

**EMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
SPORTS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
Minutes of Virtual Meeting – Thursday 11th February 2021 at 7pm**

Present: Richard Logsdail – Chairman
Michael Bath
Richard Finch
Norman Gillam
Simon Harris
Andy Letts

Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Apologies for absence – Apologies for absence were received from Dennis Letts.

Appointment of Vice Chairman – Richard Finch took the Chair due to Richard Logsdail being unable to attend the meeting until later. There were no proposals for Vice Chairman. It was agreed that Richard Logsdail would take this back to the parish council meeting.

Action: RL

Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda – there were no Declarations of Interest.

1. **Minutes of Meeting held on the 26th October 2020** – The Minutes of the meeting held on the 26th October 2020 were agreed. The Minutes to be signed at the next face to face meeting.
2. **Football – update on covid restrictions and OTC teams for 2021** – It was noted that there was very little to update as the current restrictions had meant that grass roots football could not be played. Andy commented that he thought all adult football might not resume but there would be an update from the FA next week.
3. **Cricket – update on teams for 2021** – It was noted that Wollaston had provided the clerk with their schedule of league games but nothing had been heard from Wellingborough Old Grammarians. **Action: AL to speak to Steve Kendall at OG's.** A discussion took place regarding the approach from MK Stallions to play cricket matches on Sunday afternoons, a fee of £80 per match was agreed. Andy commented that North Crawley had been interested in playing on Saturday afternoons and should be offered the pitch if OG's did not wish to continue. Andy commented that the square had been sprayed for worms and he was waiting to cut it but it had either been too wet or too cold. The clerk to circulate the fixtures once received. **Action: KG**
4. **Tennis – maintenance of court** – Andy reported that Colour Court had done an excellent job of cleaning the tennis court. The clerk to arrange payment of the invoice £408 inclusive of VAT (ring fenced fund for tennis £537.75) **Action: KG**
5. **Field maintenance** – Michael reported that there was little maintenance due to the weather and once the conditions improved, the field would be mowed and spiked.

6. Dog fouling – It was noted that there was an ongoing issue with dog fouling across the field and in particular behind the goal mouth at the pavilion end of the pitch with some dog owners even flicking their dog's mess into the hedge rather than picking it up. Previous signs that had been erected by Andy had been removed. A discussion took place regarding implementing a dogs on leads order but it was agreed that this would be difficult to enforce and would also penalise those responsible dog owners that did pick up after their dogs. It was agreed that some signs asking dog owners to keep their dogs off the pitches was the best way forward. The clerk commented that Ian Stokes at OTC had some signs made for the field and she would circulate the information regarding this. **Action: KG**

7. To receive the Receipts and Payments accounts and to approve any payments. The receipts and payments statements were approved. The clerk reported that there was £659.06 ring fenced for football; this fund had come from the Emberton Athletic Football team when they wound up the club. Andy made reference to some portable goal posts but it was noted that OTC had already bought this. **Action: RF to speak to OTC regarding how best to utilise the funding for football at Emberton**

8. Any other business

Travellers – It was noted that there was the possibility of travellers accessing the barns on the A509. It was agreed that there was little action the committee could take apart from keeping the entrance to the car park locked.

Resident's parking – The clerk reported that the parish council and Hulton Drive residents were looking to get permit parking along Hulton Drive and the service road of Olney Road.

Path behind pavilion – A discussion took place regarding the footpath behind the back of the pavilion which was accessed through a stile to the right of the main gate or via the gate itself. It was noted that the path was a permissive way not a public footpath. Michael suggested locking the gate to force people over the stile and take this route, and add a sign stating that there was no access via the playing field. The possibility of siting dog bins at each entrance was discussed. **Action: RF to look into this viability**

Showers – Norman asked whether the showers would be upgraded following covid restrictions being lifted. Richard F stated that this would need alignment from both committees to move this forward. The clerk made reference to the grants available from the wind farm for energy saving projects such as a new hot water system. Norman commented that it might be viable to build new changing rooms and showers outside of the pavilion and incorporate the existing changing rooms into a larger events room. **Action: AL to speak to Keith McLean on the ESSC**

9. Date of next meeting – Thursday 29th April 2021 at 7pm virtually

The meeting closed at 8.15pm