

**PADDOCK WOOD TOWN COUNCIL**  
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ESTATES COMMITTEE held on Monday**  
**8<sup>th</sup> April 2019, at the Day Centre, Commercial Road, at 7.45pm**

**PRESENT:** Cllr D Boyle, in the chair  
 Cllr R. Atkins, M. Flashman, R. Moon, D. Sargison, E. Thomas

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs N Reay, Clerk to the Council  
 Mr K Butler, Estates Manager  
 Cllrs Hamilton & Williams  
 7 members of the public

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs R. Steward, E. Wilson

**ES82            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**ES83            MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were approved with the following amendment:

The recording of meetings is permitted under The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.

**ES84            MATTERS ARISING**

- a) Bollards are due to be installed outside the Day Centre parking on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019.
- b) The defibrillators have been ordered.
- (c) Installation of the new roundabout in Green Lane had started that morning.
- (d) There was no update on the byelaws for Foal Hurst Wood.
- (e) There had been substantial damage to the fences at St Andrews Field following a disturbance over the weekend. The Estates Manager had requested a quote for a metal fence rather than a wooden one.

**ES85            CRICKET PITCH**

A community advisor from Kent County Cricket Board had met with the Clerk, Estates Manager, Cllr Hamilton, a representative from PW Cricket & members of the public on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April to consider the use of the cricket square for a charity match in July, and the possibility of building a square elsewhere on the field. His written report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The fee for the visit was £82.

The report advised that a charity match could be played subject to only a soft ball being used & run ups limited. It also noted that the location a square had never been constructed for cricket, instead the indigenous soil had been reclaimed. Any cricket loam present in the profile is as a result of it being introduced at the autumn renovations.

The following work would need to be carried out to provide a wicket to play on:

- An area to be agreed of the location of the pitch
- A pitch to be cut out to a height of approximately 12mm 2 weeks before the start of the game
- rolled when needed
- cut down to approximately 7mm for the charity game.
- Lines painted onto the ground

Longer term the report recommended that a full feasibility study should be carried out which included the following:

- The level of cricket to be played
- The amount of use the square will get and long-term goals
- This will then determine the amount of pitches the club will require
- Specifications or requirements put forward by leagues
- A qualified groundsman will need to be identified to maintain the ground
- A full appraisal of existing and required machinery will need to be conducted
- An artificial area could be laid for colts and a practice wicket

The Chairman suspended standing orders to allow representatives from Paddock Wood Cricket to speak.

The follow issues were discussed:

- In the short term a wicket can be marked out at the Memorial
- There was a lot of interest in the charity game
- Not yet in a position to advise which charity they wished to support
- They had not yet been in contact with the NP group to have input into the Sports & Recreation strategy – Cllr Williams urged them to get in contact as the group were ready to finalise the draft plan
- Cricket had been pushed to one side
- There would be the potential to keep cricket at the Memorial with improved toilets
- When will the council build a new wicket?

The chairman re-instated standing orders and summed up saying there was pitch preparation work to be carried out, which due to staffing levels may require a contractor. After the charity match the committee will be in a better position to gauge the level of interest. As soon as is practicable after the charity match everyone will have a better idea of what is feasible and desirable. He was hoping for a long-term partnership with Paddock Wood Cricket but pointed out that usage of the field had to be balanced against the needs of other users. No long-term commitment can be made at this point.

There are currently no bookings for the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019 – the POTS charity football match takes place on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The council charges the same fee for the cricket wicket as it charges for an adult football pitch, which is currently £71.26 inc VAT.

Cllr Boyle proposed; Cllr Atkins seconded:

*That subject to agreeing the location with the Estates Manager, and subject to the terms set out in the report the Charity Match should be allowed to go ahead.*

CARRIED unanimously

**ES86 THE BATTERS**

Additional information had been submitted to the council regarding the additional fencing at the Batters. (information previously circulated) Members were asked to consider its decision in light of the additional information.

However, it was pointed out that to re-consider the decision would be in breach of SO 7 regarding the rescission of resolutions. It was agreed that the decision should be deferred to allow for the appropriate procedures to be followed.

**ES87 TOAD PATROL REPORT**

The annual toad patrols around Putlands Ponds had taken place and the report from Steve Songhurst is attached.

The group had also surveyed around the ponds at Orchard Meadow and have found that there are a significant number of toads in the ponds and surrounding grass land.

The Chairman asked for the Committee's thanks to be passed onto Steve Songhurst and the volunteers.

**ES88 GREEN LANE SPINNEY**

A copy of the management plan for Green Lane spinney was attached. Due to the possible impact of the adjoining development it was agreed that the costs of updating the report should be obtained.

**ES89 HEALTH AND SAFETY AUDIT**

A copy of the health and safety audit which was carried out recently has been emailed to all council members only. An action plan will be drawn up using the report.

**ES90 BENCHES**

- a) A bench at the Maidstone Road end of the West car park has been requested. It was agreed that the Borough Council should be asked if one can be placed at the exit to the West car park.
- b) One of the Town Council benches by the war memorial was vandalised last summer. Using CCTV, the police identified and successfully prosecuted the perpetrator. The Council has been awarded £787 compensation. The paperwork to receive the money has been completed, and receipt of the funds is awaited.

**ES91 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

There will be no meeting in May due to the elections. The next meeting will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (TBC)

The chairman thanked everyone for their work on the committee over the last 4 years. In return the chairman was thanked for his efforts.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

CHAIRMAN