anonymously if they wished). Donations could be made online, via e-mail or via the Crowdfunding website. Cllr. P. Walsh was thanked for his offer to run a free cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) class. This had not happened yet as Barwick Bowling Club not replied to agree a mutually convenient date. The Village Hall had received two good grants including one from the Community Fund.

### **6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Those present were encouraged submit any news and information for their organisations for the PC newsletter, the next ones would be May, September and November.
- The Clerk, having raised invoices for the annual ground rent (due on 1<sup>st</sup> April in most cases) thanked all those present for the prompt payment by their respective treasurers

**7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Monday 27 October 2025 at 7:30pm in the Miner’s Institute.  
The meeting closed at 8:39pm.

Chair  
Monday 27 October 2025