

WELLOW RECREATION



Agenda for Trustees AGM **7:00pm on 22 March 2018**

Venue: **Wellow Village Hall**

Present: Beth Jackson - Chair
 Peter Gaines – Vice-Chair
 Mike Clarkson - Treasurer
 Bea Dowty – Secretary & Webmaster
 Debbie Clarkson – PC Representative
 Lyn Doman – Village Hall Representative
 Ollie Hartnell – Youth Representative
 Andy Smith – WV Tennis
 Ron & Sheilagh Humphreys – Outdoor Theatre

Plus: 15 members of the public

Apologies: Heather Andrews, Prakriti Karthausser

The evening was conducted in an informal manner that gave Wellow Parishioners the opportunity to interact with Wellow Recreation Trustees (WRT), Sports Leads and Outdoor Theatre Organisers, whilst enabling them to contribute ideas and provide feedback. Plans for the Sport Pavilion were available for inspection & comment.

1) **Minutes of 2017 AGM** - Agreed

2) **Introductions**

- 2.1 All Trustees introduced themselves and outlined their responsibilities.
- 2.2 Andy Smith explained his role within WR, WVT and the Sports Pavilion Project.
- 2.3 Ron & Sheilagh Humphreys introduced themselves and explained their role in the annual Outdoor Theatre production.

3) **Sports Field Events**

- 3.1 **Outdoor Theatre** – Ron Humphreys outlined details of the 2016/17 events and explained the background of the Miracle Theatre Group. Attendance is growing each year with a 270 strong audience in 2017 enjoying picnics, a preshow singer and an entertaining performance. He thanked the team of villagers for all their assistance and support in enabling the event to be the success that it is.

Finances: Sale of tickets covers the Miracle Theatre fee, Tesco Bags for Life raised £2,000 in 2016/17 and there was a generous donation of £1,500 from a private individual. £2,000 went into WR funds; whilst £1,500 has been held back to cover the 2018 event.

RH announced that the 2018 performance is to be a Miracle Theatre interpretation of 'The Cherry Orchard' by Chekov, which is adapted to entertain and amuse. Before the main event, there will be a trumpeter to herald the start and a singer during picnic time.

Vote of Thanks from the Chair:

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To Ron and Sheilagh for all their hard work on the event – Agreement and applause

3.2 Sports Pavilion – Debbie Clarkson explained that the pavilion will be a modern, fresh, funky space with Wi-Fi available, music, video and a TV for sporting events or training purposes. It is to be a social hub for sports groups, play park users, people taking exercise and all villagers to meet, relax and enjoy refreshments. It will be open as much as possible. The WC is a separate unit that will be open when the pavilion is. Sports leaders and coaches and the pavilion group will be nominated as key holders initially.

The pavilion will be managed and maintained by a small committee of people from WRT and WVT. Income is hoped to be raised from the sale of hot/cold refreshments, cakes and small scale function hire but it will not compete with the Village Hall. This will evolve in time and will require the assistance of volunteers to make it all happen.

Launch days planned: Soft Launch – 12 May 2018 – for people to see the start of the refurbishing
Big launch - End of May or beginning of June – Opening for full use
(These dates may change if any delays are encountered)

Andy Smith stressed the point that the Pavilion is a community asset for all, not just for tennis.

Mike Clarkson raised a vote of thanks to Andy Smith, his wife Pam and Chris Wordsworth for all their hard work on the pavilion delivery - This elicited applause from the floor.

Hugh Prentice (from floor) stated that it may be possible for Broadband to be obtained FOC for the village hall and pavilion. Beth Jackson thanked him and will take this information to the pavilion committee for consideration.

3.3 Field Management Group (FMG) – Mike Clarkson (MC) explained that the FMG have the responsibility of ensuring that the playing fields is used effectively. It enables the sports group leaders to feedback any concerns regarding the maintenance of the field or equipment to WR Trustees. Initially a consultant prepared specifications on how the field should be maintained and three contractor bids were sought; the winner and best priced being from BANES. MC walked the field with BANES last week and has obtained a commitment from them that all maintenance will be done and up-to-scratch in time for the summer season.

