

**Minutes of the Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday 14th March 2017 at 7.15pm in the MRG Pavilion**

Present: Graham Prince (Vice Chairman); John Mason; Cllr Mrs Laura Stevens-Smith; Malcolm Smith; Colin Clarke; Tracy Allen; Maureen Turner; Robert Smith; Clerk T Allen.

- 1 Public session** – No members of the public were present.
- 2 Apologies for absence.** Cllr Martin Craddock, Cllr Alan Strevens, Cllr Rob Taylor; Cllr Ken Ogden, Peter Martin, Lesley Skibinska.
It was noted that Mr Stuart Robinson had now resigned from the Committee.
- 3 Declarations of interest** – None.
- 4 Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2016 - It was resolved** to adopt the minutes as a true record.
- 5 Matters arising from these minutes not elsewhere on the Agenda** – None.
- 6 Financial report** – The Clerk presented the financial reports which were noted, briefly discussed and received by the Committee.
It was noted that the Council's accounting system had been prepared to accommodate the MRGC accounts from the start of the new financial year and that standing orders were now in place for all utility companies.
The Clerk reported that the agreed change of signatories was in-hand.
Mr Mason reported on end-of-year accounts preparations and noted that a loss of c. £3K will be posted for 2016/17, due in the main to the full repayment of the Shepherd Neame loan and significant ground works and building maintenance.
Mr Prince noted that healthy reserves of c. £2.5K were needed to allow for future Pavilion and grounds maintenance that may be required.
- 7 Subscriptions and fees for 2017/18** – It was noted that a moderate increase in subscriptions and fees would again be applied; proposed figures to be fully discussed at the Committee's next meeting.
For the current year, it was noted that there are still some fees to come in from the Football Club and the Dynamos.
- 8 Clubs Reports:-**
 - 8.1 Football** – Colin Clarke reported that Blackboys FC and Framfield FC would not after all be using MRG and that, although other teams will be looked at, it is likely that only one team will be fielded in the 2017/18 season.
Colin noted that the pitches are in very good condition and that Maresfield FC will finish the 2016/17 season around mid-table in Division 7.
 - 8.2 Dynamos** – No report received. It was noted that there have been some issues with car parking on Saturday mornings due to the large number of vehicles; despite the School being used as well.
 - 8.3 Cricket** – Malcolm Smith reported that MCC had recently held its AGM and that Chris Vacher is still the Chairman; player numbers for 2017 are expected to remain at the 2016 levels.

The request for the use of MRG by the Sussex Ladies CC U21's, to play a match against Middlesex Ladies U21's on the 22nd April 2017 was discussed and it was agreed that this should go ahead, particularly as it would raise the profile of MRG and possibly also bring in further fixtures of this type.

It was noted that winter sports should have stopped by the 16th April 2017.

8.4 Stool Ball – Tracy Allen reported on the following items:-

- A successful joint quiz night with MCC was held on the 4th March 2017.
- The annual ladies tournament will take place on Sunday the 16th July 2017.
- Disc covers for the water mains and other holes on the ground are missing. Malcolm Smith kindly agreed to assist with resolving this.

8.5 Bowls – No report received. It was noted that the Club had raised concerns regarding the increase in the number of MCC matches. Malcolm Smith noted that, apart from the U21's match agreed for the 22nd April 2017, no increase is planned.

9 Trees and boundary matters:-

9.1 New chain link fence between Bowls Club and play area – It was noted that that SJ Fencing had now completed this work.

Mrs Turner asked if the remaining section of old fencing along the back of the play area could also be replaced with the new type. Clerk to get an estimate and look at budgets available for the new financial year 2017/18.

Mrs Turner noted that the large conifers outside the NE rear of the ground had been lopped, which had made a big difference and that the area was now safer.

9.2 Planting of new trees adjacent to Park Farm Drive - Malcolm Smith reported that he had heard nothing further regarding the planting of the 'Spike' Stobart memorial tree and would chase this up; although it is too late for this to be done this year.

Mr Mason reported on past discussions with English Woodlands for the planting of seven trees along the boundary with the Drive.

Above two matters to be revisited at the Committee's meeting on the 28th September 2017.

9.3 Children climbing on trees – Recent letters of concern from local residents were noted and discussed, some of whom had received abuse from some parents and children.

The Committee's and Trustee's responsibilities with regard to any dangers and health & safety requirements were discussed. Clerk to speak to the Council's insurance providers, other Clerks and organisations, to ascertain what must be done.

10 Pavilion matters – Mr Mason reported on cleaning arrangements.

Clerk to chase-up Kier for the provision of the new 1100L wheelie bin.

11 Ground matters – It was noted that the general condition of the ground was very good, with no major works expected for 2017/18; checking and monitoring to be carried out, especially on the sidelines of the football pitches.

Colin Clarke reported that the spare goal used for kick-about was being used as a climbing frame by some children and could represent a potential danger when used in this manner. It was noted that it is impossible to remove all such dangers from the ground.

It was noted that, at the last meeting of the Committee, Cllr Taylor had reported on a badly damaged main post at the small car park and the practical problems caused with the demand for such a small parking space.

It had been agreed that Cllr Taylor and Cllr Mrs Stevens-Smith to look at the following ideas and report at the Committee's next meeting:-

- Plans to enlarge the small car park by squaring it off.
- Use of 'grass creep' to create additional temporary parking.
- Better defined emergency access areas with appropriate signage.

12 Play area matters – No items or issues reported.

13 New notice board - It was noted that, at the last meeting of the Committee, Cllr Taylor reported on the damage to the main sign at the entrance to the ground, which required its immediate removal and early replacement. Cllr Taylor had kindly agreed to make a new sign, which could then be sent for professional painting and signwriting. All to consider the colouring and wording of the new sign for discussion at the Committee's next meeting.

It was noted that, at the last meeting of the Committee, Cllr Mrs Stevens-Smith had stated that an additional information sign was required to contain information such as Parish Council & Clubs' contact details; information for dog walkers; local history & places of interest, etc. Cllr Mrs Stevens-Smith to discuss this with the Conservation Group and report at the Committee's next meeting.

14 Communications and web site – The Clerk updated the meeting on the progress being made with the upgrading of the Parish Council's web site.

15 Date of next meeting – Thursday 27th April 2017.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:15.