

Minutes of Welow Recreation Trustees Meeting
29th September 2016
Held at 2, Weavers Orchard, Wellow

Present: Hugh Prentice
Mike Clarkson
Rob Greig
Debbie Clarkson
Beth Jackson
Ollie Hartnell
Peter Gaines

1. **Apologies** were received from Heather Andrews and Marcelle Speller
2. **Trustee Appointments**

The resignations of Rupert Dewey and Sian Johnson were received and accepted. They were thanked for their work for Wellow Recreation to date.

The following were proposed and appointed as Trustees to vacancies:

- Beth Jackson
- Ollie Hartnell
- Peter Gaines
- Bea Dowty

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

These were agreed as a true record

4. **Matters arising:**

Confirmation of the safety inspection process for the children's play area is still required.

Action HA

The concept of a village calendar, linked to the WR website, but to which all village groups could add events/meetings was felt to be a good idea. Marcelle to be asked if she has access to expertise to create this. Beth and Ollie indicated some knowledge to assist if needed.

Action MS with OH and BJ

The cross-village AGM was reconfirmed as something we would support – preferably between November and March. Other groups to be approached.

Action RG

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All other matters arising were covered on the main agenda.

5. **Young people's involvement**

Ollie agreed to take on the role of liaising with and seeking out views/opinions of young people in the village. Agreed to start with a focus on those aged 11 upwards (i.e. secondary school age who are thus able to be self-reliant in use of facilities) but not excluding those who have left school.

Various suggestions were made such as designated times for younger people to meet and use the facilities.

It was agreed that the starting point should be to go out and ask younger villagers what they want Wellow Recreation to be doing for them and how they wished to use the facilities. It was agreed that:

- All sports groups to be asked to provide a list of young people known to them for Ollie to contact as part of the target audience. **Action MC**
- Ollie to plan/propose an approach to seek views/opinions and engage with young people across the village, covering how to contact them, how to seek views etc. **Action OH. (MS to be asked to support him in this)**

It was also agreed that each sport group should be asked to produce a plan for how it will go about increasing involvement of young people during 2017. **Action MC.**

6. **Lease**

Following further discussion, it was agreed that the Trustees were content to sign the lease subject to written confirmation from the Parish Council around indemnity for historical maintenance and repair costs. It was agreed that:

- A draft wording, describing the required indemnity, to be produced and sent to the PC asking them to agree and minute this. **Action RG**
- The latest lease to be sent around new Trustees for them to provide any additional comments. **Action HP**
- A meeting with Wellow Valley Tennis Trustees is needed to confirm their agreement to the change in lease arrangements. **Action HP and MC**

7. **Maintenance**

It was confirmed that the tennis court resurfacing was taking place over two weeks in mid/late October – costs covered by manufacturers warranty.

Progress with the issues of drainage were noted and, in particular, that the root cause of the problem is water running onto the site from neighbouring agricultural land. Given the time it has taken to get professional reports and agreement to action, it will not be resolved prior to this winter. The following were agreed:

- A meeting to be sought with the neighbouring field owners to discuss possible remedial actions. **Action DC and HP**

- It be proposed to the PC that sandbags are acquired and placed to prevent the water reaching the jogging track – which should, as an interim measure, disperse the rainwater back to its previous routes and thus alleviate the problem faced by the one property last winter. **Action HP**

8. **Finances**

Mike presented the cash flow for the current year. This projects a balance at year-end of £2,000 – but with a number of costs outstanding. One key issue is whether to continue with the portaloos – which is being very widely used but for which there is no budget. The position on this was not resolved and further discussions with both the PC and WVT were proposed. In the absence of additional income, it is not feasible to continue with it beyond the end of the coming month.

It was reported that agreement has now been reached with the school for them to pay £5 per hour for the use of two tennis courts and a further £200 per year for use of the wider field for activities including football training and archery. This was welcomed and the school was thanked for their positive approach to these discussions.

A full year budget for 2017/18 was presented and discussed. This shows a break even position for all activities/sports other than the gym and jogging track (which are general amenities and no major specific income against them is feasible).

The income targets for individual sports are to be discussed with each sports group and their agreement obtained. **Action MC**

The main area of financial deficit is the children's play area. There is a shortfall on regular maintenance as the costs have increased significantly in the last year or more (including because of a higher quality of maintenance which is welcomed by all) and also because of the need to generate a sinking fund for maintenance and report.

It was agreed that discussions should be held with Magic Box about their contribution to this resource. It is also to be proposed to them that a play area working group be set up to review the future of the play area, maintenance, replacement and so on. This to include reps from WR, PC, parents/users and Magic Box. **Action BJ and HP.**

The budget was agreed, with a projected surplus of £677. This excludes any costs on a portaloos, or a future pavilion (see below), or a sinking fund for the play area, or a contribution from Magic Box. This budget is felt to be workable, but too tight for comfort and further consideration to income is needed (see below).

9. Fund Raising.

Beth agreed to take on the lead role on social fund-raising – through the new cross-village fund-raising group. There is to be a safari supper on 3rd December for which major promotion/publicity will be needed.

For wider fund-raising including grant and other applications, it was agreed that Peter, Beth and Marcelle be asked to meet to discuss ideas of how to take this forward. **Action PG, BJ, MS.**

10. Other Business

It was reported that the PC has agreed to ensure bins, dog bins and dog notices are provided.

There was discussion about the proposed pavilion. The Trustees are of the view that a more 'low-tech' facility should be provided, that offers shelter and a toilet facility, with a view to there being a village-wide consideration of the future of buildings on the whole playing field site. It was agreed to write to the Parish Council and the PC's pavilion working group proposing this. **Action RG.**

Bea to be asked to take on the role of the second Trustee on the Site Management Group. **Action MC**

11. Next Meeting

Next meeting at 7.30 pm on Thursday October 27th. Heather to be asked if it can be at her house.