The FMG is working well and has led to timely repairs of equipment and the purchase of items needed for the field & sports. For example: reflectors along the edge of the boules piste and repairs to the cricket nets.

Mike Clarkson acts as Chair for the FMG meetings and the sports representatives are:

Sian Johnson – Netball
Gair Burton – Fitness/Playground
Keith Banks – Cricket
Kevin Jackson – Football
Bea Dowty –Boules



Shirley Betts – Village Hall

Ron Humphreys raised a concern regarding the cost of cable hire and ramps for the outdoor play each year. He requested the electrical cable hook-up on the field be completed asap and offered to donate the £120 saving on hire cost to WR for this work. MC thanked RH and will get quotes for this as soon as possible.

Beth Jackson stated that WR are working on a way to provide transparency regarding all the work done by people that conduct regular maintenance tasks on the field. MC commented that he had started to draft a matrix to record jobs and the individuals involved.

Andy Smith commended all the work MC does and thanked him – Agreement and applause.

3.4 Boules – Bea Dowty stated that Wellow Boules Group started with a small number of keen ‘Francophiles’ a few years ago. It has become well established in 2017.

3.4.1 2017 Report: Regular games were played on Wednesday evenings during the summer and this was extended into the autumn by changing to Sunday afternoons. The number of regular players has doubled and there are over 20 people who come out to support and play at events. There were 5 home and 3 away events. Funds are via regular player donations at a very affordable £1 per session (£200 in 2017) and during events. Regular players acquired team clothing of purple T-shirts and white visors. A commercial grade gazebo has been purchased, which is available for other sports groups to hire.

3.4.2 Plans for 2018: Piste sessions will be Wednesday evenings & Sunday afternoons. There will be 8 x events: 2 away, 6 home; including 2 combined sports and 1 village event. Ron Humphreys stated that one event has become very popular: The Golden Gauntlet matches against Limpley Stoke. The teams fight it out for the glory of winning and then giving away the ‘priceless’ trophy to the losing side! This is rumored to be a tatty old gardening glove previously owned by one of the founder members and is much prized by all. Wellow Boules is pleased to announce that they are entering a team in The City of Bath Petanque, Thursday League and the Fox & Badger has provided a deal for the after-match food. Entering at the bottom in Division 4 players are not expected to excel, just to turn-up and have fun, so anyone over 16 will be welcome to join in at any time.

3.5 Football – Beth Jackson, spoke on behalf of Kevin Jackson; absent on sporting duties. She confirmed that despite the closure of the WR pitch for drainage and resurfacing works, Wellow Badgers football thrived in 2017 with approx. 18 regular players. Throughout the winter months they have continued to play at Writhlington School at 8pm, on Thursday evenings. The goals on the playing field were repositioned on higher ground next to the cricket nets and everyday are used by local children having a kick about. The ambitions for 2018 are: to sustain current activity whilst broadening activity to include younger people, women and walking football.

3.6 Cricket – Mike Clarkson, spoke on behalf of Keith Banks; absent on work duties. The cricket nets on Wellow playing field are built to the same standard as those at Lords and a qualified coach has supported some of the sessions at the nets in 2017. Despite not having a cricket pitch, cricket net practise is well attended at the Sunday sessions from 10am-1pm. This includes players from Wellow and surrounding areas; a large number coming from Hinton Charterhouse.

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The East v West cricket match, which is held every year, is keenly supported and doing well.

It will be repeated in 2018.

Nets will begin in April, weather willing. Meanwhile, many players use them independently.

3.7 Tennis – Andy Smith stated that Wellow Valley Tennis (WVT) continued to go from strength to strength in 2017, with a variety of coaching sessions, tournaments and events throughout the year. Play is able to continue during winter months with the aid of the floodlights. Wednesday and Friday sessions have dipped a bit, but should improve with the warmer weather.

