

Minutes for the meeting of

LONGHOPE RECREATION GROUND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (Committee of the Trustee)

on 7th September at 7.00 p.m. at the Pavilion

Present:

Gary Nicholas (GN) James Barnes (JB) Fiona Gough (FG) Andrea Godwin (AG) Dave East (DE) Leigh Stephens (LS) Vicky Brobyn (VB)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence - N/A
2. No declarations of interest
3. Appointment of Councillor held post of - Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer and non-Councillor role of Secretary
 - Chair - Gary Nicholas nominated by Fiona Gough and seconded by Dave East, agreed by all.
 - Vice Chair - Dave East nominated by Fiona Gough and seconded by James Barnes, agreed by all.
 - Treasurer - Gary Nicholas - nominated by Dave East and seconded by Fiona Gough, agreed by all.
 - Secretary - Andrea Godwin - nominated by Gary Nicholas and seconded by James Barnes, agreed by all.

A member of the public declared (outside of the public forum) that they were not happy with Gary Nicholas being Chair of both the Recreation Ground Committee and Parish Council stating there was 'clearly a conflict of interest'- GN explained that there was no declarable pecuniary, or other conflicting, interest and all decisions made by the Committee are made in the interest of the Charity. Furthermore, the Committees governing document indicated that the role of Chair must be filled by a Councillor member of the Committee. As such, and in the absence of any other nominations, GN remained Chairman of the Committee, with the full agreement of the Committee.

Public Forum - Secretary of the Football Club stated that they had received a complaint regarding the lack of Referees facilities on a match day. Until the refurbishment of the ladies' toilets is completed the facilities offered to the referee are the ladies' toilets or the disabled toilet. GN advised the FC that they are obliged to advise the Referees, in advance, of the limited facilities currently at the Pavilion. The Club were also reminded that separate referees changing/showering facilities were not mandatory, instead they are a preferred option where such facilities exist. This fact has been supplied in writing by the Local Referees Secretary. GN stated that he had previously informed the FC, on several occasions that grants were available for the refurbishment of the clubs changing rooms and no interest had been forthcoming. The FC

Secretary is now interested in pushing this forward. GN had already, once again, made clear that he was happy to assist with this process. The Football Club were corrected that the defibrillator installed at the Pavilion had not been obtained by them. Instead GN secured the funding from the Football Foundation, after the Club had failed to follow up on the guidance offered by GN. A request for locks was made for the changing room doors and ladies' toilets.

A local resident expressed concerns regarding mobility access to the recreation ground - the pathway was promised for Jubilee Celebrations and did not happen. GN explained that there had been issues with contractor availability - Greenfields have now been contacted and will still honour the previous quote and hopefully work will commence during late September (GN and any other Committee member available will be meeting Greenfields on 19/9 to discuss final arrangements). The work will hopefully take 10 days to complete.

FG explained that the current Committee is the first one to bring disabled people and Mums to the forefront. We are a committee of volunteers and expect the villagers to work with us. We do not lose sight of what we are doing, and we must make sure that the work is completed properly.

Recent events including Longhope FC Legends Match and the Motor Show weekend was discussed in detail – a small number of local residents expressed concerns about the noise from music at various events and fumes from some of the vehicles at the motor show. Longhope Recreation Ground Committee listened to the complaints and will consider these for future planning of any event. GN informed the members of the public that all Health and Safety regulations were followed. A Risk Assessment was completed by GN, and it was reviewed and approved by a health and safety officer from the District Council who also visited the site during the show set up on the Saturday and he had no issues with what was in place.

It was agreed that the volume of any future music event would be monitored, and consideration given to the impact on neighbours living close by. It was also suggested that music finish earlier than 11.00p.m. in consideration to residents living nearby. However, it was made clear that the Premises License allowed such 'entertainment' to take place up until 11pm (Mon-Sat). Where possible and practical, nearby residents would be informed of live music in advance of any future events.

Issue was raised regarding the advertised installation of Sky Sports, and whether the local villagers should be aware of any large purchase beforehand? GN acknowledged this fact, but the offer was on a limited timescale and the majority of the Committee had agreed for this to go ahead. It was explained that there is likely to be such occasions where decisions are required between meetings, as such written agreement is sought from Committee members. It should also be noted that expenditure is delegated to, and requires the approval of, Committee members only.

