

**Meeting of the Leisure and Recreation Committee of the Parish Council  
at the Village Hall  
Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 8:00 pm**

Issued by Susan Blomerus (Clerk) – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017

## MINUTES

**Present:** Mr John Adams, Mrs Susan Blomerus (Parish Clerk), Mrs Mary Carey, Mr Rick Hopgood, Mr James Mansfield, Dr Mark Richards (Chairman), Mrs Sara Withers, Mr Neil Woodley,

**Also present:** Mr Hjalmar Blomerus (representing Appleton Cricket Club), Mr Rick Hopgood (Representing Appleton U13's Football club) Mrs Lynne Morgan and Mrs Julie Morgan (representing Field Farm)

**17/31 Apologies for absence:** Mr Roger Gilkes

**17/32 Declarations of Interest:** None

**17/33 Public questions and statements:**

Mrs Lynne Morgan and Mrs Julie Morgan mentioned that Field Farm are very concerned that the Appleton School were considering holding a Bonfire Party at the Appleton sportsfield as the sportsfield is very close to the barn where young calves and cows are in situ. The noise of the fireworks, music and people will scare the livestock. There is also a concern that the hay and straw bales could catch fire. Dr Richards informed them that to his knowledge the event will not be going ahead.

It was also reported that there has been speeding on the shared driveway with Field Farm, Thames Water and the sportsfield. There have been a couple of occasions of near miss collisions because of speeding.

Another reported issue was parking on the grass verge leading to Field Farm. Field Farm maintains the grass verge and keeps it looking attractive. When there is a big event at the sportsfield, the car park gets full and people park their cars on the grass verge. The concern is there is a ditch running adjacent to the verge, in wet months the grass with churn up and it can be very dangerous when farm traffic meets oncoming cars and there is no passing place.

**17/34 Matters arising from the previous meeting and not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:**

- The L&R Committee has received a very generous donation for the full amount of the goalposts for the U13 goalposts from Mr Nick and Mrs Sara Withers.

**17/35 Signing of the minutes:** The minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 meeting was signed as a true record.

**17/36 To discuss addition of new committee members:** Dr Mark Richards proposed that the L&R Committee form a sportsfield advisory group. The purpose of this group is to open up communication between sports teams that use the pavilion and the committee and to give the teams a chance to feedback their concerns regarding the sportsfield and pavilion. It was resolved to set up a sportsfield advisory group. Mr Hjalmar Blomerus and Mr Rick Hopgood agreed to be part of this group.

**17/37 Football pitch markings:** The sportsfield has three football teams and one cricket team using the sportsfield. Mr Rick Hopgood has marked out his football pitch and it overlaps the Westminster Football pitch. Mr Hjalmar Blomerus, Dr Mark Richards, Mr Rick Hopgood, Mr Simon Joyce and Mr Kevin Kearney met and discussed the situation. It was decided to move the three pitches around to accommodate all three pitches. Mr Simon Joyce would like a fence/netting put up against the road to avoid retrieving balls from the ditch and farm yard and the adult goalposts will need to be moved. The drainage at the sportsfield needs addressing. Rubber stops will be needed as the adult goalposts will be on the outfield of the cricket field. It was resolved to remark the pitch to accommodate all the pitches.

**17/38 Parking at the sportsfield:** See above 17/33: It was suggested to spray mark parking bays to achieve more efficient parking. It was agreed that the booking secretary will inform anyone booking large events of the full capacity of the car park and request that the verge is not used as a parking area. The booking secretary was asked to inform Field Farm of any large scale events where parking will be an issue. The committee will monitor the situation and if it remains a problem the committee will revisit.

**17/39 Sportsfield Pavilion maintenance:** The double doors are rotting and leaking: It was resolved that the sportsfield advisory group and a few committee members have a site visit and log all the jobs that need doing and items that need replacing. Dr Richards will send an email around to organise a date.

**17/40 White liner order for the sportsfield:** It was agreed that whiteliner can be ordered for the sportsfield.

- 17/41 Extra grass cutting at the sportsfield:** Additional grass cuts are needed between scheduled cuts. It was resolved that the Mr Ady Podbery can do extra cuts at the sportsfield if needed.
- 17/42 Discuss the use of bonded rubber shred at the playground:** It was suggested to replace the bark surfacing at the playground with bonded rubber shred. This is an option rather than topping up the bark regularly. The bark should be maintained properly by digging over regularly but it is a lot of work. This is not something that needs to be considered now
- 17/43 Budget 2018/19:** The budget was discussed for the sportsfield and playground. It was agreed that the Appleton U13's football club will pay £350 for the season. The biggest hindrance to the footballers is the drainage. It was suggested to add this to the budget. Mr Rick Hopgood volunteered his time to help with the ditching to lower the costs. Drainage to the sportsfield will be investigated. It was agreed that the sportsfield pavilion will be cleaned once a month and an ad hoc clean before an event. Mr Blomerus said that a skip will need to be hired if the kitchen is refurbished. The budget will be agreed at the next L&R meeting in November.
- 17/44 Dates of Future meetings:** 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017
- 17/45 Miscellaneous:** None

Meeting ended at 9:30pm