In July the Summertime Slam Tournament was like a ‘tennis safari’ around the village with people playing three games across 6 courts and one improvised grass court; using a handicap system of scoring. All the sports were on the field supporting the event and it moved all forward cohesively. This was again evidence at the GB Tennis Weekend when the event clashed with the Horticultural Society plant sale. It went really well, with a plant sales record and lots of atmosphere all round.

In 2018 there are yet more events and tournaments planned. WVT are entering the Wiltshire League with 16 players and adding to junior tennis with under 8’s tournaments at weekends and 8, 9 & 12 year olds playing at Lansdown. There will also be parent’s and under 8’s tennis. Ron Humphreys stated that he regularly enjoys playing tennis and is hoping that taster sessions for schools, which the LTA sponsors, will be secured for WVT Wellow Wednesday’s, 9am -8pm. If the grant is won, tennis can be expanded to include mothers and tots.

The sports pavilion will provide additional comfort for players, coaches and spectators in 2018.

4) **Chair’s Report** – Beth Jackson (BJ)

4.1 2017 Highlights:

- 4.1.1 Letter received from the Parish Council appointing WR as their preferred management company.
- 4.1.2 The relationship established between WR and Wellow Village Hall (via Lyn Doman) and Wellow Valley Tennis (via Andy Smith) has been a massive help moving forward.
- 4.1.3 WR is a small group that now meets every 8 weeks, with 4 week summary updates. This works well: fewer meetings resulting in more action. It will continue into 2018.
- 4.1.4 The Outdoor Theatre performance was brilliant and the cash donation a great help. BJ thanked Ron & Sheilagh Humphreys for all their hard work on this project.
- 4.1.5 WVT Summertime Slam – included all sports on the field – All want more of this.
- 4.1.6 Sports are now driven to cover costs via the Sports Groups donations.
- 4.1.7 Enjoyed great income from Community Chest events. WR event, the safari supper, was organised by the men this year, well attended and very enjoyable.
- 4.1.8 Mike Clarkson, Lyn Doman and Andy Smith have been very hard working on the field. It is hoped that the jobs matrix will create awareness and encourage more people to come forward to help with upkeep.

4.2 2018 Plans:

- 4.2.1 Sports pavilion will be delivered by the summer, with events scheduled to celebrate.
- 4.2.2 Next challenge – Play Park – funding and delivery of repairs/up-grade. *(Covered in 5).*
- 4.2.3 Community Chest –
 - Safari Supper (WR)
 - Chinese Shop (V.Hall)
 - Open Arts Trail (Friends of St John’s)
- 4.2.4 Revisit the WR constitution, which is restrictive in current form and needs revising.

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4.2.5 Website and social media – Bea has done good job updating but it needs more focus.

5) **Children's Play Park** – Peter Gaines (PG) stated fundraising has been a huge success, especially for WVT, regarding community and corporate. The pavilion still needs funds but is nearly there. It is now time to focus on the play park.

Rachel Kotchie has been active regarding the issue. She is not a WR Trustee but is working closely with WR. The Bath Health & Safety Inspector has stated that by 2018/19 aspects of the play park will be obsolete. The intention is to request a re-check of the items and establish a timescale for repair/replacement. BANES area has a higher level of child obesity than the national average so maintaining the play park and encouraging early participation in play, hopefully leading to sports activities is important.

The cost to replace/upgrade the play park is estimated at £30/40,000. Fundraising from 2 or 3 sources ie: Big lottery, LTA, Sport UK, Tesco Bags for Life (RH mentoring on this). PG is working on an application for institutional funding from a source that offers £30k and above and on 'Big Lottery Awards for All'; offering up to £10k. A music event is planned for later in the year.

Fundraising is not easy, partly as many prominent sources have already been tapped in support of WVT and the pavilion. Austerity is causing cuts in central government funding, affecting BANES and the Parish Council. Funding sources have tightened up on criteria. Evidence is now needed for support of the disadvantaged being catered for, which in Wellow is hard to genuinely find.

