

**EMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
SPORTS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
Minutes of Virtual Meeting – Thursday 2nd July at 7pm**

Present: Richard Logsdail – Chairman
Joe Walker – Vice Chairman
Michael Bath
Richard Finch
Andy Letts

Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO

Apologies for absence – Apologies for absence were received from Norman Gillam, Simon Harris and Dennis Letts.

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

1. **Appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman** – It was proposed by Michael and seconded by Joe that Richard Logsdail be appointed Chairman. The meeting continued with Richard Logsdail as Chairman. It was proposed by Richard Logsdail, seconded by Michael that Joe be appointed Vice Chairman.
2. **Minutes of Meeting held on the 18th December 2019** – It was noted that the Chairman had not been privy to this meeting and he asked if the Minutes of the meeting were an accurate representation; this was confirmed. The Minutes were then approved.
3. **Football**
Update and Agreement for 2020/2021 – Richard F commented that Olney were looking to put an U12's team and an U13's team at Emberton for the next season but as such there was no start date for football. The showers would not be required for the age groups mentioned. A discussion took place regarding the fee for next season for the two teams with a suggestion of £550 - £600 being taken forward to the OTC Chairman. It was noted that the agreement would be invoiced on a monthly basis. Richard F asked if Lakers were returning. Karen responded that they had intimated that they would and it was noted that they had 4 games in hand.

Use of showers – Richard F commented that part of the agreement with the adult football teams had always been that they were responsible for cleaning up after themselves including the showers. The clerk to look at the agreement with Lakers regarding cleaning the showers. **Action: KG**

Lakers – Richard F commented that Lakers would need to be made aware that they would have to line their pitch before the game as there would not be a team playing on the pitch prior to their Sunday games. Andy suggested that the Lakers be asked if they need any guidance on marking out. **Action: KG**

4. Cricket – The clerk reported that she had spoken to Norman and he stated that the first half of the season had been cancelled and that the second half might be played as friendlies. Andy responded that he not received an update and the cricket teams were waiting on advice from the ECB, however there was mention of a start date of the 8th August. Richard L asked if there would be issues with cricket and football going on at the same time. Richard F responded that the football was played on Saturday morning and was finished by the start time of the cricket at 1pm. The arrangement had worked well in the past but there was no agreement in place for both the cricket teams. Andy responded that they looked after themselves; £85 for the pitch, pavilion and changing rooms was an average fee across the area. Some council matches were £40 per match. Andy suggested looking at the fee before the start of next season. **Action: KG to note**

5. Tennis

Maintenance – Andy reported that he had sprayed the tennis court for moss and Sue was going to get it jet washed but Andy had spoken to some tennis players and they had stated that the surface was ok to play on. Richard F stated that he had helped Andrew and Sue Soul jet wash the court on previous occasions and asked if they were still part of the Gilpin Tennis Club. Richard F commented that he was happy to help in the future.

Terms of use – It was noted in an email from Sue Soul that there were people coming from as far as CMK to play at Emberton and Sue had requested guidance on who bookings should be taken from. A discussion took place regarding use of the court; it was noted that the gate had been locked in previous years which had led to the fence being damaged to access the court. It was suggested to introduce a post code system to restrict the number of players and to put up a sign on the court advising players that the court needed to be booked and that details of this were in the Well & Towers. It was agreed to limit the court to use by residents from Emberton, Olney, Sherington, Clifton and Newton. The clerk to advise Sue Soul and Richard F to produce a sign for the court, also advising no skateboard, football, etc. **Action: KG/RF**

6. Field Maintenance

Trees – Michael reported that some trees had been cut back including the one overhanging into the Horton's which had been requested to be cut back. It was noted that Richard F would like some trees cutting back which blocked the sun in his garden during the evening. It was noted that these were Oak trees. Michael responded that these were planted 30 years ago. It was agreed that Michael would meet Richard F to look at these. **Action: MB/RF**

Gate/fence post – It had been noted that the gate and posts that were installed by MK Fencing Ltd in December 2018 had split. Michael stated that the post had split because of the cut of the timber which came from the middle of the tree and split in the warmer weather. If it was replaced with another post, the same thing would happen. The gate had also been opened too wide and made it twisted. Michael stated that the gate would need taking off, the hinge repaired and put back on. The post would need screws putting through it. Richard F stated that he was more than willing to refer this back to MK Fencing in the first instance. The clerk to find the invoice and pass to Richard F who would make contact. **Action: KG/RF**

Use of field – A discussion took place around the wider use of the field such as for an Emberton cricket team, rounders, croquet or walking football. Joe stated that he felt this was a good idea and enthusiasm couldn't be measured until it was in place. Richard L suggested this could be made available on Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons. The clerk made reference to using the solar farm community benefit fund for a grant to purchase equipment. Richard L to look at costs of croquet and rounders equipment and perhaps swingball. **Action: RL** Joe commented that walking football would suit an aging population. Richard F stated that there was potential for walking football. It was agreed that the committee members would have a think about use of the field and the sports mentioned and bring this back to the next meeting. **Action: ALL**

7. ESSC opening – Richard L reported that the pavilion would be opening on the 4th July with a view to getting it open on Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons in line with government guidance on social distancing. The activity was going to be based outside in the village marquee. There was a message put on the Emberton Echo as to how it would work. The marquee would be going up on Friday. The clerk reported that the marquee was covered on the parish council insurance but not for storm damage. Andy commented that the cricket boundary could be anywhere and that if the marquee was sited at the front of the pavilion, the ground was quite firm and the marquee would need to be moved to prevent damage to the grass. Richard L responded that the marquee would be set up and the amount of traffic monitored. If the grass showed signs of deterioration, consideration would be given at that stage to move it. The sides of the marquee would be closed down when it was not in use. Michael asked if anyone would be keeping an eye on the marquee. Richard L responded that there wasn't anyone keeping an eye on it; it was insured and the gates would be locked.

8. To receive the Receipts and Payments accounts and to approve any payments – Joe enquired about the income from football. The clerk explained that there was an additional payment as the old EPFC had not sent an invoice to OTC. There were no payments for approval.

9. Any other business

Play equipment – It was noted that Emberton Country Park were opening the play areas and it was agreed to follow suit. The clerk to draft a notice for circulation and approval. The groundsmen to remove the rope. **Action: KG/MB**

Church fete – It was noted that the church fete might not be held at Church Farm and an alternative site was the playing field. It was agreed that cricket would take precedence over the fete. Richard L to speak to Maddi. **Action: RL**

10. Date of next meeting – Thursday 15th October at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.40pm