Hornets' Nest - exterminator/pest control company out to investigate - no nest has been found around the pavilion it could be in the hedgerow nearby. Exterminator recommended filling any gaps around the pavilion to deter the hornets getting into the loft.

5. Review of Pop-up Pub

The next Pop-up Pub will be Saturday the 24th of September

Bar trading continues to show a good margin, minimal to no stock wastage, and no other causes for concern.

Currently there are no issues with the newly installed bar cooling system, and the previous issues appear to have been resolved.

Terms of the premises license were further clarified.

6. Review of Longhope Motor Show

Issues arising from the event were discussed during the open forum.

It was agreed that £2000 from the weekends bar profits would be donated to Longhope Motor Show, who would be splitting the total raised equally between the Longhope Play Park Fund and the local Air Ambulance.

Various Committee members had received numerous positive comments regarding the event, which once again brought the community together and showcased the versatility of the recreation ground.

A formal statement of thanks will be sent to the event organisers

7. Upcoming Events

Discussion and agreement on the following events

- Halloween/Family Night at Pop up Pub to include the showing of an appropriate family film on the big screen on the recreation ground or Tennis Courts
- Christmas Tree lighting - date agreed was 3rd December - VB to organize a tree - opportunity to ask Mitcheldean Choir to sing carols
- Quiz Night - suggested date is 15th October - this will include cheese, but no drink or wine and tickets will now be £5.00 per person

8. Review Hire Rates and terms of hire

A meeting to review rates of hire for regular users will now be arranged for January/February 2023.

The Committee were made aware that the bar is making a profit from Darts practice nights on a Friday. This is based on the bar also being open to the wider public at the same time. Darts League matches will be on a Monday. After discussion, and on the basis that the activity remains profitable, it was agreed that no hire fees should be charged for either evening - a review will be made in January 2023, considering the broader trading period.

Discussion on hire amounts to charge etc need to be fair and consistent. Given the current economic climate no increase was suggested, to the casual hire rates, at this time.

In light of the current profitability of the bar, ran by the Committee, on match days, GN proposed waiving the Football Clubs Hire fees from summer to winter - this will be reviewed in January 2023 with consideration given to the broader trading period and associated costs of hire and operation. All Bar proceeds must remain, at all times, with the Committee for the benefit of the Charity.

Committee remains dedicated to working with Longhope FC to develop a mutually beneficial relationship and to help the FC establish a winning team.

9. Finance - GN circulated the financial report - no issues raised

10. Updates on and consider any further maintenance works required at the Pavilion and Recreation Ground:

- It was agreed that a sign was required welcoming people to the Longhope Recreation Ground - this would be placed along Station Lane
- Tennis Court Fencing - JB apologized that no further work had happened on this project, and he has made every effort to try and sort out a date to do the work. But it now looked unlikely that he could carry out the work. The Committee agreed that another contractor be contacted to obtain a quote.
- Ladies WC refurbishment - plans submitted to Committee - refurb will cost approx. £5,200, this does not include flooring, therefore - £6k was budgeted for the project. Discussion on contractors and a possible start date - need to make sure any work started does not conflict with Pavilion Bookings etc
- Bin Storage area - completed – new Biffa Bins would be arriving shortly
- Consider updating the site CCTV - need to obtain quotes - similar position of camera as before. Discussion on what type of CCTV available and what is best option for pavilion
- Costs for replacement guttering is approx. £110, all agreed that this should be purchased
- Cesspit - problems over the Bank Holiday weekend. Cesspit has been emptied but if problems continue a camera down the pipes may be required to identify if there is a blockage
- Discussion on installation of exterior power sockets and additional outdoor lighting - JB to obtain quotes

- Discussion on hand dryers additional swing bins in toilets and larger toilets roll holders
- It was agreed by the Committee, to proceed with a quote, obtained by VB, for the installation and regular emptying of three Sanitary bins in the ladies and disabled toilets, at a cost of £52.92 ex vat per annum.

11 Update on Pavilion electric tariff and consider additional measures that may be required – update provided by GN, increase in the tariff, unit price has doubled – as such extra care is needed to ensure lights are not left on and water heater being turned off at the end of football matches etc. Sensor lights in all areas might be a way of tackling lights left on!

12. Extension of Car Park (rear of pavilion) - it was agreed by the committee that current and pending work needs to be completed before this item is considered - to be reviewed in early 2023

13 Date of next meeting - Wednesday 5th October 2022