

**Minutes of a meeting of Wellow Recreation Trustees**  
**Held on November 30<sup>th</sup> at Cranbourne**

**Present:** Hugh Prentice (Chair)  
Mike Clarkson  
Rob Greig  
Bea Dowty  
Ollie Hartnell  
Peter Gaines  
Marcelle Speller  
Heather Andrews  
Debbie Clarkson

**Apologies:** Beth Jackson

**In Attendance:** Ron Humphries for items 1-3.

**1. Minutes of the last meeting:**

These were agreed as a true record

**2. Matters arising**

*2.1 Young people's involvement.*

Ollie reported he had received more responses. 60 pull-out tabs have now been put around the village to try to increase it still further. Sports leaders have been re-emailed to ask for email addresses of parents. Ollie reported results so far. Responses are mainly from 11-16 year olds. There was discussion as to whether a D of E volunteer could be found to help organise activities.

**Action:**

**Ollie to place survey publicity in the minibus for the school run and explore the D of E idea.**

*2.2 Health and safety for play area.*

Still awaiting B&NES person to meet with Heather to review.

**Action:**

**Heather to identify parents to agree to be part of health and safety monitoring process and training.**

*2.3 Magic Box*

Awaiting an update from Beth Jackson

**Action:**

**Beth to report on Magic Box discussions**

### 3. Fund-raising

Ron talked about fund-raising generally, building on the minutes from our previous meeting that identified an overall approach. He particularly emphasised, when applying for grants, the importance of:

- Needing to evidence community support for applications
- The benefit of getting photographic evidence of involvement to support applications
- How funders like to be the people funding the last element of a project, which necessitates juggling of applications and their presentation
- The benefit of Wellow Recreation registering with Funding Central and having one person who scans for possible applications
- The benefit of having two people working together on fund-raising
- Being able to move quickly, respond to opportunities and ensure that funds received are spent. In discussion, it was noted that this linked to the importance of ensuring that projects for which funds are sought are deliverable within timescales given to funders.

There was then a discussion about current fund-raising activity:

- The unsavory nature of the commercial approach by businesses such as Aviva was noted and it was agreed by all to be careful about how we engage with such things.
- We have been accepted for the Tesco bags grants - to support the theatre next year – thanks to Ron. Details are not known about how this will work and whether we should publicise it. It was agreed only to do so if the process covered a small geographical area.
- Ron, with Andy Smith, is exploring a corporate sponsor for the theatre next year. As previously noted, the play will be on July 6<sup>th</sup> and will be the ‘The Third Policeman’.
- There will be a new-year’s day boules match which will involve a small amount of fund-raising.
- The safari supper this weekend will include several very generous prizes offered by local people. It was agreed that a silent auction rather than a raffle would raise more money.

#### **Actions:**

**Ron agreed to find out about the arrangements for the Tesco bags grant**

**Rob to pass web-page access details to Marcelle and Ron**

**Ron agreed to manage content for the theatre website page**

**Peter and Marcelle agreed to take on fund-raising responsibility. (Peter noted he can only start this in a few weeks time).**

**Ron agreed to work with and support WR leads on grant applications**

There was discussion about the plans for the proposed pavilion and Ron explained the current thinking from himself and Andy Smith. The Trustees supported the notion of a smaller pavilion structure. Hugh advised the meeting that the Parish Council had previously proposed a sub-group to manage the Pavilion Project consisting of two people

nominated by the PC and two by Wellow Recreation and to be led by WR. The Trustees had been unaware of this but noted that WR could not take this on until it had a lease for the land to give it authority to progress the development - as the pavilion area is currently the responsibility of Wellow Valley Tennis.

Ron was thanked for his contribution and he left the meeting.

#### 4. Lease

The lease has still not been signed because Wellow Valley Tennis has yet to surrender its lease over the courts and the pavilion area. This has to happen before WR can sign a lease for the whole area. It was noted that one member of WVT Committee is proposing that WVT does not surrender the lease and that separate leases and organisational arrangements exist for the tennis (through WVT) and the other sports facilities (through WR). There was a lengthy discussion about whether this would be acceptable. The view was that such an arrangement was not acceptable for a number of reasons including:

- It would be a breach of the conditions imposed on the development by the Parish Council
- It would run counter to the whole concept of WR's creation i.e. one body to oversee all activities
- It would perpetuate the current confusion about responsibilities that has caused problems with (e.g.) a resolution to the drainage issues
- It would create confusion around financial responsibility and management of finances for further recreational developments

It was agreed to seek conversations with the Parish Council Chair in order to help resolve the issue.

The Trustees then unanimously agreed the following resolution:

**The Trustees consider that WR will not have a viable purpose in the event of the following not occurring in the very near future:**

- (1) WVT surrendering its lease and it therefore it being possible to sign the new lease as drafted by the Parish Council , and**
- (2) There being clarity, to the Trustees satisfaction, about the management and ownership of the finances associated with the sports development that are currently held by WVT and the PC, in ways that comply with the original stipulation by the PC,**

**The Trustees resolve that in the event of these two things not occurring, they will suspend WR's operations, with a view to closing the charity down. The Parish Council will thus be informed that it will continue to be responsible for managing and financing all activities on and around the playing field other than those covered by the current WVT lease (which will remain with WVT).**

**Action:**

**Debbie to take this information to both Wellow Valley Tennis and the Parish Council Chair, for further discussion and action.**

**5. AGM**

It was agreed to hold the AGM on March 2<sup>nd</sup> (subject to availability of the Village Hall).

As previously agreed, in the event of the lease having been agreed and signed, the focus of the meeting (other than formal elections, accounts etc.) will be a public discussion about (a) the Pavilion plans and (b) the future of the play area. In the event that the lease has not been signed, the formal business will be the winding up of the charity.

**Action:**

**Rob to book the Village Hall for the AGM**

**6. Finances**

Mike reported on finances. The position is essentially the same as at the previous meeting. He also reported that he has spoken to B&NES about the maintenance contract and it was noted that this needed to be renegotiated for next year.

Concern was expressed about the Local Giving account still resting with WVT despite publicity stating that funds are going to Wellow Recreation. Some people have expressed concerns about a lack of clarity about where their donations are going. Mike agreed to resolve this through WVT.

**Action:**

**Mike to ensure the Local Giving account directs funds to Wellow Recreation.**

**7. Building Works**

It was noted that:

- The work on the courts had been completed, subject to repainting the surface in the new year
- There was no progress with regards to the drainage – the matter is in the hands of the Parish Council until the lease is agreed. However, it was noted that Hugh was progressing the previous WR idea of putting sandbags in place to divert water from the course of the jogging track as an interim solution. There was discussion, and some sympathy, for the idea of digging up and turfing over the jogging track if a more substantive solution to drainage cannot be found. Hugh agreed to propose to the PC that the works where funding is available are done in the spring i.e. early March. However, it was noted that the funding from Sport England cannot be released until the lease with Wellow Recreation has been agreed.

## **8. Any other Business**

8.1 A number of ideas for future activity and fund-raising in the summer were discussed, including:

- Daytime, music and other activities on the field (from Peter).
- A Wellow Olympics.

8.2 It was suggested that the title of the Site Management Group might be amended to more accurately reflect its role in encouraging field use and sporting activities. Also that, assuming the lease is signed, Trustee meetings should move to be bi-monthly with the interim months being either SMG meetings or other, activity focused meetings as required.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January at The Granary, Upper Baggridge.