



West Monkton Parish Council

ADOPTED

Minutes of the meeting of the Sports Pitch Committee of West Monkton Parish Council held on Wednesday 25th October 2023 at 7.00pm at Brittons Ash Community Hall, Bridgwater Road, Bathpool, Taunton, TA2 8FT.

In attendance: Cllrs Cavill, Hall and Haskins and Amy Shepherd (Clerk), WMPC. Sam Wallis, Wayne Ball and John Wrelton, Taunton Rugby Club and James Marsh and Giles Benbow, West Monkton Cricket Club.

SPC01/23 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities

Apologies were received from Cllr Gage.

SPC02/23 To note

- a) Declarations of Interest: None
- b) Dispensation Requests: None

SPC03/23 To confirm Taunton Rugby Club and West Monkton Cricket Club Sports Pitch Committee representatives.

It was confirmed that in addition to Cllrs Cavill, Gage, Hall and Haskins, Sam Wallis, Wayne Ball and John Wrelton would be members of the Committee on behalf of Taunton Rugby Club and James Marsh and Giles Benbow would be members of the Committee on behalf of West Monkton Cricket Club.

SPC04/23 General Update

Cllr Hall provided a general update on the Sports Pitches, shared and talked through the latest layout plan. A gate to the dog walking area has been installed and a quotation for the fencing around the dog walking area has been approved and work to install it will commence shortly. Prices are being obtained for the track to BMX area and a track from the Hyde Lane gate. A trench has been dug all around the pitch area to keep the land unoccupied. A height bar at the entrance and CCTV will be incorporated in plans. A stand for rugby is included in the plan for future building. Artificial grass cricket wicket included as per ECB requirements. Trunking has been included for lighting in anticipation of flood lighting and a water line has been included across to the pitches. A spreadsheet of works has been prepared including costings. The pitch is to be cleared of all the rubbish and then it will be ploughed to enable aeration of the soil ready for the ground works / levelling. The ploughing may produce some rubble which will need to be cleared. Landscaping / tree planting to take place over this planting season.

SCP05/23 Potential Project Time Frames

The ground works contractor has confirmed plans to start works in April with a view to them being completed, including seeding, in September. Completion in September may push back timescales, the hope that the pitches will be available in 2025 may be delayed.

SPC06/23 Community / Public Use

Cllr Haskins outlined some concern expressed by the Parish Council about the availability of the pitches for use by the community when they are not in use by the clubs and asked for views on the pitches being used in a managed and planned way by members of the community.

A discussion followed.

It was agreed that it would be very difficult to keep the pitches safe for use by the clubs if they were freely open to the public for use. It was noted that members of the public / community could join the clubs (both clubs are community clubs) and will then be able to use the pitches, a hardship fund is also available if membership fees prevent individuals from joining.

It was agreed that the pitches could be made available to hire out for one or other of the sports as long as it was planned and oversight was maintained and those hiring the pitches took responsibility for adhering to conditions of hire and only if the hire fits around the scheduled use of the pitches by the clubs. Any hire of the pitches would be agreed by the Sports Pitch Committee.

The discussion moved to the neighbouring piece of land between the sports pitch land and the canal which is currently being marketed. The Parish Council is making enquiries about acquiring the piece of land. Land available opposite the Primary School was also discussed and its potential future use for junior football pitches. Clerk outlined an enquiry received from a Baseball Team who are looking for a permanent site for their pitch and whether this could be accommodated on the pitch land if additional land next to it was acquired. It was noted that the pitches at Waterleaze may be suitable. Clerk to make enquiries.

SPC07/23 Pre-planning advice application update

Cllr Hall confirmed the intention to submit a pre-planning advice application to the Planning Authority in the next couple of weeks. The groundworks / seeding which will get underway in April will do so using the existing planning consent.

SCP08/23 Maintenance of pitches

The clubs have agreed to split the overheads e.g. utilities, waste disposal etc, between them based on the times that the clubs are active. These costs are expected to be fairly minimal and to become clearer a few seasons in. The clubs will also take responsibility for maintaining the pitches between them. Both clubs will require additional grounds staff to maintain the pitches and additional equipment / resources. Plans to have this in place will be developed over the next 18 months.

The Parish Council will take responsibility for maintaining the pavilion, communal areas, tracks and car parks, including the attenuation pond.

Sponsorship was discussed, it was agreed to incorporate sponsorship boards within the plans to form part of the planning application.

Signage at the entrance and potential names for the pitch were briefly discussed. Further discussion on these matters to take place in the future.

SCP09/23 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting to be agreed.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting ended at 20.05pm.



Signed Chairman:

Date: 9th May 2024