

OLDBURY ON SEVERN PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 14th January 2016 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion,
Westmarsh Lane, Oldbury-on-Severn

PRESENT

Committee Members: Chris Fairhead (Chairman), Mike Pheysey (Secretary), Jon Stephens (Treasurer), Peter Everton, Derek Garrett, Ian Knapp, Cllr Glynn Poole, Gerald Porter, Ivor Stafford, Cllr Keith Sullivan, Barry Turner and Denise Young.

1/16 To accept Apologies for absence

Rachael Burgess and Cllr Dylan Griffiths.

2/16 To Receive Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

None.

3/16 Public Forum

None.

4/16 To approve the last minutes

Paragraph 2 in item 328/15 should have read: *Jon Stephens said that there was nothing of major concern in the RoSPA report of their inspection prior to the July meeting.*

There were no other matters arising from the minutes of the meeting dated the 8th October, 2015 which were duly signed by the chairman.

5/16 The Hunt – use of the area around the pavilion

Nothing to report. *Action: Secretary to carry this item over to the next agenda.*

6/16 The New Play Area

Barry Turner confirmed that the Playing Fields Committee is no longer a member of Entrust.

7/16 The football field

Peter Everton, speaking for the sub-committee, felt that they had reached the end of their investigation into the future of the football field. The extremely high cost, both initial and ongoing, cannot be justified by the demand for such a facility. The sub-committee recommends that the grass continue to be mowed and a pair of new goalposts and nets (purchased from the remaining budget) set up so that the field can be used for casual football, for the benefit of the local population. Chris Fairhead seconded the proposal, all agreed. Gerald Porter expressed thanks, on behalf of the Playing Fields Committee, to Peter Everton and the sub-committee for all their efforts and hard work. Once this last work is completed it is intended that the sub-committee be dissolved. A full report is given in Appendix B attached to these minutes.

8/16 The fixed assets list

Action: Secretary to carry this item over to the next agenda.

9/16 The PFC Risk Reduction Checklist

Rachel Burgess has asked for help in carrying out the monthly inspection of the play equipment. Barry Turner, Chris Fairhead, Jon Stevens and Glynn Poole volunteered to take it in turn to help out with the inspections. *Action: Rachel Burgess, Barry Turner, Chris Fairhead, Jon Stevens and Glynn Poole to liaise and carry out the inspections.*

10/16 Grass Cutting Quotes

Ian Knapp reported that he had cut the area discussed at the previously (see item 315/15) shortly after the meeting and that it has been sprayed by Complete Weed Control.

Glynn Poole volunteered to clear and tidy the area around the wooden power pole supplying electricity to the pavilion. *Action: Glynn Poole.*

11/16 Busy Bees

Denise Young reported that the recent works to the facilities within the pavilion have made life much better for Busy Bees. However, the kitchen taps need new washers as they are leaking. Ian Knapp volunteered to carry out repairs. *Action: Ian Knapp.*

12/16 Financial Summary

Jon Stephens gave the financial summary, see Appendix A.

Hall hire takings: £237.

A new improved rate for electricity has been negotiated with the pavilion's supplier.

13/16 A.O.B. and Close of the Committee Meeting

Ian Knapp reported that with the imminent closure of the Chapel, the village Whist Drive will be looking for a new venue. To improve the chances of the pavilion attracting such activities the committee should perhaps consider improving the heating arrangements. The current warm air blower is more suited to a warehouse and installing a modern oil-fired combi-boiler and radiators would go a long way towards making the pavilion an attractive venue in which to spend an evening. The committee agreed that this idea was worth investigating. *Actions: Ian Knapp to obtain quotes, Barry Turner to research sources of funding.*

A local resident brought it to the attention of Barry Turner that SITA are not emptying the pavilion's black wheelie-bin as it contains beer cans from the Cricket Club. *Action: Mike Pheysey to obtain some recycling bags and boxes from council.*

Barry Turner reminded the committee that 6 plastic barriers were borrowed from the Fun Run Committee to guard the works within the children's play area. These barriers have now weathered to a point of being virtually useless. The Fun Run Committee should be asked as to what they would require as recompense. *Action Chris Fairhead to contact Fun Run Committee.*

Cllr Keith Sullivan reported that the tennis net was not serviceable and need replacement. It was also noted that the 5-a-side nets needed to be replaced as well. Ian Knapp proposed spending no more than £150 on a new tennis net. Jon Stevens proposed spending no more than £200 on a pair of 5-a-side nets. Both seconded by Chris Fairhead, all agreed.

