

PADDOCK WOOD TOWN COUNCIL
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ESTATES COMMITTEE held on Monday
14TH October 2019, at the Day Centre, Commercial Road, at 7.45pm**

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

IN ATTENANCE: Mrs N Reay, Clerk
 Cllr D Kent, 7 members of the public (inc Mr C Wise & J Haffenden for PW Cricket)

APOLOGIES: Cllr R. Turk, B Hills. Mr K Butler (Estates Manager)

ES48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

ES49 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 30th September 2019 were APPROVED.

ES50 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Orders for the work authorised at the meeting on the 30th September 2019 have been placed.

Item ES45 – Green Lane Spinney, Cllr Flashman advised that there was a wooden electricity pylon in the spinney and that work would be needed to be carried out as part of the adjoining development. The Clerk advised that the contractor would be asked to avoid working in that area.

ES51 PADDOCK WOOD CRICKET

The following requests had been made by Paddock Wood Cricket.

1. Re-instatement of cricket at the Memorial Ground
2. Provision of grant funding of £10,000 for the identified requirements
3. The funding of a Groundsman/Maintenance service.

This request was submitted to the Town Council at the meeting held on 16th September 2019. It was agreed that the request should be considered by the Estates Committee.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow the representatives from PW Cricket to speak.

Mr Haffenden set out the background of the request and advised that the two charity matches they had held were very successful. It was the wishes of those who had played that cricket should be re-instated at the Memorial Field. Over the years the public toilets had been removed, the conifers adjoining the tennis courts had been taken down and the single lady's toilet in the pavilion taken out. The group lacked confidence in the Council's will to support cricket, and still objected to the Community Centre being built on the site, as it is dedicated to those who died in the World Wars. (It was stated that the Royal British Legion supported the project.)

The Chairman advised that the Town Council had worked with them to deliver the cricket matches. It would also continue to support any sport within the town, whilst abiding by the Council's Policies & Procedures.

The Chairman invited members to ask Questions. The following questions were asked:

What had the representatives done previously to resurrect cricket in Paddock Wood?

Nothing – they did not act until the Memorial field was under threat
Why have they not approached the NP Sport & Recreation Group as invited in order to have input into the Neighbourhood Plan?

They did not feel their input would have any influence.

It was stressed that it was important that the group were represented as the TWBC Sports Strategy indicated there was no need for a cricket ground in Paddock Wood. However, the Plan Group were working on ideas for a dedicated sports hub and it was important that they were represented.

Mr Wise said he would be happy to join the Sports and Recreation Group and he was keen to regenerate both cricket & tennis in Paddock Wood.

The Chairman of the Friends of Memorial Field stated that their campaign and the re-generation of cricket were two separate issues.

The Chairman re-instated Standing Orders.

Members then discussed the issues:

- There were still a number of questions which needed answering with regards to the logistics.
- Before a grant can be made accounts and a breakdown of costs would be required
- The proposed timetable was not achievable, and discussions would need to be had with other users of the field
- The location of the cricket square on the field will depend very much on the Community Centre project.
- There was still no news on the outcome of the Village Green Status application which had been made (this may have implications on the use of the field)

- Work would need to be carried out on the pavilion
- The Kent County Cricket Board had recommended in their report earlier in the year that a development plan and feasibility study should be carried out before creating a new square

The Chairman agreed to liaise with Mr Wise and to forward a list of questions. Discussions should also be had with Insulators Football Club who play at the Memorial Field.

The Clerk would forward Mr Wise's contact details to Cllr Williams who chaired the Sport & Recreation Group.

The Chairman Suspended SO

Mr Wise was concerned about maintaining the momentum which had been generated and they wanted a facility for the next summer.

Standing Orders were re-instated

ES52

TENNIS COURTS

The Tennis Club had not been very active this year and the Facebook page has been closed due to lack of activity. The Coach has left the area and organisers have been unable to devote the time due to pressure of work. Mrs Wilson has advised that the surface is now giving cause for concern and had recommended that the LTA membership should be allowed to lapse for now.

As part of the Community Centre project it is planned to re-configure the tennis courts, this would involve resurfacing.

A contractor was asked to visit the site to advise on the best way to keep the courts safe and usable in the short term. The Clerk advised that to clean and re-line the Tennis courts was going to cost £1850. Although the courts could be cleaned at any time the contractor advise that the white lining work could not be carried out until spring.

Members discussed whether, in view of the limited numbers of people playing, whether this was a good use of public funds. However, they could not remain open in their current condition due to safety concerns.

Cllr Boyle proposed, Cllr Atkins seconded:

That the courts should be closed on Health and Safety Grounds. This would be reviewed in March.

CARRIED unanimously

ES53

FENCING GREEN LANE/GOLDFINCH CLOSE

Members considered the request from a local resident that the council should replace their boundary fence as vegetation had grown through from council owned land.

Cllr Boyle proposed, Cllr Sargison seconded:
Members noted the email and quotes, but it is not the Town Council's responsibility to replace the fence.
 CARRIED unanimously

- ES54 **PLAY AREAS**
 The safety inspections for the children's play areas have been completed and the reports and members received a copy of the report. The clerk advised that work was being carried out as required. Mr Farnes from the Estates staff has renewed his Routine Inspectors Certificate.
 (Cllr Thomas left the meeting)
- ES55 **PADDOCK WOOD LIGHTS UP**
 Paddock Wood Lights Up are seeking permission to install a temporary sign on Whites Corner promoting the event. Details were attached.
Cllr Moon proposed, Cllr Sargison seconded:
The town council agrees to the request
 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- ES56 **PADDOCK WOOD BOWLS CLUB**
 The lease for the Paddock Wood Bowls Club expires on the 31st October 2020. The Club have written to state that they wish to exercise the option to renew the lease for a further 25 years. The Council's solicitor will be contacted and asked to draw up a new lease. Members welcomed the request to renew the lease.
- ES57 **GREEN LANE PONDS**
 The sum of £11,000 has been budgeted to de-silt the pond at Foxgloves and the smaller of the two ponds on Green Lane/Church Road Junction. This sum was based on the contractors quote last Autumn. They were advised at the time that the work would be carried out this winter.

 When the larger of the two ponds was de-silted at Green Lane in 2015 the silt was removed and deposited at the bottom of the cemetery. That pile has now subsided, and it is again proposed to deposit the silt in the same place.

Cllr Moon proposed, Cllr Atkins seconded:
That the de-silting work to be carried out and for the silt to be deposited in the cemetery.
 CARRIED unanimously
- ES58 **LITTER PICK**
 The litter pick will take place on Friday 18th October 2019 at 5 pm at the Memorial Pavilion.

ES59

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Monday 11th November 2019.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm
CHAIRMAN