

Minutes
of the MAYLAND PARISH COUNCIL
LAWLING PARK COMMITTEE
meeting held in the Lawling Park Hall
on Tuesday 28th July 2015
at 8.08 p.m.

Present: Cllr Spires (Chairman)
Cllr Duncan
Cllr Evans
Cllr Oatham
Cllr Pettitt
Cllr Lund

Clerk: Mrs J Massenhove

In attendance: Mr D Reynolds, Football Club
Mrs E Alabaster, Football Club
Mrs D Down, Youth Club

27. Apologies for Absence

None

28. Declaration of Interests

None

29. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Cllr Duncan proposed accepting the minutes from the meeting held on 23rd June 2015. Cllr Oatham seconded the proposal, all in favour. The minutes were signed and dated as a true record.

Cllr Spires closed the meeting at 8.10 p.m. for public discussion

30. Public Discussion

Cllr Spires congratulated the Football Club on a successful Fun Day held on 18th July. Mr Reynolds and Mrs Alabaster agreed that the day went well and the club would gladly hold another such event. Pitches for next season will be needed as soon as is possible; the Football Club will liaise directly with the contractor as to what is required.

The high cost of pitches suitable for use in bad weather was discussed. Mr Reynolds explained that hire is expensive and involves travel, potentially reducing the number of club members. Cllr Spires said that the parish council has looked into multi-use surfaces in the past, but costs are high and funding opportunities are remote.

Cllr Pettit requested that the remaining holes from the goalposts are appropriately filled.

Mrs Down addressed the committee on behalf of the Youth Club. She reported that the club now has a bank account and is currently operating under ECC insurance. Money is being set aside for their own insurance. They are applying for grants and are intending to affiliate with the Essex Boys and Girls Clubs. The club is holding additional sessions on Thursday mornings during the school summer holidays, which they are able to pay for, but requests a short, perhaps three-month, extension to the period of free hire granted for their Thursday evening sessions. They would be able to pay for any additional sessions that might be held.

The Youth Club would like to bridge the gap between the young and older people in the village and will be aiming at a long term project to achieve this.

Cllr Spires re-opened the meeting at 8.34 p.m.

Cllr Lund had previously expressed a willingness to serve on the Lawling Park Committee. Cllr Duncan proposed appointing Cllr Lund as a member of the Lawling Park Committee. Cllr Evans seconded the proposal, all in favour. Motion carried.

Cllr Spires brought forward item 38, Fees, although for ease the item is minuted in its original agenda position.

31. Boxing

No representative of the Boxing Club was present, but Cllr Spires reported that the club has approached him requesting regular use of the hall on Friday evenings. Councillors felt that it is important that the hall is available for private hire by residents on a Friday evening, but agreed that the Boxing Club may use it on Fridays, on a week-by-week basis, with priority being given to occasional hirers for functions. It was agreed that, should a similar request be made for regular hire on a Saturday evening, the same condition would apply.

32. Football

Football issues were discussed under the Public Discussion item.

33. Clerk's Report

Each Councillor has received an update on matters from the last meeting.

Various outstanding items were discussed. Clerk to update the Report accordingly.

34. Lawling Park Hall

Ceramic tubes for the emergency exit between the two ends of the hall have been purchased and the broken one has been replaced.

35. Play Areas

The council is still awaiting quotations for repairs to the zipline. Cllr Oatham proposed expenditure of up to £400 for repair of the zip line. Cllr Evans seconded the proposal. All in favour. Clerk to action if a suitable quotation is received. Clerk also to approach the original installer for a quotation.

36. General Area and Maintenance Report

Cllr Duncan reported on the condition of the surfaces of paths and on brambles overhanging paths at Bakerfield. Clerk to refer brambles to our Groundsman and add paths to the next agenda.

Care of the new trees at Bakersfield was discussed. Concern was expressed that that strimming would be harmful to them, but professional advice had been received stating that strimming around the trees would now be appropriate before considering spraying with herbicide. Cllr Evans proposed careful strimming around the new trees, Cllr Pettit seconded the proposal. All in favour. Clerk to refer this to our Groundsman.

Cllr Duncan left the meeting at 9.55 p.m.

A resident's response to the Parish Council's letter regarding cutting down of a section of the Lawling Park hedge was considered. Cllr Lund proposed sending a second letter to the resident reiterating the Council's requirements, the Cllr Evans seconded the proposal, all in favour. A draft letter was discussed. Clerk to write to the resident.

37. CCTV

It was noted that an order has been placed for the faulty camera to be replaced, as agreed by full council. The swan neck brackets have been repainted and masking extended. Mr Pettitt has yet to be invited to view.

Cllr Oatham advised that the masked area needs to be extended further and also requested that the faulty camera is kept in case it can be put to future use. Clerk to ask contractor to contact Cllr Oatham on completion of work to confirm that requirements have been fulfilled.

Cllr Oatham left the meeting at 10.00 p.m.

38. Fees

Fees relating to the Lawling Park Hall and Lawling Park were reviewed: -

- Hall Hire and Deposit

Cllr Pettitt proposed an hourly rate for hire of the Lawling Park Hall of £8 (previously £7) for residents and £12 (previously £10) for non-residents, with the deposit remaining at £50. Cllr Oatham seconded the proposal, all in favour.

- Electricity Cards

It was agreed that any increase in charges should be related to actual cost of the electricity used. Clerk to investigate electricity bills and meter adjustment and report findings to the Committee prior to a decision being made.

- Tennis Court Hire

It was noted that floodlights are now paid for separately from court hire by the purchase of electricity cards. Cllr Spires proposed making no other changes to fees for tennis court hire. Cllr Evans seconded the proposal. All in favour.

It was noted that the tennis courts are underused and their availability for hire needs to be better promoted. Clerk and Cllr Pettitt to organise notices.

- Pitch Fees

It was noted that floodlights are now paid for separately from pitch fees by the purchase of electricity cards. It was agreed that hire of junior pitches to residents and of mini pitches to residents will be charged at £20 per match. Other pitch fees remain unchanged.

The deposit remains at £50 for changing room use and an additional £50 for pitch use. The Football Club's deposits will be payable at the start of each football season and shall be refunded at the end of the season less any deductions for loss or damage.

- Changing Rooms

Private hirers of the hall may have use of the changing rooms, subject to their being available, for an additional fee of £10 per session.

The revised fees are to take effect from 1st September. Clerk to advise regular hirers.

Cllr Spires stated that the Committee wishes to promote youth participation and should support the Youth Club. Cllr Spires proposed granting an additional three months' free hire to the Youth Club for use of the hall on a Thursday evening. Cllr Evans seconded the proposal. All in favour.

39. Car Park Licence

A decision regarding the car park licence is deferred to the next meeting to allow more time for proper consideration.

40. Boot Sales

Deferred to the next meeting.

Cllr Pettitt left the meeting at 10.15 p.m.

41. Items for Next Agenda

Car park licence
PRS
Legionella and water testing
Cracking of park footpaths
Boot sales

Cllr Spires closed the meeting at 10.16 p.m.

Date of next meeting, Tuesday 22nd September 2015