

Minutes of Recreation Ground and Open Spaces Meeting
held at Langham Community Centre 6:30pm Wednesday 19th January 2022

Present: Cllr Emms (Chair), Cllr Brockman, Cllr Palmer. Bob Schofield.
Cllr Bottwood.
1 member of the public
Clerk Carol Harbach

20/205 Welcome and Apologies for absence

Cllr Emms welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Parish Council (PC)
No apologies.

20/206 Declaration of Members Interests

Any declarations of interest will be brought up and declared as they arise on the agenda.

20/207 Agree Minutes from the last Recreation Ground meeting held 8th December 2021.

These were agreed to be true and accurate.
Proposed Cllr Palmer and seconded Cllr Brockman.
All agreed.

20/208 Matters arising from these meetings.

Langham Lodgers contract has been forwarded to Cllr Emms. Completed and discharged.

Tubs have been purchased for Pub corner. Completed and discharged.

Watering – for the pub corner- a replacement volunteer has been found to water the plants. Cllr Brockman has volunteered to water the tubs at the USAAF site. Completed and discharged.

Budget and precept figures have been agreed by full council. Completed and discharged.

Village sign later on agenda.

20/209 Public Open Forum (maximum 10 minutes)

Questions to be noted and answered at the next meeting.
No questions from public.

20/210 New Play area update

The committee discussed how they hope the pop-in session on Saturday 22nd January will run. Feedback will be sought on the current play area equipment, some early example plans on posters, and a number brochures from a number of suppliers available for perusal.

20/211 Bonfire update

The first meeting of the working group is next week, so plans are at a very early stage The working group will initially consist of Cllr Palmer, Andre Palmer, Michelle Percival and Debbie Humphries, but they are looking for more volunteers to help. The group have booked Dynamic fireworks who are available for the firework event and two more quotes will be obtained. Cllr Palmer has spoken to 3 or 4 catering vans and these have shown interest. The catering vans will hopefully include Fish and chips, a Coffee van, a Burrito van and a Curry van. These are all available for the date. The Sausage man will be asked if he is available. Pitch hire will be charged to the caterers although the

amount has yet to be agreed. The current planned date is Friday 4th November, but there was a discussion around 5th November being more appropriate. All contractors will be asked if they can make the 5th. Card machines will be used at the entrances and tickets will be sold on line in advance where possible. Cllr Palmer will update the committee at the next meeting.

20/212

Queen Jubilee update

Details of the Fly over are being chased by Cllr Brockman and hopefully we will know the date and details of the event soon.

The Queen's Jubilee event is going to be a 4-day event.

The current plans are that on the Thursday a band has been booked for the night and this will include the lighting of the beacon. Friday is open gardens of some sort, yet to be confirmed. Saturday will be a sports day on the field and Sunday will be a picnic on the Recreation Ground.

It was requested that the Recreation Ground be supplied copies of the minutes from the Jubilee working group. Bob Schofield will make this request to Cllr Armstrong who is leading the working group on behalf of the Parish Council. Action Bob Schofield.

The budget that was agreed by the full council for this event was £3,000 as requested via the working group.

The committee were informed that this budget was agreed for the 2022/2023 budget not the 2021/2022 budget as it currently is. There have already been invoices received for goods that have been booked by Bob Schofield and these will need payment before the next budget year.

The Committee will need to agree to split the £3,000 over the two years and that will need to be agreed by the finance committee and full council as payments need to be made in advance of the event.

If volunteers are not used to supervise the rides supplied by Beeline, they will need to use their own staff at an extra cost of £60 per ride. There is already within in their quote a cost for 2 members of staff but this might not be sufficient. This will be discussed at the working group and reported to the Recreation Ground Committee at the next meeting.

Cricket All Stars were discussed and will be asked to come to the Jubilee event to provide some games on the Saturday of the weekend. Cllr Bottwood will ask the club if they are willing to do this on the Saturday 4th June. Cllr Bottwood will talk to them before next Thursday (27th) and report back to Bob Schofield so he can take this to the next jubilee working group meeting.

20/213

Village sign

Cllr Brockman has followed this up and it is hoped to have the sign back up early in the week commencing 24th January

20/214

Board of Chairman in community centre

The names and dates have now been passed to Cllr Emms to discuss with the signwriter for a quotation.

The signwriter has looked at the current font and cannot identify it. The signwriter suggested to rewrite the board on the right to make it neater and clearer

20/215

Agree Recreation Ground terms of reference

This has to be agreed and discussions took place around having a non-councillor being able to have a vote on the committee. If this is agreed the non-councillor will not be able to vote on the agreement of the budget of the Recreation Ground.

As the Terms of Reference stands currently it states that non-councillors cannot vote.

After a discussion it was proposed that non-councillors are given a vote. This was proposed by Cllr Emms and seconded by Cllr Palmer All agreed. This will be reviewed annually. The proposal will be on the next full council agenda.

20/216

Cricket

Cllr Bottwood gave the committee an update on Essex Cricket.

The cricket representatives attended the Parish Council meeting on 5th January to explain their position. They have a cricket team and are keen to have Langham as their home ground. On the whole they would support their own costs and there might not be any cost for the village. There would be income derived from the use. Nothing has yet been agreed about the matter, but discussions continue.

There would be a requirement to provide a suitable grassed area for the cricket the cost of which might be met by Essex County Cricket. The stated aspiration is to make cricket in the village more community based and are prepared to talk to schools directly and get pupils involved in cricket. They are very enthusiastic to make this happen.

There are a number of issues to be discussed before an agreement is made, not least of all safety fences, the impact on the football pitch and what equipment will be needed. It appears that Essex Cricket may provide the equipment and the council may need to store it, possibly in the pavilion. Essex Cricket have conducted a survey of the recreation ground and believe it meets their requirements to support a cricket pitch. An artificial playing surface has been mentioned by them, but no preference has yet been made. It was agreed that the Parish Council would establish a working group to investigate the matter further. The initial working group will be Cllr Palmer and Cllr Bottwood who will report back to the Recreation Ground committee who will then report to the full Parish Council.

The clerk was contacted by Essex Cricket yesterday (18th January) concerning a opportunity to run an 8-week course for 5- to 8-year-olds from the 6th May. This would be on a Friday evening between 6pm and 7pm for 45 minutes and is a very basic cricket club working on bat and ball skills. Parents are encouraged to take part in these events. This will also be discussed with Essex Cricket and the working group.

Agreement to go ahead with the above was agreed by the committee.

20/217

Agree maintenance suppliers for next year

The quotes that had been received from the contractors for the various works around the village had been circulated to the committee and were discussed.

The contractors for the forthcoming year were decided for the hedging and verges.

The clerk will contact two selected contractors directly regarding the scope of works for next year's grass cutting. One issue is the quality and height of the grass in the play area which previously was not felt to be suitable, and the question of cutting the recreation ground grass shorter if cricket is forthcoming. Clerk to bring back the answers at the next meeting. Action Clerk

20/218 Items for the next Agenda

- Bonfire
- Jubilee event
- Cricket update
- Maintenance suppliers
- Village Sign
- Chairman board

20/219 Time and date of next meeting

February 28th 6:30pm

20/219 Closure of meeting by Chair.

Meeting closed at 8pm

Signed

Cllr Emms

Date