

**EMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
SPORTS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting held at The Pavilion on
Monday 24th January 2022 at 7pm**

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

Karen Goss – Clerk and RFO (via zoom)

Apologies for absence – There were no Apologies for absence.

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

1. **Minutes of Meeting held on the 30th September 2021** – The Minutes of the meeting held on the 30th September 2021 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
2. **Parish Council representative for Sports & Recreation Committee** – It was noted that this item would be carried forward to the Parish Council's February meeting when there would be more Councillors in attendance.
3. **Football**
 - 3.1 Update on pitch maintenance – It was noted that spiking had been completed but there was a very wet corner at the top of the field. The ditch had been infilled with a drainage pipe but it was felt that this was probably blocked. Richard asked if the ditch needed digging out and flushing. It was noted that the ditch was not in the ownership of the playing field. It was felt that the area most worn on the field was the area where spectators stood. Michael stated that the gates had been wide open for past 3 weeks and metal pegs had been left around the goal mouths. Andy to speak to the two teams concerned. **Action: AL.** Andy stated that he had emailed the adult league as they had only released 3 weeks fixtures at a time.
4. **Cricket**
 - 4.1 Square maintenance – Andy reported that the square was mown last week and it was spiked at the end of November/beginning of December. The grounds staff were now waiting for the opportunity to start rolling it. It was noted that the pitch had been extended again although the area was not suitable for a league game yet.
 - 4.2 Cricket fixtures – Clifton Reynes would like to hire the cricket square on Thursday evenings when there was a booking on in The Pavilion who might wish to use the field. The clerk to contact the hirer to ascertain whether they would be willing to share the field space. **Action: KG**

5. **Tennis** – Michael commented that the tennis court was in need of spraying. Dennis to arrange for the court to be sprayed before Colour Court power washed it. **Action: DL/AL.** The clerk reported that the sign was missing from the court and there had been reports of children playing football on it. It was generally felt that if small children were playing on it, there would be little impact as long as studs were not being worn. Andy commented that he would monitor this. **Action: AL.** Richard stated that it should be multi-purpose court to allow for netball and other sports.
6. **ESSC update** – The clerk had previously circulated a report from the ESSC following the closure of the pavilion bar and whether this would impact on the Sports & Recreation Committee. Norman asked if there had been any move to amalgamate the two committees. The clerk responded that at the present time, there was no need to. Richard stated there needed to be consideration to hirers to make sure that there was no overlap between use of the pavilion and the field. Andy commented that the pavilion was now reliant on the Bell & Bear providing alcohol and staff. Richard stated that the pub would supply a pop-up bar together with staff and this would be guaranteed but the staff would not be volunteers and the staff cost would reflect on the hire charge. Andy asked if there was any profit for the pavilion after all the overheads. A discussion took place regarding fund raising events for the pavilion and the loss of profits from not having the bar. Norman asked how the pavilion would make any profit? Richard responded that the pavilion had regular bookings. The projected running costs for the pavilion were £4625.00 and the projected income was estimated at £5855.00 if it was assumed that the bookings would come back to pre-pandemic levels. Simon asked if there could be an agreement with the pub where-by they charged the alcohol at cost so that the pavilion could make a small percentage profit. Richard agreed to take this back to the ESSC. **Action: RL.**
7. **Changing rooms/showers** – Simon stated that he had spoken to the Rugby Club who had updated their existing showers; they had undertaken the upgrade themselves. It was understood that a specific plumber was not required as long as they were willing to undertake the work. Simon to speak to Olney Cricket Club to ascertain what facilities they had. **Action: SH.** Simon commented that he had looked at the FA regulations and noted that there were certain specifications required. There were also regulations regarding safeguarding issues. Richard stated that a plumber needed to be contacted to ask him for advice and questioned whether a group of volunteers would be able to do some of the work. Michael responded that some of the work could be prepared in advance. It was noted that the changing rooms were not used being used from the end of August to the end of October. Simon to make enquiries with a plumber. **Action: SH**
8. **Field maintenance** – Michael stated that general maintenance would be undertaken on the mower and this was covered under the general budget. It was felt that if the hedge at the top of the field was taken down by 5ft this would help with clearing the frost off the pitch but it was noted that this was not the playing field's property. Andy to take a look at this. **Action: AL.**

9. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee (tree funding)** – The clerk reported that the parish council had the opportunity to apply for 10 trees (8 small, 2 large) through a fund allocated to Milton Keynes Council. The question had arisen as to where the trees could be planted and whether the playing field required any. Richard asked what the species they were as if they lived for any length of time, they might get huge. It was noted that there were no gaps in the field at the moment to accommodate any. Richard stated that at the moment there was no requirement for trees. Andy stated that if a tree was planted in a wet area, it would take up some of the moisture. The clerk to go back to parish council and state that the trees would not be required.
Action: KG
10. **Resident parking scheme** – Correspondence was received from Olney Town Colts regarding the possible loss of parking at the pavilion and surrounding area due to the proposed residents parking scheme for Hulton Drive. Richard asked whether the car park could be extended. Andy responded that he had a measure up of the field and had received a quote in the sum of £1257 to fence approximately 33 metres which would provide space for additional vehicles. The resident affected by the scheme had been approached and had agreed with it. Works would be required to dig out the existing grass/soil and the rest of the car park needed new gravel. It was understood that the groundworks could cost an additional £10,000. Michael commented that the works could also possibly require planning permission. A discussion took place regarding the overlap in football and cricket games and it was agreed that it did not pose an issue. The clerk made reference to “living grass” but it was felt that this alternative to gravel would be just as expensive. Richard asked if the field could be opened up when the ground was dry? Andy stated that to continuously open the field up through winter would destroy the field, especially if there was no barrier to keep cars in a certain area. The clerk asked if trees needed to be removed to extend the car park. Andy responded that this was not the case. The clerk asked if the fence could be done prior to groundworks. Richard stated that it could be worth looking at “living grass”. Andy to have a look at what might be out there. Summary; leave the situation as it was at the moment and monitor it. Andy to look at costs of “living grass” or alternative to costly groundworks.
Action: AL
11. **Footpath behind pavilion – damaged oak tree** – Michael reported that an oak tree had split about 4ft and was leaning towards the pavilion. It was on land owned by MKC. The clerk stated that it had been reported to MKC and passed to their environmental team. Richard asked if it was a present danger. Michael showed a photograph but it was noted that it was behind the dog waste bin and not the actual building. It was agreed that if nothing had happened within 4/6 weeks, the clerk to chase MKC. **Action: KG**
12. **Defibrillator** – Richard commented that he had not taken this further with MK Stallions. It was noted that the cabinet for outside would be in the region of £1000 and an electrical supply was required. It was felt that the best site for it would be by the garage where there would be power. The clerk to contact MK Stallions to see what they were willing to provide. **Action: KG**
13. **To receive the Receipts and Payments accounts** – The clerk reported that there was currently £6489.73 in the Sports & Recreation account. The maintenance grant

to the parish council had been approved for £4403 and payment would be made in two stages in line with the precept in May and October. Michael asked how many cricket teams were playing. Andy responded that there were two Saturday teams, Clifton Reynes wanted to play on Thursdays and possibly MK Stallions on Sundays.

14. Any other business

14.1 UK Astronomy – The clerk received an enquiry from UK Astronomy who wished to use the field on a regular basis. The details were passed to the ESSC. Richard stated that the committee needed to make sure the field was not being used for anything.

14.2 Cricket net – Andy commented that there were poles and the area for nets but unless they were requested, there wouldn't be any discussion with existing teams.

15. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 25th April 2022 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

DRAFT