

CODICOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the RECREATION COMMITTEE held on Tuesday 19th January 2016 in the Parish Council Offices, 107a High Street which commenced at 7:30pm

PRESENT: Chairman, Councillor C Mackrill with Councillors D Connold, H Gregory, M Ireland, B Knapper, F Moody, C Tinner and J Warwick

IN ATTENDANCE: Lorraine Ellis (Clerk), J Bundy, R Frowd and I Moody (Codicote Football Club)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

None.

2. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT:

None.

3. TO MEET WITH MEMBERS OF CODICOTE FOOTBALL CLUB:

The Chairman welcomed Jim Bundy, Rob Frowd and Ian Moody to the meeting.

Mr Moody asked the Committee to consider Codicote Football Club's proposal to be joint applicants in applying to the Football Foundation (FF) for funding for the installation of floodlights and a spectator stand at the Bury Lane sports field.

The Committee considered the written submission from the football club, Mr Moody confirmed that the FF had theoretically approved the grant application.

Councillor Ireland joined the meeting at this juncture (7:37pm)

The Chairman stated that in the unlikely event of the football club folding that the Council needed to protect their residents from any financial liability.

Councillor Connold asked about the club's finances and funding. It was noted that this is mainly via fund raising and player subscriptions.

Councillor Gregory asked a hypothetical question on the rental charge the Council may wish to require CFC to pay for their usage of the sports field and facilities as this may be in line with the Gosling Stadium fees. Mr Moody responded that this would be vindictive of the Council to require such a fee.

Councillor Moody asked the Clerk for confirmation that the meeting was being recorded. The Clerk reported that it was being recorded.

Councillor Gregory requested clarification on why the FF would not accept a lease agreement. Mr Moody stated that following a meeting with the Chairman, Councillor Connold and the Clerk it was noted that the football club would not be permitted to be included on the deeds for the land.

Councillor Warwick asked why after more than two months a lease was still not available for consideration.

It was agreed that Councillors Gregory and Mackrill would talk directly to the FF to ascertain why a lease would not be acceptable to them and then work together on producing a lease document. It was noted that the Council's Solicitor had advised that legal fees would be a minimum of £2,000 and that CFC would be responsible for payment of such.

Mr Moody again requested that the Council be joint applicants if the FF preferred this option. Councillor Connold stated that he felt that the Council should not enter into a joint application, Councillor Ireland agreed that this would be a stumbling block and Councillor Gregory believed that NHDC would need to be consulted on the matter.

It was noted that during the installation period of the floodlights and stand there would not be any disruption to other sports being played on the sports field.

The Chairman thanked the members of Codicote Football Club for attending the meeting.

Messrs Bundy, Frowd and Moody left the meeting at this juncture (8:05pm)

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17th NOVEMBER 2015:

The minutes of the above meeting were taken as read and duly noted.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Codicote Playground Support Group project:

i) Working party update: The Clerk reported that the Playground Support Group had requested a working party meeting to discuss the project and options for a grand opening of the playground. It was agreed that the meeting should be held at 2pm on Thursday 4th February at the Parish Council office. The Clerk to request that the playground group present to the meeting an accurate, scaled, up-to-date plan of the final version.

ii) Review of the St Albans Road recreation ground shrubbery: The Committee agreed that the area should be opened-up and necessary maintenance carried out but ensuring that the wildlife be protected. Councillor Warwick stated that he had reviewed the condition of the hawthorn tree and noted that a resident's brick wall abutted it, this could be bridged, it was agreed that the tree would not be removed.

Councillor Tinner suggested contacting the Countryside Management Service (CMS) to request they consider a project whereby they provide advice and volunteers to undertake the work. The Clerk to contact CMS for their advice.

New sports hall & community centre:

i) Utilities – connection & supply: The Clerk reported that E-ON had authorised the change in VAT from 20% to 5% on all electricity charges.

E-ON again reminded the Council that they are the customer and that all charges would be their responsibility if the Trustees were not to pay their share of the electricity charges. They have referred our request for information on disconnecting ourselves from the new building to UK Power Networks, the Clerk to continue to pursue this matter.

ii)Erect new signage at entrance to sports field: Councillor Moody reported that she had met with Jim Park to discuss the Committee's recommendations on the new signage. Mr Park agreed to making the changes suggested on colour and spacing and would re-visit the matter of sponsorship.

R014 Christmas displays and tree lighting event: The Chairman reported that very positive feedback had been received on the Christmas displays and the excellent tree.

R015 External condition of the Pavilion: It was noted that the roof tiles and guttering work had been completed. However work on the doors had been cancelled due to the wet weather. It was agreed that when this work is undertaken that all the locks are changed to Banham locks to ensure that no unauthorised keys are cut and a key record maintained on who has been issued with a key to the building.

The Committee agreed to discuss further at the February meeting a programme of works to include the doors, cladding and paving.

R019 Sportsfield landscaping review: Following a meeting with Jim Park at the end of 2015, Councillor Gregory asked the Committee to consider the plans that had been discussed for a crossover from the car park to the new building.

The Committee agreed that Anne Westover should be employed to design a plan, a tender process would be undertaken to provide costs for block paving and tarmac.

Councillor Tinner asked that a disabled symbol be displayed, this was suggestion was agreed.

The Clerk to remind the Trustees that the barrier and gate should be kept closed and should only be left open for access on collection and delivery days.

Fireworks Display – Saturday 7th November 2015: The Clerk reported that a complaint had been received from the Codicote Mini Rugby Club concerning sparkler wires left on the sports field following the event. It was noted that the litter picker had visited the site but unfortunately the wires are difficult to see in the grass. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to all sports clubs stating that they should refrain from using the sports field on the day after the fireworks display. The litter picker undertakes his duties 3 times a week so it is hoped that all wires are found. It was also suggested that additional receptacles be available at the event.

6. TO REVIEW THE ANNUAL PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORTS:

R027 Councillor Warwick and the Clerk reported that they had reviewed the inspection reports and only low risk issues had been highlighted. The Chairman to review the reports prior to the remedial work being undertaken.

7. TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE S106 PROJECTS:

R028 The Clerk reported that the following S106 funds were being held by NHDC and could be applied for:-

➤ Play Space	£2,748.35
➤ Leisure	£2,433.90
➤ Informal open space	£1,485.59
➤ Community Centre/Village Hall	£2,283.15
➤ Sustainable transport	£2,678.57
➤ Waste collection/re-cycling	£2,248.32

It was noted that a number of the S106 funds have been earmarked for projects and in particular the sustainable transport funding for use by the Environment Committee and Play Space/Leisure for the Valley Road play equipment projects.

The Committee agreed that the informal open space funding could be used to part fund the St Albans Road recreation ground shrubbery project.

8. TO DISCUSS USAGE OF THE SPORTS FIELD:

R029 The Clerk reported that a request had been received from Welwyn Cricket Club (WCC) to use the sports field when not in use by Codicote Cricket Club (CCC). It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain additional information on why WCC want to use the sports field and length of booking and if it is overspill. Contact should also be made with the CCC groundsman.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

R030 Tuesday 16th February 2016.

The Clerk, Councillors Gregory and Moody advised the Chairman that they would not be available for the February meeting. It was agreed that the meeting should go ahead in their absence.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9:09pm.

Signed..... Chairman

Date..... 2016