As a result of these issues, the community will be needed to get behind the project in a big way. Evidence of a level of a local commitment to funding will be needed before large sponsors will get involved. Andy Smith confirmed that it is now a struggle to get new grants. The Wellow Sports Project funding came from 80% big funders but the pavilion is 80% funded locally.

PG confirmed looking at corporate sponsors, but not big funders wanting billboards at the playing field. Also looking at whether a mobile mast could be located on the playing field; following consultation with the community. This could bring in an income of £4-5k pa.

An open discussion then began on what was wrong with the equipment, asking for and monitoring a re-inspection, the way forward, how to fully engage with and involve parents and grandparents and various ideas for funder raisers.

6) **Treasurers Report** – Mike Clarkson (MC)

- 6.1 Accounts for 1st year ending 31st March 2017 has been sent to the Charity Commission, Declaring funds of £4693.
- 6.2 Period 1st April to 31st December 2017, funds off £8574.02; needing approval.
- 6.3 Money comes in from users of the field. Organised sporting groups collect subs and WR holds funds under individual group names; saving expense of multiple bank accounts.
- 6.4 MC went over the figures in detail. When finalised they will be posted on WR website.
- 6.6 Money also comes in from the Parish Council, WR share of the Community Chest events and there is a very generous donation from the Outdoor Theatre.

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6.7 As a registered charity, WR is able to benefit from gift aid on donations.

6.8 Expenses include: cost of minor running repairs, the purchase of a commercial grade gazebo for boules and repairs to cricket nets.

7) Election of 8 Wellow Recreation Trustees

Beth Jackson thanked the current trustees for their hard work.

All stood down and the following indicated a willingness to serve for another year:

Beth Jackson - Chair

Peter Gaines - Vice Chair

Mike Clarkson - Treasurer

Bea Dowty – Secretary & Webmaster

Debbie Clarkson – PC rep

Lyn Doman – Village Hall rep

Retiring Trustees:

Prakriti Karthausar

Heather Andrews

Ollie Hartnell

Mike Clarkson stated Ollie had done a great job as youth representative and all wished him the best of luck at University. Sibella Crockett-Chauveau agreed as new youth rep and Kathryn Black offered her expertise in ITC to become Trustee for Social Media.

2018 Trustee voted as follows:

Beth Jackson – Chair

Peter Gaines - Vice Chair

Mike Clarkson – Treasurer

Bea Dowty – Secretary

Debbie Clarkson – PC rep

Lyn Doman – Village Hall rep

Kathryn Black – Social Media

Sibella Crockett-Chauveau – Youth rep

Proposed

Peter Gaines

Beth Jackson

Bea Dowty

Mike Clarkson

Peter Gaines

Bea Dowty

Peter Gaines

Debbie Clarkson

Seconded

Shirley Gaines

Debbie Clarkson

Peter Gaines

Debbie Clarkson

Beth Jackson

Beth Jackson

Bea Dowty

Peter Gaines

8) AOB – Beth Jackson invited comments from the floor.

8.1 Hugh Prentice stated he is pleased WR are ‘buzzing along’ well. He proposed placing a bee hotel on the playing field on 28th April; to be removed during winter months . He has spoken with PC and they agree, in principle. After a few ‘air BNB’ jokes, various concerns were voiced regarding potential of bee stings and where best to locate the structure. The hotel is for native lone bees that do not sting and the local school had one for some time. The majority liked the idea and it was decided to put the idea to the new trustees.

8.2 Ron Humphreys asked if the Parish Post and Magazine could list the various sporting activities each week. Bea suggested this could be on the last pages in similar format to the church services – Item for new trustees, action for Social Media Trustee.

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8.3 Mike Clarkson showed a photo of a picnic bench and proposed the purchase of one for next to the boules piste. Cost: £287.42 inc vat. Hugh Prentice asked if it is robust enough. MC assured it is and the seat design makes it easily accessible for disabled people.

All present agreed it be purchased asap, whilst sale price still available.

8.4 Mike Clarkson offered a vote of thanks to the Chair – Agreement and applause from all.

Meeting closed at 10pm