

RIVER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Recreation Ground Management Committee Held on Thursday 5th February 2015 at 9.30am at the Recreation Ground Clubhouse

PRESENT: Cllr. Dixon (in the Chair), Cllr. Brand, Cllr. Mr. Horobin, Cllr. Mrs. Horobin, Cllr. Taylor

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Denyer (Parish Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr. Leach

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th September 2014 had previously been circulated. It was proposed by Cllr. Taylor and seconded by Cllr. Brand that the minutes be accepted as a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA)

From the annual inspection: Item F – the manufacturers of the bench have accepted that one of them is faulty and it is due to be replaced; Item H – concrete fixing pads have been installed for both sets of goalposts and the felt matting will be fitted after the installation of the table tennis table. Other items are on the agenda.

5. RECREATION GROUND PROJECTS

a) ‘Kick-about’ goals

Options to replace the ‘kick-about’ goals with movable alternatives were discussed. It was felt that the ideal solution is not yet to hand. This is ongoing.

b) Surfacing

Different options for artificial surfacing around the ‘kick-about’ goals and the basketball hoop were discussed. This is ongoing.

c) Any other project updates

The table tennis table will be installed when the ground surface is firm enough for the delivery vehicle to gain safe access.

6. LITTER AND WASTE DISPOSAL IN THE GROUNDS

a) Quotes for new litter bins

It was agreed that a new 240litre wheeled litter bin be purchased at a cost of £50. It was also agreed that Clerk obtain a quote for the commercial collection of waste from the grounds.

b) Charter arrangements with users

All charter agreements stated that rubbish should be collected and placed into the waste bins provided. In addition, the tennis club charter stated that rubbish should be removed from the site.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

a) River Bowling Club

RBC had written to the Clerk regarding the damaged guttering around the pavilion. Dover Rangers have accepted responsibility but six months have passed since the damage occurred. Clerk has been in contact with DRFC who say they will fix the damage within one week. Clerk is to follow up if this does not occur.

b) Dover Rangers FC

DRFC had written to the Clerk regarding the condition of both adult and junior pitches. They have been unable to use either pitch since December and have incurred additional costs hiring other pitches. Despite DRFC considering the pitches unfit for use, it had been reported that Sunday League teams have continued to use them. It was agreed that adjustments be made to the fees charged to DRFC because of non playing time and that a letter also be sent to the Sunday League teams clarifying arrangements for matches being called off due to unfit playing surface.

8. EXTERNAL MAINTENANCE TO THE CLUBHOUSE

Clerk reported that the exterior woodwork of the clubhouse was in need of maintenance. It was agreed that quotes be brought to the next meeting.

9. JP WRIGHT REPORT

Reports produced by JP Wright were available to view. Cllr. Brand said that Mr. Wright asked to be informed when Dover Rangers used the site and also if they use the shower facilities. Clerk is to confirm times and inform him.

10. BOWLING GREEN

a) Work schedule arrangements

The new collaborative work schedule for bowling green maintenance was circulated. This had been agreed after consultation between Cllr. Dixon, the bowling club and Heber. A member of the club was now designated as liaison with the groundsman. Completed work is signed off by both parties and monthly reports emailed to the Clerk. Chairman said he hoped that there will now be a marked improvement in the quality of the green.

b) Bowling green licence

Options for a new consolidated licence for the bowling green were discussed. It was suggested that: it be based on a fixed fee relating to costs rather than number of members; that it be based on two stage payments; that it increase annually in line with inflation; and that it include a clause for extraordinary repair costs. It was proposed by the Chairman that the licence be amended and a meeting be set up with the bowling club to discuss proposals. This was seconded by Cllr. Taylor and all agreed. Chairman and Clerk are to action.

11. 2015/2016 GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

One tender had been received from Heber Horticultural Services. Another company had declined to tender. After review, Cllr. Taylor proposed that the two year tender be recommended for acceptance at the next full council meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Horobin and all agreed.

12. TREE MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Clerk had reviewed the tree maintenance schedule prepared by Elham Valley Arbor in 2013. Clerk has been obtained quotes from two other tree surgeons as EVA are no longer undertaking this sort of work. This is ongoing.

13. ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- Cllr. Brand had reported that the light outside the car park was no longer working. Clerk has been in contact with Dover District Council and a reply is awaited.
- A resident has contacted Cllr. Taylor about two trees overshadowing her garden. He has responded and said that the matter will be looked into after the appointment of a new contractor. Also that any work on the trees would need to be approved by Dover District Council as they are in a conservation area.
- Cllr. Horobin had obtained prices for new trees along the Lewisham Road side of the grounds. It was suggested that a price for planting as well as supply be sought. This is to be discussed at the next full council meeting.
- The groundsman has suggested that remedial work on the football pitches ought to begin as soon as the season ended and asked if the country fayre could be shifted away from the adult pitch. This was not thought to be practical. Also, DRFC hold a football tournament in June. It was agreed that the earliest date for work to begin needs to be identified.
- The cost of water supply and the discount received for waste-water disposal has been clarified and will be reported at the next full council meeting.

Meeting closed at 11.45am

Date of next meeting: 9.30am Monday 27th April 2015 at the Recreation Ground Clubhouse.