

MARSHLAND ST JAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Playing Field Management Partnership held on 7th January 2019

Present

Councillors – Wilkinson (Chair), Norman, Gathercole.

Members – Mr Gowler, Mr Partridge

Representative – Miss Wabe

5 members of the public

Clerk – S Thorpe

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Humphrey (County Councillor).

2. Declarations of Interest on agenda items

None

3. Confirm minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2018

Having been circulated before the meeting, the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising

Cllr Norman advised that a shrub had been planted at the side of the bottle bank and some trellis would be installed in future.

5. Maintenance of the football pitches

An email had been received from Marshland Hall in response to the email sent by the Clerk. It advised that the two senior football teams and the bowls club were the only hirers of the changing rooms. All of the junior teams did not use the changing rooms. The Hall do not charge any pitch fees as the pitches do not belong to them; they charge the senior teams £30 per game and the bowls £20 per use for the changing rooms. These amounts do not cover the estimated cost of £3,700 per annum to run the sports side. The only way they are able to cover the cost is with the PC annual donation. The Hall understand the concerns about the damage to the football pitches and ask that the PFMP approach the football teams/managers to help with the upkeep of the field and pitches as good housekeeping. The email expressed the view that the managers should be congratulated for attracting such a large number of juniors to play football in Marshland St James.

The Chair advised that some members of the PFMP had met with members of the Hall committee last weekend to view the pitches and areas surrounding the pitches. It was felt that the small junior pitch and training area was showing signs of over use. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Marshland Saints FC to request that they rotate the areas they use for training the junior teams and that there were other locations available where a pitch could be lined out for use by the junior teams; members of the PFMP would be willing to meet with them to discuss options. If this did not occur it could result in the condition of the pitch deteriorating so that it could not be used. The Chair also advised that it could be necessary to discuss the fees charged by the Hall and consider a notional charge being made for use of the pitches at the next review, which could be considered in May 2019. It could be that a one-off fee per annum may need to be introduced which would be paid to the PC to assist with the upkeep of the playing field.

Mr Gowler arrived at this point giving his apologies for being late as he thought the meeting started at 7.15pm.

The Chair advised that it would be useful to find out what other local playing fields were charging as pitch fees to football teams before any decision was made.

Cllr Gathercole asked if the PFMP wanted him to continue carrying out any repair work on the pitches. Mr Gowler advised that Marshland Saints FC and England's Hope FC now played at home on the same weekend in order to give the pitches a longer break between matches. They had already been moving the training area around for the junior teams and hoped to be able to put lines on for another pitch for the junior teams. They had discussed options for next season and would like to move the pitch used by England's Hope FC over so that it created more space for Marshland Saints FC and the junior teams to use. Mr Gowler advised that the teams had never had any issue with divots, the problem in the past had been the molehills, they would flatten out any divots after each match in future.

That no maintenance work should be carried out by Cllr Gathercole at this stage and the pitches to be monitored; situation to be considered again at the next meeting.

Chairman..... Date.....

6. Refurbishment or replacement of the Skate Ramp and refurbishment of MUGA area

A second quotation had now been received. The third quotation should be received before the February meeting. Quotations to be printed off and circulated to members when the third one had been received. Item to remain on agenda.

7. Report from the Annual Inspection

The Annual Inspection had taken place at the end of December. A copy of the report had been emailed to all members. All of the items mentioned were low or very low risk and no action was required at this stage. Some cleaning work could be carried out in the Spring.

8. Issues connected to the new Marshland Hall

None

9. General maintenance issues at the Playing Field

Since the last meeting members had viewed the problem with surface water collecting in one area of the PC car park after heavy rain. A discussion took place on the temporary solution suggested by Cllr Gathercole at the last meeting, which involved the purchase and spreading of chippings at a cost of approximately £50 plus haulage for materials. Some members volunteered their time to help with the spreading on a Saturday morning.

To ask the PC to confirm authorisation of the cost of the materials so that the project could go ahead.

10. Football

Nothing new to report.

11. Report from user groups

Nothing new to report.

12. Members concerns or items for next agenda

Items to remain on the agenda as already agreed with the exception of No 7.

13. Date of next meeting of the Playing Field Management Partnership

The next meeting of the Playing Field Management Partnership would be on 11th February 2019 at the Marshland Hall from 7pm, to allow extra time for the meeting, as there was still a lot to discuss at the moment.

Meeting closed at 7.25pm