

Minutes of Jubilee Field Working Group
Held Tuesday January 14, 2025, 1st Floor Village Community Centre
At 7.30pm.

1. **Present:** Cllr. Sharp (AS) Chairman, Cllr. Alesi (MA), Cllr. Arger (MAA), Chris Rhodes (CR), Cllr. Hotson (EH), Nicola Stonebridge SMFC, Paul Bowden-Brown (PB-B).
2. **Apologies:** Cllr. Riordan (PR), Lee Seal (LS), Cllr. McLaughlin (BM)
3. **Group Membership:** Agreed this item to be removed from future agenda.
4. **Minutes of previous meeting:** agreed.
5. **Matters Arising:**
 - Boiler - AS reported electrician had been in and made repair. Fuses in kitchen are off and need to be functioning/tested for the next home games January 25. AS to organise via office. Boiler repair due early February and at present coming in well under the £15,000 budget previously set aside.
 - Ventilation system – to be repaired but will need to go to full council January 27 for agreement of funding.
 - Cleaning machine – AS reported she had found a larger capacity machine of 80 litres and a better specification. Request to go to full council January 27 for funding agreement (£289.99. ? with VAT) as no record can be found in council minutes of any previous agreement to fund. EH/MAA to investigate.
 - Cracked tile in Changing Room 1 bottom right of the shower. Aiming for repair this week.
 - Padlock on storage cupboard still required. JM to be asked to complete. Key to kept in cabinet.
6. **Budget:**
 - Draft budget from April 1 to December 31 coming in under budget though boiler, mower and roof corrosion works in progress but looking positive will come in under budget for the year.
 - Hedge Trimming – NS reported, with photographs, the area around the 11 aside pitch had been badly rutted by the tractor and made the area unsafe. Agreed there was a rut which made corner kicks difficult.
 - Fees – AS clarified that there must be an agreement by March 31, 2025. Pitch and Pavilion Hire agreement and then the lease for the new club house. Fee needs to be agreed but NS/P B-B stated they had not received any formal figures because the agreement in place has changed. They have accepted being responsible for the ground maintenance but would not accept continuing to pay for the pitch and the previously quoted rent. P B-B spoke for the senior club that the pitch was not fit for purpose as agreed by the Football Foundation. P B-B is presenting a paper to the CIC board next week with the intention of then writing to the Parish Council stating the figure being requested is wrong and the agreed schedule is not being met by the Parish Council. AS felt the agreed maintenance has taken place.
P B-B acknowledged the Parish Council would not be taking on the 1st team pitch maintenance. He advised the 1st team pitch surface had been scarified for a feed and weed, to provide an autumn/winter liquid feed to the playing surface and perimeter, a liquid broad leaf herbicide sprayed two weeks later. Cost £2,500 which he had paid. P

B-B raised the general concern over the lack of revenue recently due to the weather. He then quoted from an email to Brenden regarding culvert maintenance and the pitch drainage and compaction works etc which needs to be done twice a year. AS reiterated, that she felt the agreed maintenance had taken place. P B-B also looking to the application of liquid gypsum which assists with clay soil drainage at a total of cost of £2000. MAA requested a copy of the document which P B-B said he would forward. NS requested a copy of the proposed Hire Agreement as there would be variations on the agreement from April 1, 2025. AS clarified that there seemed to be some confusion as documents had been sent and discussed but will get the clerk to send them again.

7. Maintenance:

- Skate Park – Work to be carried out by the end of March. NS raised ‘Scorcha’ being onsite Saturday and whether they were paying for access. AS to check out. NS also raised why skate park usage was a free service. AS said it is a service SPC provide for the village.
- Cranbrook Football Club came down and used the junior pitch for training. AS advised letter needs to be sent from the office with an invoice and committee members and ex officio members to be copied in. Junior club have already written.
- Mower part still awaited and until part fitted other issues unknown. No mowing currently as too wet and will damage pitches. No games this weekend so relining required for follow weekend January 25.
- Annual hedge cutting £960 done but issues due to deep ruts. NS to forward photos to AS and clerk. AS will ask clerk to get the groundsman to address this.
- Quotes for resolving cut edge corrosion awaited. Previous telephone number 07799419743 not working. NS to send number to clerk again.
- Invasion by pony and trap plus electric bikes have gone over all the pitches. Looking to set up a bollard (£105) at skate park entry but traps can be lifted over barriers. EH advised behaviour a problem in Marden/Headcorn and elsewhere. Pavilion pedestrian gate locked now. Look to request to full council for funding for bollard.
- Drainage – AS confirmed work had been carried out to keep culverts and ditches clear. The main problem is ditches belonging to neighbouring owners. Rodding needing to be done on a regular basis. General discussion over keeping culverts clear. Bill for culvert clearance paid by the club over the Xmas/New Year period £400 and no quote passed to Parish Office as given impression Parish Council would not have considered payment and work needed to be done as a matter of urgency. AS again reiterated correspondence should be sent to her and the clerk copied in.
- Groundsman – AS advised a conversation was to be had January 15, 2025, with a view to resolving the issue. NS advised no games played at home since November 23 and need to start playing at home. Horses hoof areas need to be filled in and pitches spiked. If the juniors are likely to need to play elsewhere then they must decide that by Wednesday to be able to book an alternative venue. 1st team must make a pitch inspection Saturday morning. Brendon to continue looking after 1st pitch until the end of the season.

8. Bookings:

- LS sends out booking and Presentation Day May 18 will depend on state of 3G installation.
- CR - GG have event February 22 for Thinking Day.

9. Girl Guides:

- AS said Deed of Variation of the Lease and Annual Licence Deed with the solicitor. CR advised GG still waiting. RG chasing solicitor as this is taking so long and EH advised the Licence Deed delay is a travesty and should have been dealt with by now. A paper trail would highlight reasons for delay.

10. SMYFC CIC:

- Line marking and pitch mowing – see Maintenance.

11. SMFC CIC:

- Ground Hire Agreement – see above under Budget.
- Heads of Terms - Site plan still needed, and services to be shown. Electrical services capacity assessment dependent upon 3G planning permission and this isn't available until permission granted. EH reiterated that at a previous meeting in 2024 it was confirmed the contractor for 3G stated he was unsure whether the existing electrical supply could cope with any extra above and beyond the 3G. P B-B at that meeting had stated he doubted the club house could go forward if a new substation would be required at a cost between £10,000 – £30,000. Following further discussion P B-B raised doubts he would continue to move the project forward because the electrical supply cannot be guaranteed and will affect Heads of Terms and the Football Foundation.

12. Pavilion Risk Assessment:

- Parish caretaker/RG carrying out weekly checks.

13. Action Plan:

- AS will update and shows how much work has been completed.

14. AOB:

- NS raised refund for the Junior Club because they have had to play elsewhere because of the weather. Senior games from Saturday postponed to Wednesday so less income. AS advised as senior games will be played later in the season, historically no refund has been given. The Club was welcome to send a letter to the Parish Council highlighting the senior club's situation as well as the Juniors to full council by January 17, 2025.
- NS raised maintenance not being done by council and the senior club now asking for contribution for gypsum £2000. AS advised letter to council stressing the factors of weather etc and request would come under maintenance of the pitch.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at the Village Community Centre.

Meeting closed 21.35.

Margaret Arger.