Peter Everton reminded the committee that the football club REAL-Thornbury use the football field over the summer for training. It was agreed by all that the committee is happy for this to continue.

The secretary confirmed that the next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Thursday 7th April 2016. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:00pm.

Signed by Chairman: _____

Appendix A – Financial Statement – 14th January 2016

Oldbury on Severn Playing Fields Committee Summary of Accounts for OPFC January Meeting Meetings date 14/01/16 - Accounts as of 04/01/16

Financial Summary

Current Account £8703.79
Deposit Account £32.22

Payments – Current Account

Rachael waste bin further payment made to cover VAT £19.00)
Complete Weed Control – Remaining 7 payments made + weed kill (brambles)
Ford Fuel Oil
Hall hire cash paid in.

Note

Have initially paid costs associated with fencing off play area & car park from current account this will be reconciled from the BS account (£2100 – R Howell, £645 – KP Fencing)

Cash

No cash held

Outstanding

None

Receipts

Hall Hire - £220
Council Precep - £1500

Building Society Statement

Balance @ 04/01/16 - £14191.60

Transactions

Authorisations

Oil as required
DH Electrical – PAT testing.
Bristol Fire

Signatures for cheques

As per above as required.

AOB

Youth club - Paid up to May 13 – Invoice to be raised for balance under agreed terms as minutes £6/wk x 40 wks per year.

Proposed 2016/17 operating budget submitted to PC in November 2015 – precept received.

Accounts presented to Parish Council for audit / reconciliation into Parish accounts / VAT reclaim – some able to claim total of refund not yet identified.

Note if anyone is instruction or receiving a bill on behalf of the PFC can they please advise the issuer to address it to Oldbury Parish Council

Revised charges agreed with N Power – electricity.

**Oldbury-on-Severn Playing Fields
Report on Proposed Development of the Football Pitch
14th January 2016**

This project was started following the Parish Plan of 2012. A number of comments arising from the production of this plan suggested that the football field should be put into a playable condition. As a result of this a committee was set up to investigate, this committee eventually was later absorbed into the Playing Fields Committee.

The history of this pitch is well known. It is laid over an old rubbish tip, there is no drainage and there is a possibility of subsidence in the future. It thus becomes waterlogged in the winter and basically is unusable for most of the playing season.

There used to be an Oldbury Football Team which was augmented by players from outside the Parish but which closed down through the lack of a field to play on.

What has been done:-

1. We have established there is a demand. There is a local club – REAL Thornbury – which needs a home and could be a base from which to build up a new village club.
2. We have commissioned a soil and ground report from a sports agronomist company. We obtained a grant from South Gloucestershire Council for this work. This report showed we would have to install drainage, improve the structure of the soil with the addition of sand and level the land. The cost of this was estimated at £80,000. There would also be an on-going maintenance requirement. If this was to be achieved by external contractors the cost might be £10,000 per year, though the extent of what is needed to provide an acceptable pitch rather than a superior one as suggested would be considerably less.
3. We have had meetings with the Football Association who were very supportive as they know there is a demand for playing field facilities in this area.
4. We have examined the possibilities for financial support from the FA and Sport England who think the sums required are achievable if a proper case is put forward.
5. We have placed articles in the Four-Ward to keep the Parishioners informed and asked for their further views on the project.
6. We have investigated the possibility of either buying or renting the adjacent field as an alternative location.

Apart from a small amount of support the response we have received has been very negative. The owner of the adjacent field is not willing to sell or rent for the purposes of a football pitch. Other objections range from noise, traffic, car parking, having a club from outside the parish using our facilities, using local taxpayers money to support outsiders and the on-going maintenance costs. Whether these comments are valid or not we still have to address them. With this overall level of negativity and opposition plus lack of enthusiasm we have to conclude that not interest and therefore we cannot proceed with the project.

What then is the future for the playing field? We recommend that the field is now made available to the local children to play on during the summer months. We should provide two new goals and keep the grass cut on a regular basis.

Peter Everton/13-01-2016