

**Minutes of the Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee Meeting  
held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.15pm in the MRG Pavilion**

**Present:** (Chair) Cllr Rob Taylor; Cllr Alan Stevens; John Mason; Graham Prince; Colin Clarke; Bob Thompson; Greg Roberts; Tracy Allen; Russell Horscroft; Robert Smith; Clerk T Allen.

- 1 Public session** – No members of the public were present.
- 2 Apologies for absence** – Cllr Martin Craddock; Cllr Mrs Laura Stevens-Smith; Cllr Ken Ogden; Malcolm Smith; Mrs Maureen Turner.
- 3 Declarations of interest** – None.
- 4 Adoption of the minutes of the meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 & 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2017** – It was resolved to adopt these minutes as a true record.
- 5 Matters arising from these minutes not elsewhere on the Agenda** – Regarding the minutes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2017, Cllr Stevens noted that he is not in favour of encouraging parking opposite The Parade; the Chairman noted that such parking is however quite legal and can act as traffic calming.
- 6 Financial reports** – The Cash Book, Bank Reconciliation and accounts reports for months 3, 4 and 5 were received.  
Mr Mason reported on the details of recent payments and receipts, including pavilion cleaning, utilities, gift aid recovery, subscriptions, fees and payment for the new trees planted along the boundary with Park Farm Drive.  
Mr Horscroft noted that the Dynamos have a new Treasurer, Sally McDonald ([treasurer@mdjfc.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@mdjfc.co.uk)); Mr Mason to contact Sally to advise her of subscriptions, fees and other payments.
- 7 Payment of subscriptions and fees for 2017** – No items.
- 8 Clubs Reports:-**
  - 8.1 Football** – Mr Clarke reported on the season's performance to-date and noted that, whilst the pitches are generally up to standard, there are problems with mole hills; the Chairman to look into employing a mole catcher.  
It was noted that Ridgewood FC is using MRG this season.
  - 8.2 Dynamos** – Mr Horscroft reported on the following items:-
    - There are now around 130 junior members spread across eight teams, with some of the older children entered into leagues.
    - The Dynamos are grateful to the Committee and the other clubs for their cooperation regarding the additional junior playing areas.
    - Saturday morning arrangements are going well.
    - The Dynamos will work more closely with the senior teams and will look to move players up, as well as feeding the Cricket Club as well.
  - 8.3 Cricket** – Mr Thompson reported on the following items:-
    - A mixed performance last season, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> team having been promoted at the start of the season and the 1<sup>st</sup> team nearly gaining promotion.

- Damage caused to a Bowls Club member's car which has been referred to the Cricket Club's Insurers; care needs to be taken in choosing parking spaces.
- Vandalism to the nets is a regular occurrence. The Chairman suggested that the Cricket Club makes a request to fence off the area and for a cost contribution be provided; to be put in writing with full details and plans.
- The Chairman reported on his ongoing work with Sussex Police; all incidents need to be reported to the Chairman as soon as possible.

**8.4 Stoolball** – Ms Allen reported that the team came 4<sup>th</sup> overall in the league this year, which allowed entry to the Seaford tournament, which proved to be a useful experience. It was noted that a number of fund raising events have taken place, with more planned.

**8.5 Bowls** – Mr Roberts reported on the following items:-

- The season has just ended, with the club moving up one place in the league.
- The green will be 'put to bed' in October.
- Further landscaping improvements are planned.
- Fixtures for the next season will be confirmed by March 2018.

**9 Trees and boundary matters** – Mr Mason reported that the Victorian iron railings around the Pavilion had been repaired and other works in this area completed.

It was noted that the eucalyptus tree nearest the Bowls Club had been topped; paid for by Mr R Kyle (neighbouring property) with a contribution to be made by the Bowls Club.

**9.1 Planting of new trees adjacent to Park Farm Drive** – Mr Mason reported that an order for seven scarlet oak trees had been placed with English Woodlands, including 2m high mesh guards and two posts per tree.

It was noted that the trees will be planted (free of charge) in October by the Conservation Group's Footpaths Working Party and that the positioning of the trees will correspond to those shown on a 1924 plan of MRG.

**It was resolved** to approve the payment of £550.58 to English Woodlands; noted that a contribution from the Conservation Group may be forthcoming.

**10 Pavilion matters** – Mr Mason reported that he will be arranging the six-monthly inspection of the heating, plumbing, etc. to take place in late October/early November.

Mr Horscroft reminded the other clubs that the store cupboards at the rear of the Pavilion need clearing out; all clubs to attend to this. It was noted that the door lock to one of the store cupboards needs repairing/replacing.

**11 Ground matters** – Mr Horscroft reported on the progress with the promised ESCC sponsorship, covering the following areas:-

- Park Farm Drive surface; road surveys to take place.
- Emergency accesses onto the ground and access to the Bowls Club to be improved with better markings and higher posts.
- Provision of new signage for the entrance and the play area seems promising.
- Provision of portable parking signs and cones is a possibility.
- Grass cutting and strimming may also be provided.

**12 Play area matters** – The Chairman noted that grass cutting and strimming had now been included in the Barcombe Landscapes contract, but more work is needed in this area, and in other areas, e.g. strimming of nettles around the Pavilion.

It was noted that the information signs are being regularly torn off the outer fencing and that the gate closures need adjusting; Chairman and Clerk to look into this.

The Clerk reported on the latest position regarding the replacement picnic table.

**13 New notice boards** – See Item 11 above.

**14 Standing regulations for Clubs' use of MRG** – Mr Thompson advised that the cut off dates- 15/4 for all football & 15/9 for all cricket- had been regularly reiterated by the previous Committee and provided copies of some relevant minutes together with the Remits of the current Committee. Mr Thompson requested those dates be confirmed by the current Committee.

Mr Thompson noted that the Junior Football Club has agreed that no studs of any kind - trainers only- be used post 15/4.

After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that documented rules are required, to support the Committee's Remits (20<sup>th</sup> January 2015) and in particular the requirement to 'maintain the land in good condition'.

Mr Horscroft agreed to start this off exercise (with Ms Wilkinson) by setting out rules for the use of studs and liaison between clubs over fixtures.

**15 Request from the Friends of Maresfield Church to hire MRG for August bank holiday 2018** – It was noted that, whilst there were no main objections to this request, a number of concerns need to be addressed before approval can be given' as follows:-

- Is there a contingency for bad weather; the MRG surface cannot be badly damaged?
- Undertaking for funding any ground or other repairs that may be needed after the event?
- Is there adequate space for parking and, if so, how will it be controlled?
- What is the expected number of exhibitors and visitors?

Clerk to follow-up on these areas of concern with the Friends of Maresfield Church.

**16 Communications and web site** – Reminder to all clubs to let Mr Smith have any items of news for inclusion in the Parish magazines.

Mention of the vandalism problems to be included in the Parish magazines and local people asked to watch out for it.

**17 Date of next meeting – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017.**

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:31.*