

**Minutes of the Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee Meeting  
held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 at 7.15pm in the MRG Pavilion**

**Present:** (Chair) Cllr Rob Taylor; John Mason; Cllr Mrs Laura Stevens-Smith; Colin Clarke; Malcolm Smith; Bob Thompson, Peter Baker, Tracy Allen; Russell Horscroft; Charlie Wilkinson; 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, Graham Prince, Cllr Ken Ogden, Greg Roberts, Maureen Turner.
- 3 Declarations of interest** – Charlie Wilkinson as Chairman of Stepping Stones Pre-School.
- 4 Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017 - 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** – Mr Mason noted that payments of sub's and fees had been received from the Cricket Club, that a payment of £113.30 had been made for the repair of the vandalised store door and lock and that payment will be due for the clearing of shrubs, etc. from the iron fence near the Pavilion; an estimate for the repair of the iron fence and locater posts is to be obtained from Mr D Tester. It was noted that the annual 'Gift Aid' claim was being processed.  
The Clerk noted that the MRGC accounts had successfully been migrated to the Council's RBS system and that a refund had been received from Shepherd Neame for an overpayment on the now settled loan.  
It was noted that confirmation of the inclusion of the Chairman of Council and the Clerk as bank Signatories had not yet been confirmed by Lloyds Bank and that the name on the account was incorrect; Mr Mason to pursue these matters.
- 7 Subscriptions and fees for 2017** – No items.
- 8 Clubs Reports:-**
  - 8.1 Football** – Mr Clarke confirmed that only one team will be playing for Maresfield this year – in Div. 7 of the mid-Sussex League.  
It was noted that Ridgewood FC will be using MRG on the alternate Saturdays.  
Mr Clarke stated that the Club has some spare nets that it can donate to Parklands Play Area; Cllr Mrs Stevens-Smith to liaise with Mr Clarke.
  - 8.2 Dynamos** – Mr Horscroft & Ms Wilkinson covered the following points:-
    - The new season has started well with new signings expected to result in 100+ members.
    - The U17's and U13's will play in the mid-Sussex Sunday league, with the rest of the teams playing on Saturdays.
    - The rapid growth of teams has resulted in the need for a second pitch. There was a discussion about options to cater for this and the Chairman asked Mr Horscroft & Ms Wilkinson to put a detailed proposal together for the Clerk to circulate to MRGC members for discussion; an additional meeting of the Committee will be called to address this matter if required.

**8.3 Cricket** – Mr Smith covered the following points:-

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Team was not relegated after all and is holding its own so far.
- The goal posts that were presenting a potential danger had been taken out.
- The practice nets had been vandalised and most stolen; what's left is unusable and practice may have to take place at a different venue.

The circulated paper from the Football and Cricket Clubs, concerning the Standing Regulations for Clubs' use of MRG, was discussed in detail. It was noted that these rules had in the past been ratified in the Constitution and at the AGM meetings of the Committee. The following areas were covered:-

- Overuse of the ground causing damage and unevenness.
- Quality of the cricket outfield compromised by the use of studded football boots.
- Changing to the use of trainers for Dynamos football practice is not a simple matter and become an H&S issue if the ground is wet.
- Historically there was no overlap allowed for the Clubs' playing seasons.
- Could any games that do overlap be played at an alternative venue?
- Clubs have a duty of care to their players.
- The growth of the Dynamos Teams means that this issue need to be addressed in the short-term. A set of Standing regulations need to be produced and agreed. The Chairman asked Mr Horscroft & Ms Wilkinson include some proposals in the paper they are producing re. playing space issues; for the Clerk to circulate to MRGC members for discussion; an additional meeting of the Committee will be called to address this matter if required.

**8.4 Stoolball** – Ms Allen covered the following points:-

- Some games had to be cancelled at the start of the season.
- Extra games are being played at Ringmer in the East Division.
- The plastic discs recommended for covering some holes on the pitch have worked.
- It appears that someone may have tried to pick the lock on the side shed.
- The ladies tournament will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> July this year.

**8.5 Bowls** – Mr Baker covered the following points:-

- Mr Baker is now Captain and the season has started well.
- It is still a struggle to attract new members.
- The new watering system is now in place.
- Fencing at the end of the ground needs repairing; the Clerk to investigate.
- The end two eucalyptus trees need severe pollarding; the Clerk to investigate.

**9 Trees and boundary matters:-**

**9.1 New chain link fence to the rear of the children's play area** – Approved by Council and ordered from supplier.

**9.2 Planting of new trees adjacent to Park Farm Drive** – To be discussed at the Committee's September 2017 meeting.

**9.3 Children climbing on trees** – Clerk to speak to Mr S Young re removing some lower branches to prevent climbing.

**10 Pavilion matters** – All club members to have a 'sort out' in the storage shed to allow the Dynamos easier access for storing goal equipment.

- 11 Ground matters** – Mr Horscroft reported that he had met with ESCC Highways regarding the ‘wish list’ of items that it can help the Clubs and Committee with. It was noted that Highways was also able to give some sponsorship to the Dynamos. The Committee expressed its thanks to Mr Horscroft for arranging this.

Clerk to add the cutting of the play area grass to the Barcombe Landscapes MRG contract.

- 12 Play area matters** – The Chairman reported that the locking of the play area in the evenings had commenced, which was proving to be an onerous task as some individuals refused to leave when asked; this is reported to the Police at the time but they are reluctant to take action unless abuse is reported; he has had to call the Police on five occasions in the last three weeks

The Chairman noted that the play area had also been vandalised, including the disability swing (now repaired). It was noted that this area is now included in the Police Operation Blitz initiative, but this only operates on Friday and Saturday evenings.

The Chairman raised the issue of the play area fencing being used as a ‘back-stop’ for casual cricket and football practice; clubs to remind any of their members concerned that this damages the fence.

- 13 New notice board** – Covered under the ESCC Highways ‘wish list’ of items – See Item. 11 above.

- 14 Communications and web site** – The Clerk noted that he and Cllr Ms Hallin are continuing with updating the Council’s web site and that, to comply with financial and audit requirements, the financial pages have had to be updated and improved. Mr Smith reminded everyone that he is happy to coordinate any articles for the Parish magazines.

- 15 Date of next meeting – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:21.*